

1 By: Bryce J. Ward, Mayor  
2 Introduced: 03/12/2020  
3 Defeated: 03/12/2020  
4 Immediate  
5 Reconsideration Failed: 03/12/2020  
6 Defeated: 03/12/2020  
7

8 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

9  
10 RESOLUTION NO. 2020 – 15

11  
12 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING THE ALASKA STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX  
13 FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ALASKA STATE  
14 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM  
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16 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has faced an operating budget deficit for  
17 the last few years due to declining, traditional State revenues; and  
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19 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska is responsible for the safe maintenance and  
20 operation of public transportation facilities; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Over the last three years, the State has closed at least five  
23 Department of Transportation maintenance facilities due to lack of funding; and  
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25 WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities'  
26 operating budget is funded by State general fund revenues; and  
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28 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough is a member of the local  
29 Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAST Planning), which is responsible for local  
30 transportation planning efforts and uses federal dollars to leverage local and state funding  
31 for transportation projects; and  
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33 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 115 proposes to increase the motor fuel tax rate to  
34 16¢ per gallon (an increase of 8¢ per gallon) for motor vehicles, 10¢ per gallon (an  
35 increase of 5¢ per gallon) for motor fuel used in watercraft, and 12¢ per gallon (an  
36 increase of 6¢) for motor fuel used to operate an internal combustion engine; and  
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38 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly adopted Resolution  
39 2019-42, which supports the creation of new broad-based taxes designed to increase  
40 state revenue; and  
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42 WHEREAS, Alaska currently has the lowest motor fuel tax rate in the nation,  
43 and passage of these motor fuel tax increases would result in Alaska continuing to be  
44 one of the lowest taxed states (48th out of 50) in the Nation; and

45 WHEREAS, State-wide increases use of more fuel-efficient vehicles has  
46 resulted in less motor fuel tax revenue and more road miles driven during the past few  
47 years; and

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49 WHEREAS, Alaska's U.S. Congressional Delegation, and specifically  
50 Congressman Don Young, has repeatedly requested that the State contribute more  
51 funding to transportation in order to match Federal Transit Administration funding  
52 opportunities; and

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54 WHEREAS, Based on the Kelley Blue Book annual average of 15,000 vehicle  
55 miles driven, the proposed motor fuel tax increase would equate to an average of less  
56 than \$60 (\$57.52) per vehicle annually, totaling approximately \$33 million dollars in  
57 additional revenue; and

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59 WHEREAS, Operations and maintenance of Alaska's transportation system  
60 is the responsibility of the State of Alaska; and

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62 WHEREAS, Proper operation and maintenance of Alaska's transportation  
63 system, such as snow clearing, is critical to ensuring public health and safety; and

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65 WHEREAS, A safe and functional transportation network is critical to a  
66 healthy economy; and

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68 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough is a member of the Alaska  
69 Municipal League, which also supports the proposed motor fuel tax as revenue for the  
70 purpose of operations and maintenance of Alaska's transportation network; and

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72 WHEREAS, Increasing the motor fuel tax revenue would be part of a long-  
73 term fiscal plan for the State to meet the needs of residents and communities while  
74 addressing the fiscal gap.

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76 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks  
77 North Star Borough supports an increase to the Alaska motor fuel tax, which would be  
78 used to conduct operations and maintenance of the Alaska State transportation system.

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80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the  
81 Alaska State Legislature and the appropriate committees reviewing this effort, the Interior  
82 Delegation, and to Governor Michael Dunleavy.

83 ADOPTED THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF MARCH 2020.

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ATTEST:

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*{DEFEATED}*

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April Trickey, CMC

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Borough Clerk

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Yeses: Sanford, O’Neill, Lyke, Quist

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Noes: Tomaszewski, Cash, Lojewski

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Other: Williams (Excused), Cooper (Excused)

*{DEFEATED}*

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Christopher Quist  
Deputy Presiding Officer