

## **RESOLUTION 2026-03-01**

Supporting the Designation of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference as a Regional Planning Organization by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

**WHEREAS**, the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) is a voluntary association of municipalities, Tribal entities, and regional stakeholders dedicated to advancing economic development, infrastructure coordination, and regional collaboration in Southwest Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Southwest Alaska encompasses a vast and geographically dispersed region characterized by limited road connectivity, reliance on marine and air transportation, high infrastructure costs, and unique logistical and environmental challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, effective regional transportation planning requires coordinated engagement among municipalities, Tribal governments, state agencies, federal partners, industry, and community stakeholders; and

**WHEREAS**, Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs) serve an important role in facilitating public participation, identifying transportation priorities, coordinating regional project development, and strengthening communication between local governments and the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, designation as a Regional Planning Organization by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) would enhance SWAMC's ability to support long-range transportation planning, improve safety and mobility, align regional priorities with statewide plans, and increase competitiveness for state and federal infrastructure funding; and

**WHEREAS**, SWAMC has demonstrated capacity to convene diverse stakeholders, conduct regional planning initiatives, support data-driven decision-making, and advance transportation and infrastructure priorities that reflect the needs of Southwest Alaska communities; and

**WHEREAS**, formal RPO designation would provide a structured framework for collaboration with DOT&PF and strengthen the voice of Southwest Alaska communities in statewide transportation planning processes.

- m o r e -



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference supports and affirms its designation as a Regional Planning Organization for Southwest Alaska by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; and
2. That SWAMC commits to fulfilling the responsibilities of a Regional Planning Organization, including facilitating regional coordination, promoting meaningful public engagement, identifying transportation priorities, and supporting development of regional transportation plans consistent with state and federal requirements; and
3. That SWAMC will work collaboratively with DOT&PF, member municipalities, Tribal governments, industry representatives, and community stakeholders to ensure transportation planning reflects regional needs and enhances safety, connectivity, and economic opportunity; and
4. That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; Governor Mike Dunleavy; the Alaska State Legislature; and SWAMC member municipalities and partners.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the members of the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference this Fifth day of March 2026.

**SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE**

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice A. Ruby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Mayor Alice Ruby, President  
SWAMC Board of Directors  
Bristol Bay Municipal Seat  
City of Dillingham

**Attest:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wanetta Ayers". The signature is cursive and includes a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wanetta Ayers  
Executive Director