Local Boundary Commission Decision

In the matter of the April 22, 2015 petition by the City of Fairbanks to detach 0.076 square miles or 48.5 acres.

Section I
Introduction

On April 22, 2015, the City of Fairbanks (also referred to as “city” or “petitioner”) petitioned the Local Boundary Commission (also referred to as “LBC” or “commission”) to detach a territory of 0.076 square miles or 48.5 acres. The territory proposed for detachment (“territory”) is generally described as:

Open Skies Commercial Park with surrounding state highway land. One platted subdivision lies inside the territory: Lots 1 and 2, Open Skies Commercial Park, subdivision plat 2009-015996-0, as amended by record survey 2012-000982-0, Section 21, Township 1S, Range 1E, Fairbanks Meridian.

The territory is wholly located in the Fairbanks Recording District, Fourth Judicial District, State of Alaska.

Figure 1. Territory proposed for detachment
Section II
Proceedings

A version of this petition was submitted in 2013 by the late Patrick Cole as petitioner’s representative. This petition was submitted in April of 2015, and after a technical review, was accepted on May 22, 2015. In October 2015, staff produced a preliminary report recommending approval of the petition proposal for detachment. Because of the nature of the petition, the LBC voted to suspend the requirement under 3 AAC 110.530(a) that there be a final report. They also suspended the requirement under 3 AAC 110.550(b) for the public notice for the hearing to be published three times. It was only published once in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* on January 5, 2016.

LBC Public Hearing
In accordance with 3 AAC 110.550 and 3 AAC 110.560, the commission held a duly noticed public hearing in Anchorage on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. regarding the City of Fairbanks detachment petition. The hearing was conducted via teleconference with three commissioners present in Anchorage. Two commissioners attended via the public teleconference. The commission heard from City of Fairbanks petitioner’s alternate representative and the property owner.

LBC Decisional Meeting
In accordance with 3 AAC 110.570, the Local Boundary Commission held a duly noticed decisional meeting on February 9, 2016 immediately following the public hearing. After a discussion of the standards, the commission voted unanimously to approve the Fairbanks detachment.

Section III
Findings and Conclusions

The Local Boundary Commission is required to apply the standards for detachment from cities found in 3 AAC 110.257-3 AAC 110.265 and 3 AAC 110.900-3 AAC 110.990. The record for this proceeding includes the City of Fairbanks detachment petition and supporting materials, the single comment received, the LBC staff preliminary report, as well as statements given at the LBC February 9, 2016 public hearing.1 Only relevant standards were addressed by the commission in a decisional meeting and the result of the discussion is summarized below. Based on the evidence in the record, the commission has reached the findings and conclusions set out in this section.

In determining whether the proposed detachment is in accordance with AS 29.06.040(a), the commission may approve a proposal for detachment from a city only if the commission determines that the proposal meets applicable standards under the Constitution of the State of Alaska; meets standards in 3 AAC 110.257 - 3 AAC 110.260 and 3 AAC 110.900 - 3 AAC 110.970; and is in the best interests of the state. The commission finds that those standards are met.

3 AAC 110.981. Determination of maximum local self-government
In determining whether the proposed detachment promoted local maximum self-government, the commission considered whether the proposed detachment would diminish the local government provided to the territory and population proposed for detachment, or would detrimentally affect the remnant city’s ability to serve the local government needs of city residents. The commission found that the proposed detachment would do neither.

The commission also considered whether the borough can adequately meet the local government needs of the territory and population proposed for detachment. The commission found that the borough could adequately meet those needs.

After considering that, the commission noted that the de facto arrangement whereby the territory was treated for many years as not being part of the city indicates that there would be no diminishing

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1 Only one comment and no briefs were filed with the department.
of local government for the residents of the territory. Prior to this petition, the territory was incorrectly believed to have been outside the city limits, and was served by Fairbanks North Star Borough. The borough has demonstrated that it can adequately serve the territory in terms of local government and will continue to after the territory detaches from the city. The commission finds that the proposed city detachment promotes maximum local self-government under art. X, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska. The commission finds this standard satisfied.

3 AAC 110.982. Minimum number of local government units
In determining whether a proposed city detachment promotes a minimum number of local government units in accordance with art. X, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, the commission considers whether the detached area by itself is likely to be incorporated as a new city. The commission noted that there is no indication of a new city being formed as a result of this detachment, and so there will be no change in the number of local government units. As such, the commission finds that this standard is met.

