



Mayor Josiah Patkotak

North Slope Borough Mayor's Office
P.O. Box 69
Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

Commissioner Ryan Anderson

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500

Commissioner John Crowther

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th Avenue, Ste 1400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Re: Letter of Support for the Triangle Community Road Planning & Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

Dear Mayor Patkotak, Commissioner Anderson, and Commissioner Crowther:

On behalf of the **Utqiagvik Trilateral Leadership — Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC), the Native Village of Barrow (NVB), and the City of Utqiagvik** — we are writing to express our unified support for the **Triangle Community Road Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study**, advanced through the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) partnership.

The proposed road connecting **Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, and Wainwright** has long been recognized by our regional leaders and community members as a project with the potential to significantly strengthen our region's quality of life. A PEL Study is an important next step in evaluating this opportunity, allowing North Slope communities to meaningfully guide the planning process, identify a clear purpose and need, and assess route options and potential impacts before entering a formal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Like the benefits outlined in earlier regional ASTAR support letters, the Trilateral notes that year-round overland access between our communities would provide:

- Increased social and cultural connectivity,



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- Lower costs of goods and services,
- Improved access to subsistence areas and support for traditional activities,
- Enhanced emergency response capability,
- Expanded educational and workforce development opportunities, and
- More stable transportation options that reduce isolation and improve long-term community sustainability.

These benefits closely align with the community-selected ASTAR Criteria, which emphasize subsistence protection, connectivity, cost reduction, safety, education, and workforce opportunities.

We appreciate that the PEL process — funded by ADOT&PF and supported by DNR and the North Slope Borough — is specifically designed to incorporate local and regional leadership throughout. Ensuring that Utqiagvik residents, subsistence users, landowners, tribes, and city officials are included early and throughout the process is essential, and we value the ASTAR team's commitment to transparent communication and meaningful engagement.

The Utqiagvik Trilateral Leadership supports the advancement of the Triangle Community Road PEL Study, with the understanding that:

1. The study will help our region better understand environmental considerations, potential impacts, and benefits.
2. The study will identify feasible funding strategies and timelines; and
3. The results will provide North Slope leadership with the information needed to determine whether the project should advance into a full EIS.

As the PEL Study progresses, we look forward to continued coordination with the ASTAR partnership, the North Slope Borough, and the State of Alaska. Our organizations remain committed to working together to evaluate this opportunity in a manner that respects our lands, culture, and long-term community needs.

Quyanaqpak for the continued collaboration and for supporting community-driven infrastructure planning on the North Slope.



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Respectfully,

Utqiagvik Tri-Lateral Committee:

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Dr. Pearl K. Brower

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Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation

Dr. Pearl K. Brower, President/CEO

12/16/2025

Date

Signed by:

Inuuraq Moss

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Native Village of Barrow

Inuuraq Moss, Executive Director

12/16/2025

Date

DocuSigned by:

Asisaun Toovak

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City of Utqiagvik

Elizabeth Asisaun Toovak, Mayor

12/18/2025

Date