



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Borough Manager

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To: Congressman Young, Senator Stevens, and Senator Murkowski

The Mat-Su Borough is pleased to send you the attached Alaska Campaign for Active Transportation case statement in support of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2010 Campaign. The 2010 Campaign seeks to enhance the bicycling and walking (i.e., non-motorized transportation) capabilities of 40 urbanized areas nationwide through increased funding in the next federal transportation law.

The Alaska Campaign for Active Transportation will build on existing efforts by Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough to enhance opportunities for non-motorized transportation year-round. Anchorage is farther along in these efforts, with a completed Pedestrian Plan and a Bicycle Plan under development; both plans will be followed by implementation, which will be limited to funding available. Palmer, Wasilla and the "core area" between them in the Mat-Su Borough require pedestrian and bicycle plan development prior to plan implementation. The Alaska Campaign for Active Transportation expects to spend 80% of available funds in Anchorage and 20% in Palmer, Wasilla and the "core area."

The Alaska Campaign for Active Transportation's goals are to:

1. Significantly increase the number of trips to/from work, shopping, school, and public transportation in Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla and the "core area" via non-motorized travel, including among Alaska Natives;
2. Increase safety for walking and bicycling on roads and trails in Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla and the "core area";
3. Make Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla and the "core area" more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly year-round; and,
4. Provide better connections from diverse neighborhoods in Anchorage to the city's world-class paved trail system.

As you know, shifting personal travel from cars and trucks to bicycling and walking include decreased road maintenance costs and reduced need for new roads and/or road expansions (the majority paid for using federal dollars), safer non-motorized travel, improved public health, less air and water pollution, and more vibrant neighborhoods and communities. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy quantified the impressive extent of the benefits attainable with sufficient funding in its October 2008 publication, *Active Transportation for America* (www.railstotrails.org/ATFA).

The Mat-Su Borough urges you to support the 2010 Campaign's goal of significantly increased investment in non-motorized transportation. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

John Duffy
Borough Manager