



Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. Micciche
145 Main Street Loop, Suite 226
Kenai, AK 99611-7771

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Senator Micciche,

Thank you for your December 17, 2020 letter, regarding the winter transportation conditions on the Kenai Peninsula, in particular the Seward and Sterling Highways. I agree that Alaskans traveling these critical transportation corridors should expect them to be clear and safe throughout the winter.

Today, I directed the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOTPF) to reopen the Silvertip Maintenance Station with the equipment, personnel, and resources necessary to clear and maintain the Seward and Sterling Highways for the remainder of the 2020-2021 snow season. I have also directed the Commissioner to reexamine more permanent solutions for the operations of the Silver Tip Station. I look forward to working with you and the Legislature during the FY22 budget cycle to institute a long-term program for road maintenance on the Kenai Peninsula.

Public safety is, and will continue to be, the highest priority of my administration. A crucial component in that pledge is keeping essential infrastructure, like our highways, in safe working order. Alaska has fewer road miles than Connecticut. With such sparse connectivity, every yard of public pavement is essential to the movement of Alaskans throughout the state. The recent distribution plan for moving the COVID-19 virus vaccines demonstrates the inherent logistical hurdles we face. There is no need to add to those. With the opening of this maintenance station, we continue the pledge to make, and keep, Alaska more connected and more secure.

Thank you for bringing this important issue to my attention and for the good work you are doing for our constituents on the Kenai.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

cc: Miles Baker, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor