

Gravina Access Project

Appendix A DOT&PF Commissioner Letter

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MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

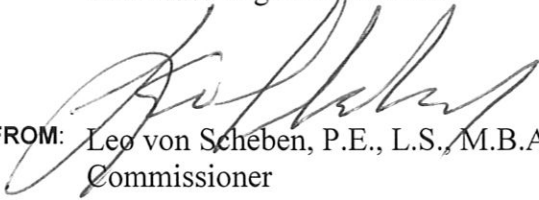
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner

TO: Gary L. Davis
Southeast Regional Director

DATE: September 17, 2009

TELEPHONE NO: 465-3901

FAX NUMBER: 586-8365

FROM:  Leo von Scheben, P.E., L.S., M.B.A.
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Cost Ceiling for
Gravina Access
Supplemental EIS
Alternatives

I understand that preparation of the Gravina Access Project Supplemental EIS is at the point where FHWA and DOT&PF need to screen suggested alternatives to determine those that are reasonable. One of the screening criteria is cost. This is particularly important in light of the 2007 directive by Governor Palin to discontinue work on the selected alternative, F1, because of its high cost. The Supplemental EIS must evaluate alternatives that the State can afford to construct and operate.

I have determined the construction and lifecycle cost ceiling for the Gravina Access Project alternative screening is \$305 million. Based on the funding sources we can anticipate in the time frame of the project, alternatives with construction and/or lifecycle costs above this amount have no likelihood of being funded.

Please note that this is not a guarantee that a particular level of funding can be obtained. Funding at this level would be difficult to secure. Due to the level of current and anticipated future federal aid, it is almost certain that a considerable portion of the required construction funds (beyond the \$70 million currently held) would need to be appropriated by the Legislature from the General Fund. Therefore I am requesting that any bridge alternatives be evaluated with tolls such that some of the construction and operation costs are borne by users. I believe a plan to collect tolls may be necessary in order to gain funding approval.

I look forward to completion of the project Screening Report in the near future and subsequent release of the Draft Supplemental EIS as soon as possible.

cc: Frank T. Richards, P.E., Deputy Commissioner, Highway & Public Facilities

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