

North Slope Borough
Office of the Mayor
PO Box 69
Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

April 25, 2022

Ryan Anderson
Commissioner
State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
PO Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500

Dear Commissioner Anderson:

The North Slope Borough and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources have been partnering on the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) Project since 2018. ASTAR's goal is to prioritize community needs and identify, evaluate, and advance infrastructure opportunities that offer the most cumulative benefit and best enhance the quality of life in the region.

Numerous community engagement meetings transpired since the inception of this project in order to identify which projects or project areas offer the greatest impact to the residents residing in our communities.

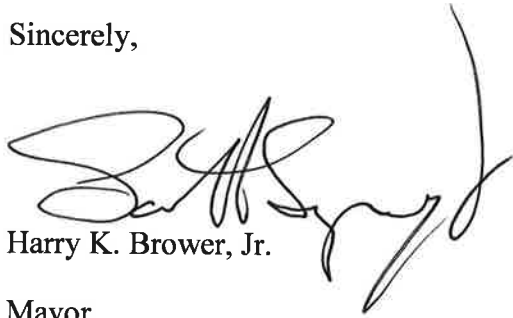
A project that best captures those opportunities is a permanent road system on the North Slope. An all-season road network connecting three of our communities allows for the benefit of inter-connectivity of the cities, impacting a large number of our residents.

The Community Triangle Road will connect three North Slope communities; Atkasuk, Wainwright, and Utqiagvik. The roughly 130-145 mile road will offer a number of benefits to our residents in these communities. Residents will now have multimodal access to the only hospital on the North Slope, the ability to participate in a wider range of subsistence opportunities, enjoy greater safety from emergency service coverage, reap the benefits of lower costs of goods, experience better access to education facilities, see more exposure to job opportunities in all three communities as a result, and, simply put, benefit from greater, safer, and more reliable connectivity.

Of course, creation of a road network like this does not end with construction. Maintenance and operations will be key for keeping the roads usable. We have a multi-pronged plan to maintain newly constructed roads. Initially, we will rely on our Department of Public Works employees and equipment to clear the roads in winter and grade the roads to eliminate potholes in the summer. Ultimately, the goal to fund and provide long-term care and ongoing maintenance is to utilize revenues created by the Port Authority Enterprise.

The North Slope Borough officially requests a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study for the aforementioned Community Triangle Road connecting the three communities of Atqasuk, Wainwright, and Utqiagvik.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry K. Brower, Jr.", with a long, sweeping vertical line extending upwards from the right side of the signature.

Harry K. Brower, Jr.

Mayor

North Slope Borough