

RG 30 RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF
PUBLIC ROADS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE AND
RELATED RECORDS, 1912-65.

1955-1959

ALASKA

THRU

ALASKA - GENERAL 1959 PART 2 OF 2

BOX NO.
1127

HM 1991

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Alaska - Congressional

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Alaska

F

M Siegle

22-50

April 5, 1957

Hon. E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Reference is made to your letter of February 19 and our acknowledgment of March 7 regarding inquiries from Mr. Lyman E. McBride of Kenai, Alaska, relative to the need for construction and maintenance of certain roads in the Kenai area.

A Federal-aid primary highway system comprised of the main through routes and a Federal-aid secondary highway system comprised of the principal secondary and feeder roads were proposed by the Territory and approved in February 1957, in accordance with provisions of Section 107 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. The roads in which Mr. McBride is interested are not included in the designated systems and hence are not eligible for improvement or maintenance with Federal-aid funds.

Roads not included in the Federal-aid primary and Federal-aid secondary systems continue to be the responsibility of the Territorial Board of Road Commissioners. Until the Board again has funds available to finance these non-system roads, we have agreed to assist the Territory in continuing their farm and industrial road program by approving Federal-aid secondary system designation and economically justified Federal-aid secondary improvement projects for individual high priority petitioned farm and industrial roads which the Board recommends. It is our understanding that petitions already presented to the Board include one for the roads in the Kenai area in which Mr. McBride is interested.

In regard to snow removal formerly done on private roads by Alaska Road Commission forces, such work was done on a reimbursable basis in areas where no private or commercial equipment was available to serve the settlers. No such work was undertaken without an agreement committing the owner to deposit funds to cover the cost.

We can well understand the problem confronting Mr. McBride and his associates. However, under the circumstances, we can only suggest that they keep their problem before the Territorial highway officials in order that it may be given due consideration in the overall program of work established by them through consideration of all roads.

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Mr. E. L. Bartlett

- 2 -

April 5, 1957

Similar information is being sent to Mr. McIvrie in reply to his letter of February 13 which was forwarded to us by the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely yours,

C. D. CURTISS
Commissioner of Public Roads

JPBowler:mm

cc: Files

Representative Bartlett

Mr. Swick (2)

Mr. Tallensay

Mr. Williams

Mr. Siegle ✓

8/17/73

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16
BARTLETT
ALASKA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 27, 1959

Mr. Ellis L. Armstrong,
Commissioner,
Bureau of Public Roads,
Department of Commerce,
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Enclosed is copy of SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 15
of the Alaska State Legislature urging construction of
a bridge across the Chena River. I should much appreci-
ate your views on the contents of this Memorial.

Sincerely yours,

E. L. Bartlett

PR 4151

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Mr. Siegle

FORM CD-54 (10-27-53)	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	DATE
TRANSMITTAL SLIP		March 7, 1957
TO:	REF. NO. (If any)	
Mr. Ghiglione		
FROM:	REF. NO. (If any)	
G. M. Williams		
ACTION		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN TO ME	<input type="checkbox"/> TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> RETURN WITH MORE DETAILS	<input type="checkbox"/> PER YOUR REQUEST	
<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND SEE ME ABOUT THIS	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE ANSWER	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE AND REPORT	
<input type="checkbox"/> PER OUR CONVERSATION		
COMMENTS:		
Please forward a report on this matter in order that we may make full reply to Mr. Bartlett.		

COMM-DC-3822

United States
 Representatives
 March 7, 1957

and enclosures from Mr. Lyman E.
 Kenai Home Owners Association, Kenai,
 construction and maintenance of certain
 Professional Engineer at Juneau to investi-
 of his report, we shall advise you

further.

