

**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
AND NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
JOINT RESOLUTION D-2023**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COORDINATED
AND COLLABORATIVE PLANNING FOR ARCTIC
INFRASTRUCTURE.**

WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough are the two northernmost home-rule regional governments in Alaska with the responsibility and authority over comprehensive planning, land use, transportation, and permitting within their respective regions; and

WHEREAS: the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough are adjacent to one another and are blessed with countless commonalities, including a traditional culture, language, history, and value system, as well as an abundance of subsistence, wildlife, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS: similarly, both Boroughs are faced with parallel challenges such as low population densities over a vast geography; insufficient and aging housing stock; high costs for construction and doing business; inadequate or altogether absent physical and technological infrastructure, connectivity, and access; all of which are intensified by limited financial resources to address these critical infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS: infrastructure challenges in the Arctic are additionally unique because our regions are experiencing significant impacts to infrastructure from erosion, flooding, and/or permafrost degradation; and

WHEREAS: in response to these unique infrastructure challenges present in Alaska, and more specifically rural Alaska, congress has recently designated billions of dollars specifically for Alaska to repair and construct our road systems, bridges, railways, ferries, ports, airports, water systems, and broadband, in addition to strengthening our electric grid resiliency and mineral supply chains; and

WHEREAS: this federal funding will be distributed through various government departments and agencies and will be competitively awarded to qualified municipalities, Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and other eligible entities; and

WHEREAS: these investments will boost economic capacity and productivity; support jobs; and promote economic activity, responsible development, food

security, stable housing, climate resilience, and national defense through new infrastructure projects across the state and within the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough; and

WHEREAS: in order to maximize these opportunities and resources, both Boroughs agree to take deliberate steps and to synergize whenever possible and appropriate for the joint success of our residents and communities; and

WHEREAS: both Boroughs recognize these partnership opportunities include, but are not limited to coordinated planning for transportation, including through seasonal and year-round road systems, broadband connectivity and telecommunications; public health and emergency response facilities, national security facilities; and air and marine ports; and


WHEREAS: both Boroughs agree to have staff meet at least once annually to discuss joint infrastructure planning projects within their regions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough shall lead coordination and collaboration with our municipalities, Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and eligible entities receiving funding for infrastructure planning projects within our boundaries; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that both Boroughs agree to have staff meet at least annually to discuss joint infrastructure planning strategy to maximize opportunities and resources for the joint success of our residents and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that both Boroughs agree work with local and Tribal partners and the state and federal government to address these infrastructure challenges including land access, financial barriers to residents, and possible subsidies to the high costs of doing business within our regions.

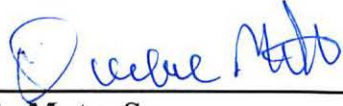
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF April 2023.



Nathan Hadley, Jr.
NAB Assembly President



Vernon Amaulik Edwardsen
NSB Assembly President



Dickie Moto, Sr.
NAB Mayor



Harry K. Brower, Jr.
NSB Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 7th DAY OF April 2023.



Shayne Schaeffer
NAB Clerk



Elaine Solomon
NSB Clerk

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

