

Introduced by: Mayor Cleworth  
Date: October 22, 2012

**RESOLUTION NO. 4548**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A REQUEST FOR STATE OF ALASKA FUNDING TO RECONSTRUCT SOUTH CUSHMAN STREET FROM 15<sup>th</sup> AVENUE TO MITCHELL EXPRESSWAY**

**WHEREAS**, South Cushman Street from Airport Way to the Mitchell Expressway has the highest average daily traffic (ADT approximately 9,900) of any City owned and maintained public right-of-way and is the only segment of Cushman Street not scheduled for reconstruction; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 90 properties that are primarily commercial businesses fronting this 5,350-foot long, heavily travelled segment of the Cushman Street, the large majority of which are small, locally-owned businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, South Cushman Street is 33 years old; the driving surface is extensively potholed, oxidized, and degraded to a condition that is well beyond the City's ability to effectively patch and maintain; the concrete sidewalks have significantly deteriorated and do not meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards with extremely steep driveways creating difficult access for smaller vehicles; the northern portion of the street does not have a storm water drainage system; and the traffic signal control system is antiquated to the point where repair and replacement parts are no longer available; and

**WHEREAS**, this project is currently in the FMATS Transportation Improvement Program with \$5 million in obligated funding, and additional funds are required to complete the design and construction of the project; and

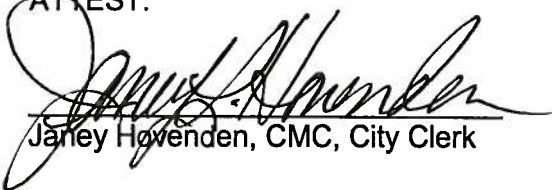
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council supports a request to the State for funding to complete the reconstruction of South Cushman from 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Mitchell Expressway.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2012.

  
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**JERRY CLEWORTH, MAYOR**

AYES: Matherly, Hilling, Walley, Staley, Gatewood, Eberhart  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
APPROVED: October 22, 2012

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janey Howenden, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney



## CITY OF FAIRBANKS

Jerry Cleworth, Mayor

800 CUSHMAN STREET  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4615

OFFICE: 907-459-6793

FAX: 907-459-6787

[jcleworth@ci.fairbanks.ak.us](mailto:jcleworth@ci.fairbanks.ak.us)

October 22, 2012

Honorable Governor Sean Parnell  
675 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite H5  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4596

**RE: Capital Request – South Cushman Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Mitchell Expressway**

Dear Governor Parnell:

Thank you again for funding street improvements in Fairbanks with last year's budget. We deeply appreciate your consideration. It was the first time funding for Fairbanks was included in the Governor's budget in recent memory. Of interest to you, we are about to go out to bid on the Helmericks Avenue Extension & Bentley Trust Road Upgrade project which will improve access to Fairbanks' prime commercial retail area using the 2008 statewide bond package; and, if the voters approve the current general obligation bond next month we will see additional access improvements in this area of our City that is continuing to develop new businesses each year.

There is another project we would like to present for your consideration for funding. Since 1985 the City has been planning the reconstruction of South Cushman Street from 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Mitchell Expressway, which serves approximately 90 commercial properties. Just this year, the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) Office obligated \$5 million to get this project started. This segment is the next logical step following this summer's repaving of South Cushman Street from the Mitchell Expressway to Van Horn Road.

There are two different approaches to the project, which are summarized in the attached project description along with a location map and photographs.

Thank you again for your support of our community and your service to the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Cleworth".

Mayor Jerry Cleworth

## Reconstruction of South Cushman Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Mitchell Expressway

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City Council and staff have been looking at the reconstruction of South Cushman Street for decades. South Cushman Street from Airport Way to the Mitchell Expressway has the highest average daily traffic (approximately 9,900) of any City public right-of-way in Fairbanks. There are approximately 90 commercial properties fronting this 5,350 foot segment of South Cushman Street. Last rebuilt in 1979, the 33-year-old asphalt concrete driving surface is extensively potholed, oxidized, and degraded to a condition that is well below the City's ability to effectively patch and maintain. The narrow concrete sidewalks have significantly deteriorated and do not meet ADA standards, and much of the alignment does not have a storm water drainage system. Photos showing the current condition of South Cushman Street are attached, as well as a vicinity map showing the proposed project limits.

Reconstruction of this segment of South Cushman Street has been in the planning phases since 1985 and currently \$5 million of FMATS funding has been obligated. This project can be advanced under the following two scenarios:

- 1) *Complete Reconstruction with Utility Improvements:* Based upon the costs of the current Illinois Street Reconstruction Project, we estimate the cost to completely reconstruct South Cushman Street at \$25,560,000. Thus, with current FMATS funding the City will need an additional \$20,560,000 for the project. Similar to the Illinois Street Reconstruction project, this scenario would allow for extensive utility relocation and drainage upgrades, which increase the complexity and cost per square foot compared to recent "pavement only" projects. In the past there had been consideration of widening South Cushman Street; however, this is no longer within the scope of this project to eliminate right-of-way issues. A detailed construction cost estimate is available.
- 2) *Rehabilitation with Limited Utility Improvements:* This limited approach would reconstruct sidewalks, paved driving surfaces, and upgrade sewer and water mains and services where applicable. However, this scenario will not address the aged utility poles that are in conflict with sidewalks and driveway accesses to businesses and aerial overhead power, communications line crossings, and service drops that do not meet current minimum height requirements, nor will it improve pedestrian facilities and inadequate driveway accesses to businesses. Our estimate to rehabilitate South Cushman Street under this scenario is \$8,600,000, of which \$5 million has already been obligated, for a net request of \$3,600,000.

The City of Fairbanks manages 343 lane miles of driving surface within the City limits, plus sidewalks, streetlights, traffic signals, and an extensive storm water drainage system with 95 miles of storm drain piping. No other City-maintained street is as heavily used as South Cushman Street. The section of South Cushman from 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Mitchell Expressway is the final segment of a heavily travelled corridor that is critical for business and economic development in Fairbanks. Upon completion of the ongoing Illinois Street Reconstruction project, Helmericks Avenue Extension & Bentley Trust Road Upgrade project in 2013, and Cushman "Complete Street" project north of Airport Way, the entire corridor from south of Van Horn Road extending north to the Old Steese Highway will have been reconstructed, with exception of the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Mitchell Expressway segment, which contains the highest density of local businesses along the corridor.