Sincerely yours,

F. C. TURNER
 Acting Commissioner of Public Roads

gpb

JPBowler:md
 cc: Files
 Representative Bartlett
 Mr. Ghiglione
 Mr. Tallamy
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Siegle ✓

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22-50

March 7, 1957

Mr Siegle

Hon. E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Your letter of February 19 and enclosures from Mr. Lyman E. McBride, Chairman of the North Kenai Home Owners Association, Kenai, Alaska, concerned the need for construction and maintenance of certain roads in the Kenai area.

We are requesting our Regional Engineer at Juneau to investigate this matter. Upon receipt of his report, we shall advise you further.

Sincerely yours,

F. C. TURNER
Acting Commissioner of Public Roads

JPB
JPBowker:md
cc: Files
Representative Bartlett
Mr. Ghiglione
Mr. Tallamy
Mr. Williams
Mr. Siegle ✓

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55-20

BARTLETT
GATE FROM ALASKA

SECRETARY
MISS MARY LEE COUNCIL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MRS. MARGERIE SMITH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

February 19, 1957

Hon. C. D. Curtiss,
Commissioner,
Bureau of Public Roads,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Curtiss:

Mr. Lyman E. McBride, Chairman of the North Kenai Home Owners Association, P. O. Box 158, Kenai, Alaska, has written me under date of February 13 about road problems in that area. With that letter he sent copy of a communication of the same date addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, with enclosures.

Since it is apparent Mr. McBride is not yet aware that the Alaska Road Commission's functions have been transferred to the Bureau of Public Roads, I am taking the liberty of enclosing the papers he sent to me in the hope that the matter presented might be looked into by the Bureau of Public Roads. Your assistance in this regard will be very much appreciated.

MMJ
3-1

Sincerely yours,

E. L. Bartlett

E. L. Bartlett

RECEIVED
FEB 21 1957

202

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Received in Liaison
3-1-57

67-10000

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

RECEIVED
MARCH 1 1957

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(COPY)

40-00

Alaska

March 8, 1956

Hon. William F. Knowland

United States Senate

Dear Senator Knowland:

The following information is submitted in response to your memorandum of February 29, 1956, transmitting for our consideration a letter of February 9 to you from Mayor J. H. Goding of Ketchikan, Alaska, relative to the urgent need for funds to finance the improvement of North Tongass Avenue in Ketchikan.

Alaska Forest Highway Route 1 extends for a considerable distance on each side of Ketchikan, but the connecting streets within the city limits have never been included as a part of the designated forest highway route. There is no provision of existing law or regulation that prohibits the extension of forest highway routes into or through incorporated cities or towns, or the expenditure of forest highway funds for the construction of such extensions. It is our understanding, however, that a fundamental principle behind the adoption of authorizations for forest highways in the basic Federal-Aid Road Act of 1916 was that because the large areas of Federally-controlled land constituting the national forests are not taxable by States, territories and subdivisions thereof, the Federal government has an obligation to aid in financing and constructing the principal roads within and adjacent to forest areas. The lands within incorporated cities and towns are largely privately owned and subject to local taxation. Accordingly, it does not appear that the Federal government has an obligation to aid in financing the roads and streets within incorporated areas with funds authorized for forest highways. It is therefore believed that it would be contrary to the intent of the legislation to use forest highway funds for such purposes.

We can fully appreciate the urgent need for improvement of the arterial streets in Ketchikan, but unless the language of the Federal-aid Highway Act is modified to change the intent of forest highway fund authorizations, we do not see how these funds can be used to solve the problem that exists in Ketchikan. We know of no other Federal funds that would be available under present legislation for this purpose. It is earnestly hoped that the city can find means of financing the needed improvements with funds from sources other than Federal.

10-00

(COPI)

(COPY)

- 2 -

I recently had a conference in my office with Delegate Bartlett, Mr. Ghiglione, Commissioner of the Alaska Road Commission, and Mr. Coulter of the Office of Territories of the Department of the Interior, at which time the general subject of Federal aid for highways in Alaska was discussed. You may be assured that the Bureau is desirous of cooperating in every possible way in furtherance of a sound and adequate highway program for Alaska.

