

KNIK ARM CROSSING

On February 27th, the Assembly listened to nearly 4 hours of public testimony on this issue last night. Previously, there was a work session on the issue as well. Obviously, there is a lot of information to digest.

Also, as you may know, the Assembly is not the decision maker on this project. The Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) policy committee is the decision maker. Our role is to make a recommendation to AMATS.

I am most concerned about the substantial infrastructure costs (estimated at \$500 million) which may be imposed on the City if the bridge is built. To date, we do not have any assurances that this will not happen. We have been promised that no additional state or federal money will be required, but we have no such assurances as to local funding. The Assembly has been told by KABATA that the bridge will be financed by private sector investors. Since private financing is being sought for the bridge itself, I will leave that financial analysis to the investment experts. However, I must have assurances that our City will not get a \$500,000,000.00 cost dumped in our laps. The MOA simply cannot afford to build that level of infrastructure.

I am advised that there is a substantial amount of additional information which is soon to be forth coming re: conditions proposed by the AMATS technical committee (available Friday) and financing information (available on 3-13). Also, since I have been out of town recently, I did not get the briefing materials from Planning and Zoning or from the Mayor's office. I have now requested them as well as any other information which may be available.

As always, my standard operating procedure is to gather as much information as possible and then make a decision on any issue before the Assembly based on what I see as the best interests of the City.

As matters now stand, I have a lot more work to do on this issue before I vote on what recommendation to make to AMATS. Once I am done with my research and reading, I will be able to make a reasoned decision. I will then state my position and the reasons for my decision.

If you have any comments on this issue, please e mail me at dancoffey@gci.net. I will respond.