



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: <http://www.akrepublicans.org>

Sponsor: Senator Gene Therriault
Current Version: SB 17
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 17

Short Title: APPROP:RICHARDSON HWY/NORTH POLE INTERCHG

Summary:

- Appropriates \$16.5 million to reconstruct the Richardson Highway through a portion of North Pole, providing an interchange at Dawson Road and eliminating the cross highway traffic at the intersections of Fifth Avenue/Mission Road and Laurance Road.

Benefits:

- Offers a long-time solution to improve safety for all types of traffic on, entering, exiting and crossing the Richardson Highway at North Pole.
- Alleviates delays on both cross and through traffic.
- Projected to reduce all accidents by 60 percent.
- Completes a project approved by voters in 2002.

Background:

In the last five years there have been two fatal traffic accidents, one at Dawson Road and one at Laurance Road. As the local North Pole area population increases, severe high-speed accidents will increase. A traffic report prepared by USKH Inc. identified 80 accidents within the study area between 1997 and 2001. Seventy-two of the accidents occurred at or were related to intersections, and the remaining crashes were single vehicle loss-of-control crashes that occurred on the Richardson Highway. The cities of Fairbanks and North Pole and the Fairbanks North Star Borough have passed resolutions supporting an interchange. In 2002, voters approved \$16.1 million in a Guaranteed Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bond package for the project. The interchange was the number two statewide priority. The total project estimate, however, requires another \$16.5 million to complete. The Finding of No Significant Impact Environmental document has been approved and the project is in the detailed design phase.

More information on the project can be found on the Department of Transportation website:

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/project_pages/north_pole_int/