

NORTH DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
7943 N. Douglas Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801

September 25, 2006

Bruce Botelho, Mayor
City and Borough of Juneau
155 South Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mayor Botelho and Assembly Members:

This letter is an update from the North Douglas Neighborhood Association (NDNA), composed of approximately 150 active members, regarding our commitment to participate in the ongoing public processes regarding a second channel crossing and the potential development of west Douglas Island. ***Our efforts are guided by a strong desire to maintain and enhance our neighborhood and the quality of life that has led us to live on North Douglas.***

Second Crossing Committee: Through our Second Crossing Committee, the NDNA continues to address the challenges and concerns we have as the neighborhood most directly impacted by a second crossing. Our focus has been on issues associated with identifying the location of a second crossing, as well as plans for the potential development on the island associated with the crossing.

The relative quiet and proximity to nature afforded by low-density, semi-rural development are very important to us, as are highway safety issues and the many recreational opportunities that we and the larger community enjoy in our area.

Current and Completed Work:

- We participated in the EIS scoping process.
- We worked with the Mayor and Assembly to include a resolution that the analysis of the narrowed range of crossing alternatives must consider a bench road, confirming that the bench road is an element of the comprehensive plan and integral to transportation planning for North Douglas.
- We have met, and will continue to meet, with CBJ planning staff regarding an update of the Comprehensive Plan.
- One of our members serves on the West Douglas Development Working Group.
- We conducted a survey of North Douglas residents to solicit opinions on a second crossing and bench road.
- We will continue to work with our residents through discussions and surveys for ongoing and future planning.

We developed our "Issues of Concern" statement that outlines the challenges and opportunities that can maintain and improve our Neighborhood as planning proceeds. We provided this statement to each assembly member last autumn to encourage understanding and dialogue, and have attached it again for your information.

Comprehensive Plan: The second crossing and development of west Douglas Island are essential components to be addressed in updating the Comprehensive Plan, and thus our “Issues of Concern” must be recognized and considered in that planning process. Of critical importance is that the plan includes the larger vision for our neighborhood and that the process is transparent. Toward this end, *we respectfully request the Assembly, to support and promote a comprehensive North Douglas planning process, in addition to updating the Comprehensive Plan, which includes active and meaningful participation by the NDNA and integration of our concerns and ideas.*

We trust that the CBJ Assembly recognizes the importance of working with the NDNA in these processes, and further, will address our concerns and ideas regarding potential adverse impacts to develop a vision of North Douglas that builds upon the attributes of our neighborhood. For example, a key issue for us is increased road traffic and safety on North Douglas Highway, as this residential highway is used extensively by many Juneau residents for walking, running, family biking, berry picking, hunting, etc.

Survey Results: We sent survey forms to 520 North Douglas property owners, and about 1 out of 4 (135; 26%) responded. The detailed survey results are attached. In summary, the survey results indicate the following:

- Regarding a second crossing: 102 people (75 % of the respondents) were in favor, 25 people (21 %) opposed, and 5 people (4 %) expressed no opinions.
- The results regarding a bench road were similar: 81 people (60 %) in favor (including some who linked it to their support of a second crossing), 37 people (30 %) opposed, and 13 people (10 %) expressed no opinion.
- Highest ranked preference for the location of the crossing: Yandukin Drive to Eaglecrest Road
- In the overall ranking, a crossing in the vicinity from Sunny Point and Yandukin Drive on the mainland to the vicinity from Hendrickson Creek to Eaglecrest Road on North Douglas was preferred.
- Written comments indicate that the purpose and rationale of the bench road needs to be more clearly explained.

Onward: The NDNA will actively participate in the process to identify a community-preferred alternative for a second crossing to North Douglas Island. Our committee continues to work with the larger NDNA as we address issues such as displacement, road widening, highway safety, and other impacts. We will meet with the West Douglas Development Working Group to share ideas about the crossing and development on Douglas Island north of the bridge. We look forward to a transparent, collaborative, and genuine planning process with the CBJ Assembly and planning staff regarding our neighborhood.