The subject matter of Mayor Goding's letter has been discussed in considerable correspondence in recent months between this office and former Mayor George H. Beck of Ketchikan, and City Manager Robert E. Sharp.

As requested, we are returning Mayor Goding's letter to you of February 9, 1956.

Very truly yours,

/s/ C. D. Curtiss

C. D. Curtiss
Commissioner of Public Roads

Enclosure

MBChristensen:nc

- cc: Files-2
- Courtesy Copy
- Mr. Clark
- Mr. Christensen
- Mr. Williams
- Mr. Erhart
- Div Engr Andrews-2

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(COPY)

UNITED STATES SENATE

February 29, 1956

Respectfully referred to

Department of Commerce
Bureau of Public Roads
Washington, D. C.

with thanks for such favorable consideration as the communication
herewith submitted warrants, and for a report thereon, in duplicate
to accompany return of inclosure.

By direction of

/s/ William F. Knowland

William F. Knowland

U. S. S.

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(COPY)

(COPY)

CITY OF KETCHIKAN

Office of Mayor
P. O. Box 1110
Ketchikan, Alaska

February 9, 1956

Honorable William F. Knowland
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Knowland:

Since my return to Ketchikan, I find an emergency condition exists on a 5,900 foot unpaved section of North Tongass Avenue, which leads to the Ketchikan Pulp Company Mill at Ward's Cove. Rains have caused "frost boils" which makes the street almost impassable and is causing damage to motor vehicles.

This street is a part of our arterial system which connects with Forest Service Highway No. 1 on the North and South sides of Ketchikan. The Bureau of Public Roads and Forest Service have eliminated the connecting arterial streets through the City from the official highway route thereby leaving the full responsibility on the City for through arterial highway construction. There is no other federal highway program in existence to aid in arterial highway construction through our city.

The City has made repeated requests to the Bureau of Public Roads and Forest Service to correct this unfair situation by designating the highway route through the City and, at least, assisting in its improvement. Since the impact of the pulp mill development, the City has expended over \$4.5 million on its arterial street system. The City estimates the cost of improving the 5,900 foot unpaved section of North Tongass Avenue at \$1,507,505.00. Now, our financial condition is such that we cannot complete the balance of the arterial street improvements necessary to meet increased traffic.

I hesitate to bother you with this problem, but all our efforts have failed to date. We have attempted to provide community facilities for the increased population resulting from operations of the pulp mill which is considered of sufficient national interest to merit an accelerated depreciation write-off because of the defense aspects of its production. The City of Ketchikan would appreciate your assistance in obtaining funds for this street improvement.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF KETCHIKAN

/s/ J. H. Goding

J. H. Goding, Mayor

JHG:reb

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Alaska-ferries

M. G. W. 3/7

→ O.A.C.S.

March 6, 1957

Copy Alaska

26-00

Honorable E. L. Bartlett
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Under date of September 5, 1956, you wrote me asking whether under section 107(b) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 there is authority to construct a ferry to serve between Skagway, Alaska and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. We advised you, under date of September 11, 1956, that the matter was being given a careful study and that you would be informed of our conclusion.

3-2

Highway Engineer Reed of Alaska asked us the same question in a letter enumerating several highway problems. We have recently advised Mr. Reed that we do not believe that under section 107(b) there would be authority to construct a terminal in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. We feel that this would require additional legislation and, of course, an agreement with Canada. We also informed Mr. Reed that under section 107(b) there is authority to construct and operate a ferry within the Territorial Limits of Alaska if the route of the ferry should be placed on the Federal-aid System.

If we can be of further service to you do not hesitate to write us.

Sincerely yours,

C. D. CURTISS

C. D. Curtiss
Commissioner of Public Roads

HLangdon:je

- cc: Mr. J. C. Allen
- Mr. A. C. Clark
- Mr. G. M. Williams ✓
- Files (2)
- Legal