

May 27, 2009

Mr. Gordon Keith, Chair
AMATS
632 W. 6th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Keith,

Commonwealth North's Infrastructure Study Group, with support from its Board of Directors, strongly supports keeping the Knik Arm Crossing in the AMATS Long-Range Transportation Plan.

As a statewide, non-partisan organization, Commonwealth North is committed to the idea that we must focus on what is best for the future of Alaska. While Commonwealth North has not studied the Knik Arm Crossing project in depth, and can fully endorse the project only after further analysis, we believe that such a project provides a statewide service in that it improves the statewide transportation system and stimulates economic development across the state. We do support the robust Federal and State process well underway designed to analyze and integrate all the relevant components of such a project. Presupposing the outcome of that process, or worse yet, dismissing the viability of the project before the mandated analysis is formed into an actual conclusion is poor public policy.

Something the study group has discussed quite often is the need for leadership. Now is the time for you to support the Knik Arm Crossing and keep it in the AMATS LRTP.

Sincerely,

Nils Andreassen
Co-Chair, Infrastructure Study Group