We look forward to working with you for the safety, recreation, and quality of life for North Douglas and the larger Juneau community.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Van Dyke
President NDNA



Mike Stanley
Chair, NDNA Second Crossing Committee

**NORTH DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF SECOND CROSSING SURVEY**

The North Douglas Neighborhood Association (NDNA) conducted a survey of opinions on the proposed second channel crossing and related issues. Survey forms were sent to 520 North Douglas property owners. NDNA received 135 responses, a 26 % return. NDNA has tabulated the responses and presents them below. NDNA will continue to analyze the written comments and provide a more complete report at a later date.

1. Do you favor a Second Channel Crossing?

Yes – 102 (75 %) No – 25 (21 %) No Opinion – 5 (4 %)

2. If a Second Channel Crossing is built, please rank your preference for a location among the following alternatives (1 being the highest, 4 being the lowest):

183 Yandukin Drive to Eaglecrest Road (50)

190 Sunny Point to Hendrickson Creek/Lady Smith Lane (27)

229 Vanderbilt Hill to approximately Five Mile Creek (29)

244 Industrial Boulevard to a point somewhere south of Bayview and north of Eaglecrest Road (22)

(The listed termini on North Douglas Island were based on the 1984 study for a second channel crossing and do not reflect any decision by DOT or CBJ regarding the siting of a terminus on the island side of the channel.)

Respondents were asked to rank their preferences for a crossing location among four alternatives (see Figure 1). NDNA assigned a corresponding point value (1-4) to their preferences in order from highest to lowest, then summed total. These numbers appear on the left (see Figure 2). The numbers in parentheses identify the first preference of the respondents. The results indicate that Yandukin Drive to Eaglecrest Road was the highest ranked alternative, and that a crossing in the vicinity from Sunny Point and Yandukin Drive on the mainland to the vicinity from Hendrickson Creek to Eaglecrest Road on North Douglas was preferred.

3. Do you favor a Bench Road?

Yes – 81 (60 %) No – 37 (30 %) No Opinion – 13 (10 %)

Respondents were asked to state where they live. The distribution (by number and percent) is as follows: the bridge to Channel View Terrace trailer park – 18 (13 %) / 5125 to 6685 – 17 (13 %) / Bonnie Brae – 22 (16 %) / 7081 to 8437 – 28 (21 %) / 8438 to Eaglecrest Road – 13 (10 %) / Eaglecrest Road to 10404 – 8 (6 %) / Bayview – 18 (13 %) / past Bayview – 6 (4 %) / not a resident of North Douglas – 5 (4 %)

Figure 1. Number of first preferences for the 4 crossing options, and the associated percentage.

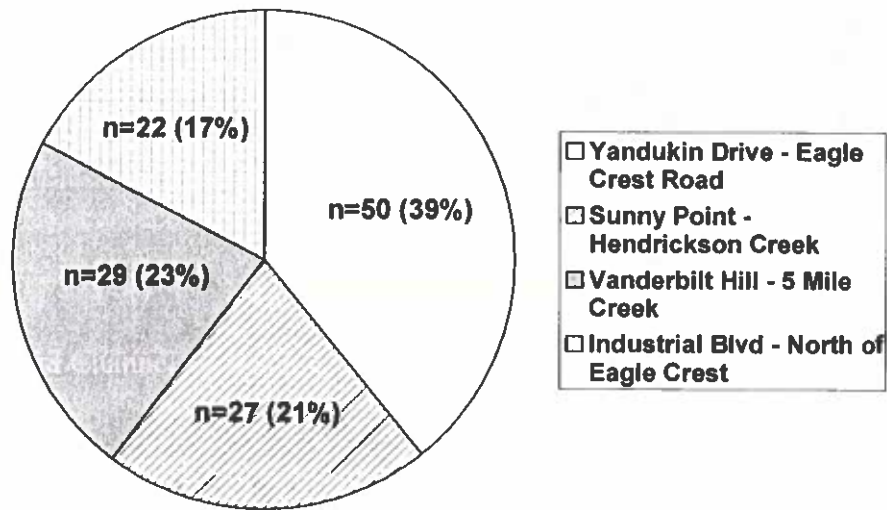


Figure 2. Rank of the 4 crossing options based on summary value score and first preferences.

