

Proposed by:	Assembly
Attorney Review:	12/10/2018
Vote:	5 Aye 0 Nay 1 Absent

**MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 18-25R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA SUPPORTING ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SAFETY ON THE KLONDIKE HIGHWAY DURING THE SUMMER SEASON, AND SUPPORTING THE YUKON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PETITION REGARDING TRANSPORT AND SAFETY ISSUES ON THE SOUTH KLONDIKE HIGHWAY.**

**WHEREAS**, the Klondike Highway is the only industrial use highway in the northern Lynn Canal and is a major transportation corridor between the U.S. and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, Skagway has experienced large volumes of industrial and tourism traffic due to the increased use of the Port of Skagway and the Klondike Highway corridor for the transport of cruise passengers, and commodities such as fuel, ore, and other goods; and

**WHEREAS**, during the summer season, the Klondike Highway sees heavy use by tour buses and other vehicles, industrial trucks, bicycles, and recreational vehicles, which on the narrow pass between Skagway and Carcross presents safety issues for all such users; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Skagway supports actions that facilitate the efficient use of the Klondike Highway by these users, such as widening the highway and installing passing lanes and bicycle lanes, because these actions create safer conditions for users; and

**WHEREAS**, this heavy use also causes extended delays for industrial and tourism-related vehicles at the U.S. and Canadian border stations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce has drafted a petition supporting actions that would facilitate the transport of goods between the United States and Canada on the Klondike Highway outside of peak daylight hours during the summer; and

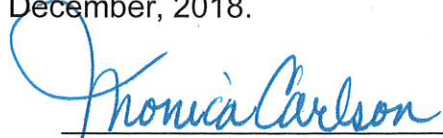
**WHEREAS**, the petition notes that high traffic on the Klondike Highway impacts safety negatively, and this traffic can be reduced by opening the U.S. and Canadian border stations early for use by pre-authorized trucks using a key fob system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Skagway agrees that actions such as this would better facilitate the traffic on the Klondike Highway and reduce adverse conditions that affect the safety of the public;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** the Skagway Borough Assembly supports actions to improve safety on the Klondike Highway during the summer season; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** the Skagway Borough Assembly supports the Yukon Chamber of Commerce petition regarding transport and safety issues on the south Klondike Highway.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Carlson, Mayor

ATTEST: 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



### **South Klondike Highway: Transport & Safety Issues during the Summer Season**

Every year, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC) organizes the Transportation Workshop in one of our community chamber's municipality on a rotating basis. The event brings together representatives of the Yukon and regional chambers, members of the private sector impacted by or delivering services in the transportation and infrastructure space, First Nation organizations, other NGOs and Government representation. During the last workshop held in May 2018 in Dawson City, trucking companies brought to the attention of the YCC safety issues on the South Klondike Highway during the summer months, especially between Skagway, Alaska and Carcross, Yukon.

The tourism industry is an important part of the Yukon and Alaskan economies. Between May and September 2018, two to four cruise ships per day docked in Skagway, representing approximately 800,000 tourists over the season. Many visitors book bike excursions, tour buses or rent cars and jeeps for a trip to Whitehorse via the South Klondike Highway. The road is also shared with multiple campers, RVs, moving trailers, Yukoners and Alaskans all summer long. From May to August 2018, 28,044 vehicles entered into Canada through the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Fraser port of entry. This number doesn't include vehicles exiting the Yukon on their way to Skagway.

The number of trucks using the South Klondike Highway is projected to increase in the next few years, especially with the introduction of bigger cruise ships, and with promising mining prospects. It is crucial to ensure that the tourism industry continues to thrive without being impacted by safety issues. Near-miss and unsafe traffic congestion caused by tourists stopping along the highway to photograph wildlife and scenery were reported by trucking companies. To date, no major incidents have happened but with the number of vehicles, including bicycle rentals rising each summer, the risk of accidents are increasing rapidly.

The Chamber of Commerce and its partners are supportive of any actions that would facilitate the transport of goods between both countries outside of peak daylight hours. A solution would be to open the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) Skagway port of entry two hours earlier between May and September. This would reduce the number of trucks on the highways during key times when tourists are using the highway therefore dramatically reducing interaction between heavy haul trucks and tourist traffic. The trucks are typically heavy B-Train trucks loaded with fuel and inherent dangers are presented when they encounter tourists on the highway. In Canada, the use of a fob key system for pre-authorized trucking employees crossing the Fraser border was trialed in the past successfully with CBSA. This option could be used as a template for the USCBP in Skagway that only authorizes pre-approved companies.

We are looking forward to collaborating with our Alaskan partners on this issue affecting both jurisdictions.

Sincerely,