

University Area Community Council (UACC) Resolution  
For Governor Walker and the UA Board of Regents  
Requesting Termination of Work on the Northern Extension of Elmore Road

Whereas, the Governor of Alaska requested the public to suggest cuts in State expenditures;

Whereas, the State of Alaska can no longer afford to build the Northern Extension of Elmore. The Governor said that we are definitely in a serious budget crisis for years to come and need to limit spending to the most essential services. Similarly, UAA outgoing President Pat Gamble clearly articulated on AK Public Media on December 19, 2014

( <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2014/12/19/university-president-budget-cuts-will-require-downsizing-to-core-missions/> ) that UAA needs to severely cut back after “10 years of uncontrolled growth.” He said that UAA is in for a “hard landing” this year and has the same bleak picture for several out-years and that “we should be tearing down buildings” and focusing on restructuring of both the physical plant and academics, so that UAA can survive with a sustainable core;

Whereas, the Alaska Legislature has provided \$20 million to build the Northern Extension and UAA would provide the land (that we understand is worth \$15 million) for the right-of-way, In 2014, when oil was more than twice what it is now, UAA favored the road extension to provide access to their land to construct new buildings. But today, the State’s ongoing loss in oil receipts and a negligible chance that UAA will be in a position to afford new buildings in the foreseeable future surely indicate that this project should be terminated. Furthermore, the \$20 million is a shameful underestimate of the construction cost even if the multi-use sidewalks and ski trail overpass are cut out – these are the very features the public insisted on at the public meetings to make the road at least minimally palatable. Budget overruns are essentially certain and trying to build the road on the cheap in light of the State’s budget crunch is absolutely the worst option;

Whereas, the proposed road extension would bisect a natural wooded and wetland area that acts as a sponge assisting in water retention during natural flooding and provides habitat for wildlife, waterfowl, bird populations and moose pathways, as well as a peaceful woodland for skiing, jogging and nature walks;

Whereas, Anchorage has already lost 78% of its wetlands since 1950. Anchorage should stop imprudently cutting down trees and bulldozing natural wetland areas, in essence, destroying many of the city’s most valuable assets; and

Whereas, the Elmore extension would funnel more traffic onto Bragaw St. that is already overcrowded and too narrow to widen;

Therefore, be it resolved that work on this project be immediately stopped because it is unwise and non-essential. The UACC strongly urges the UA Board of Regents to keep the University’s land as is and the Governor to request the Legislature to return the \$20 million to the State Treasury for essential needs.



Jacob Gondek 3/4/15  
UACC President

Votes for: 12 Votes against: 0 Abstentions: 0 March 4, 2015