

Shared Vision for a Comprehensive Study of Alaska's Navigation Transportation System

Purpose:

To promote and facilitate a long term working relationship on collaborative efforts to improve and develop a comprehensive Alaska Navigation Transportation System that supports Alaska stakeholders participating at the State, Tribal, Federal and local levels that will identify the challenges and opportunities to develop Alaska's economy; protect the environment; sustain cultural resources; recognizing the political and geographical issues including international borders with Russia and Canada.

Parties:

This is an understanding among the participants of the first Alaska Regional Ports and Harbors Conference held on January 10-11, 2008 in Anchorage Alaska including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Denali Commission, Native Alaska Villages, State of Alaska, Canadian Consulate, US Coast Guard, US EPA, USFWS, National Park Service, and numerous Alaska Municipalities and stakeholders collectively known as the Parties.

Goals:

We have established the following goals for our partnership:

- To express mutual commitment to comprehensive regional planning by working together to encourage and facilitate the creation of an informal "Alaska Navigation Transportation System Support Team."
- To learn and develop effective ways to work collaboratively as Federal, State, Native Alaskan Tribes and local organizations in support of State and local efforts to solve problems and maximize opportunities related to Alaska's Navigation Transportation System needs.
- To develop a mutual understanding of Alaska's future navigation and transportation problems and opportunities and values to focus on the development of mutually agreeable solutions and approaches for Alaska's future.
- To work together to collaboratively support the economic development of the State of Alaska and the Nation, to address the challenges and opportunities of climate change; to promote safe passage and to facilitate "Ports of Refuge"; to protect the nation and future homeland defense; and to fulfill the needs and goals of Native Alaska Villages.

Implementation:

We do hereby declare our intent to work together in support of a comprehensive Alaska Regional Navigation Transportation System Study. We agree in principle that solutions to the complex water resources problems, issues and opportunities facing Alaska require the collaboration of local, State, Tribal, Federal and other stakeholders.

To insure effective implementation of this agreement, we commit to fostering a spirit of teamwork and cooperation between our organizations at all levels.

We pledge to work together as a "Collaborate Regional Study Team" and meet in partnering session as needed. We also commit to developing a subsequent collaborative action plan with specific initiatives and measurable milestones to be reviewed on an annual basis.

It is understood that this agreement supports the parties cooperating for a comprehensive analysis examining multi jurisdictional use and management of water resources on a regional scale. This is not a funding obligating or fiscal document. Any exchange of funds or other tangible recourse in furthering the purposes of the partnering agreement will require execution of a separate written agreement in accordance with applicable law. Nothing in this agreement will be construed as affecting the authorities of the participants to act as provided by statute or regulations or as binding beyond their respective authorities or to require the participants to obligate or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.

Effective Date:

This agreement may be reviewed periodically to renew the Parties commitment and to consider changes that might be needed. Amendments will be made in the spirit of cooperation and partnership by agreement of the signatories. It will remain effective until the Parties agree to terminate it by consensus.

Name: _____

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Organization: _____

Signature: _____