

DENALI BOROUGH

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DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA Planning Commission

RESOLUTION NO. PC19-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A SITE SELECTION STUDY TO INFORM THE POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF CLEAR AIRPORT.

WHEREAS, due to the energetic output of the new Long Range Discrimination Radar at Clear Air Force Station, which will improve the security of the nation, the Missile Defense Agency has proposed an expansion of Special Use Airspace restrictions around Clear Air Force Station; and

WHEREAS, the nearby Clear Airport, which is lighted, paved and 4,000 feet long, is the single best aviation asset in the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, Clear Airport is important to general aviation in the area but is essential for emergency life flights; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of restricted airspace may render Clear Airport useless for the purposes of general aviation and life flight availability; and

WHEREAS, in solicited comment to the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), the Denali Borough requested that "if the MDA must restrict this expanded airspace and render the Clear Airport unusable by general aviation, that they fund both a site selection study and the relocation of the Clear Airport"; and

WHEREAS, concerns exist regarding the future of Healy River Airport, where the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT) does not have an ongoing lease from the Alaska Railroad, the airport does not meet federal standards and is therefore ineligible for Federal Aviation Administration funding, which is crucial to fund necessary improvements over time; and

WHEREAS, if Clear Airport is unusable and not replaced, and if Healy River Airport is unsustainable by DOT, the combined loss would present a public safety crisis for the residents and visitors of the borough; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 Denali Borough Land Use and Economic Development Plan states a Transportation Goal to: "Explore options for developing a regional airport"; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Denali Borough Comprehensive Plan, under “Goals For Transportation Planning”, lists Goal 4: “Pursue an area north of Healy for the future use of a regional airport that would be capable of handling “life flight” and commuter aircraft from Anchorage and to increase public safety and access for residents and tourists”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Denali Borough Planning Commission supports a site selection study, in partnership with Department of Defense, Missile Defense Agency, Denali Borough and State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, for a replacement airport which can meet federal standards.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION this 16th day of October, 2019.



Mayor Clay Walker

ATTEST: 

Connie MacMaster, Borough Clerk

