

**CITY OF NORTH POLE
RESOLUTION 2024-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING EFFORTS AND FUNDING TO EXTEND THE
NORTH RAIL TO DELTA JUNCTION**

WHEREAS, natural resource development in Alaska is constrained by the lack of access and infrastructure to undeveloped areas of the State of Alaska rich in natural resources;

WHEREAS, the Richardson Highway provides a lifeline for residents and businesses in Interior Alaska to obtain goods and services;

WHEREAS, the increases in military operations to support the two squadrons of F-35's at Eielson Airforce Base has brought hundreds of new families to the Interior who drive on the Richardson Highway;

WHEREAS, the expansion of the missile defense complex at Ft. Greely has raised the population and drivers in the Delta Junction region;

WHEREAS, the development of the large scale gold mine Mahn Cho near Tetlin will use 95 foot highway tractors pulling two covered side-dump trailers filled with ore to the Ft.Knox Mine Mill site north of Fairbanks to make 60 trips a day between the two mines;

WHEREAS, the Northern Rail Extension Phase II to Delta Junction will provide safe and efficient surface transportation to the significant military training ranges on the south side of the Tanana River;

WHEREAS, in 2014 the first phase of the Northern Rail Extension was completed with the construction of the 3,300 foot Tanana River Crossing Bridge in Salcha and two miles of levee construction;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Federal Government issued a record of decision supporting the Northern Rail Extension

WHEREAS, 15 years have passed since the original National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was completed necessitating an updating of the study and an additional right-of-way acquisitions may be warranted from both federal and private property to obtain final permitting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of North Pole that the completion of Northern Rail Extension Project should be of the highest priority for the State of Alaska, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Alaska Command at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

Sponsored by: Mayor Pro Tem Chandra Clack,
Council Members Jeff Jacobson, Anton Keller, David
Skipp, Larry Terch, Benny Williams,
Introduced: January 2, 2024

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we urge the aforementioned parties to renew discussions, planning and to
2 seek funding to complete the next phase of the Northern Rail Extension to Delta Junction in the best
3 interest of national defense, resource development and the health and safety of Alaskans along this
4 portion of the Richardson Highway and connecting highways.
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6 Section 1. Effective date.

7 This resolution shall become effective immediately upon City Council approval.

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9 PASSED by a duly constituted quorum of the North Pole City Council this 2nd day of January 2024.

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ATTEST:


Emily Braniff, CMC
City Clerk




Mayor, City of North Pole, Alaska

PASSED/FAILED Yes: Skipp, Clack, Jacobson, Terch, Keller, Williams No: 0 Absent: Welch
