



KENAI MOUNTAINS-TURNAGAIN ARM  
**NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

Cooper Landing Trails Committee  
David Story, Chair  
PO Box 863  
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

*Re: FLAP Support: Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project*

Dear Mr. Story:

The Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA NHA) is writing in support of the Cooper Landing Trails Committee's planning proposal for Federal Lands Access Program funding for corridor management planning for the Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project.

The Kenai Peninsula and the community of Cooper Landing desire healthier, safer, and economically sound transportation alternatives. Cooper Landing's "Town Road" is dotted with cultural, historical, and recreational sites. It is and will remain the main connection to the area's amenities and facilities including campgrounds, trailheads, businesses, restaurants, museums, cultural areas, community sites and residences.

While the new alignment of the Sterling Highway Bypass Project improves the through-traffic of the highway, it does not address the deficiencies of the existing alignment. The Town Road will continue to serve significant amounts of motorized traffic. The Cooper Creek Bridge exemplifies the many sections of roadway along this alignment that are not safe for any mode of active transportation regardless of the speeds or volumes of motorized traffic. Without a project such as the Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project, the connectivity of the community will continue to be hampered by the deficient existing facilities and will continue to present hazards to active transportation and motorized users alike.

Improving the active transportation infrastructure along the Cooper Landing Town Road broadens the community's appeal to the visitors that power its economic engine and provides more dependable opportunities for the businesses and people that support them. The KMTA National Heritage Area supports this proposal and all efforts to make Cooper Landing a stronger part of the Kenai Peninsula's economy and community.

Sincerely,

Jessica Szelag  
Executive Director  
KMTA NHA