

# **DENALI BOROUGH**

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## **DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA RESOLUTION NO. 23-15**

### **A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DENALI BOROUGH'S APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PARKS HIGHWAY CROSSINGS ELIMINATION & RAILROAD REALIGNMENT PROJECT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Denali Borough is an eligible applicant for the RAISE program and is requesting \$25,000,000 for the Parks Highway Crossing Elimination & Railroad Realignment between Mile Post (MP) 235-238 of the Parks Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the elimination of the railroad crossing at MP 235 of the Parks Highway is a priority safety project by both AK DOT & PF and the Denali Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study identified the reconstruction of MP 234-238, including the railroad crossing elimination, as high priority with a desire to be implemented in the short-term (project progress within the next five years); and

**WHEREAS**, the MP 235 realignment would enhance safety, promote multimodal transportation for both AK DOT&PF and the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), enhance freight movement, improve access to recreational destinations, as well as vital resources for Alaska's subsistence harvesters, and address climate change improvements within the state's transportation network; and

**WHEREAS**, this critical project will result in the removal of one of the last at-grade crossings on the Parks Highway, and the realignment would allow the existing rail bed to become part of a proposed trail system to connect the Denali National Park (DNP) entrance with trails to the south; and


**WHEREAS**, both AK DOT&PF and the ARRC are committed partners on this project and are providing a match of \$7,000,000 and \$2,000,000 respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, AK DOT&PF will administer this project if the project proposal is awarded.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Denali Borough Assembly provides its support for the RAISE application submitted by the Denali Borough.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

  
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MAYOR CLAY WALKER

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
AMBER RENSHAW, BOROUGH CLERK

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