3 AAC 110.260. Best interests of the state
In consideration of this standard, the commission may consider a number of factors which are listed in 3 AAC 110.260. The commission determined that it is not necessary for the territory to incorporate to ensure that its need for local government services will be adequately met because the territory is already and will remain a part of an organized borough. Nor will the detachment create noncontiguous parts of the city or borough or enclaves. The commission indicated that there is no major state concern to consider here. The borough and the city have demonstrated that they are already operating in concert and have agreed to work together going forward. The commission finds, as required, that this detachment is in the best interests of the state and that the standard is met.

3 AAC 110.900. Transition
The commission heard from the City of Fairbanks during the hearing and considered the transition plan prepared by the petitioner which is required for any boundary change. The commission determined that the petition did include a practical plan for the transition or ending of municipal services in the shortest practicable time after the proposed detachment, and to assume all powers, duties, rights, and functions now provided by the city to the territory proposed to be detached in the shortest practicable time after the proposed detachment. The commission found that the plan was designed to effect an orderly, efficient, and economical transfer within the shortest practicable time, not to exceed two years after the effective date of the proposed detachment. In this plan, a list of consultations with relevant officials in the city, borough and service areas was provided. It included the names and title of the officials, the subject matter of the discussion, and dates and times.

After hearing from the petitioner, and officials from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, as well as the property owner, the commission determined that the transition planned has been designed to complete the process in a quick and efficient manner for all parties. There are no assets or liabilities that were relevant for the commission to consider. Furthermore, the transition will not include any loss of value to assets, loss of credit reputation or reduced bond rating for liabilities.

The City of Fairbanks indicated that it would hold an election for the resident(s) of the territory. The borough indicated it was willing to expedite the process of inclusion of the property into the North Star Fire Service Area as well.

The commission determined it is not necessary to require an agreement between parties as they are already working together closely. The petition record includes evidence of this collaboration.

Through the testimony provided in the public hearing, the petition and relevant materials, as well as staff recommendations, the commission finds that all parts of 3 AAC 110.900 are satisfied. This standard is met.

3 AAC 110.910. Statement of Nondiscrimination
The commission determined that the detachment would have no adverse effect on any person with regard to enjoyment of any civil or political right. This standard is met.
Section IV
Order of the Commission

After considering the record, the LBC finds that the petition meets all relevant standards. The commission approves the petition without condition or amendment. The territory proposed for detachment is 0.076 square miles or 48.5 acres. With the commission's approval of the petition, the City of Fairbanks decreases from 33.85 square miles to 33.77 square miles. The metes and bounds of the post-detachment City of Fairbanks boundaries are described as follows:

Commencing at the south 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M. which is located on the Fairbanks Base Line, being the true point of beginning of this description; thence west along the Fairbanks Base Line to the northwesterly corner of Section 3, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the section line common to Sections 3 and 4, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M., to an intersection with the thread of the Noyes Slough; thence downstream along the thread of the Noyes Slough to the easterly 1/16 line of Section 4, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along said easterly 1/16 line to the southerly boundary of Johnston Subdivision, filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office October 4, 1954, as Instrument No. 151.674; thence in northerly, northeasterly and northerly directions, respectively, along the easterly boundary of Johnston Subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on October 4, 1954, as Instrument No. 151.674, to the southerly right of way limit of College Road, State of Alaska Project S-SG-0644(5); thence in a northwesterly direction along the southermost right of way limit of College Road, State of Alaska Project S-SG-0644(5), to the Fairbanks Base Line; thence west along said Base Line to the thread of Noyes Slough; thence downstream along the thread of Noyes Slough to the northerly extension of the lot line common to Lots 1 and 11 of the Fairbanks Industrial Park Subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on October 15, 1976, as Instrument No. 76-165; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly boundaries of Lots 1 through 6 and 9 and the southerly extension of said line to the southermost right of way limit of Hanson Road, shown on the plat of Fairbanks Industrial Park Subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on October 15, 1976, as Instrument No. 76-165; thence in a westerly direction along the southermost right of way limit of Hanson Road to the northwesterly corner of Lot 21, Fairbanks Industrial Park Subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on October 15, 1976, as Instrument No. 76-165; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly boundary of said Lot 21 to the southeasterly corner of Lot 21, Fairbanks Industrial Park Subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorders Office, on October 15, 1976, as Instrument No. 76-165; thence easterly and northeasterly along the southerly boundaries of Lots 21, 20 and 24 to the southeasterly corner of Lot 24, Fairbanks Industrial Park Subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on October 15, 1976, as Instrument No. 76-165; thence easterly, normal to the section line, to said section line common to Sections 5 and 4, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along said section line common to Sections 4, 5, 8 and 9, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M. to an intersection with the easterly extension of the southermost right of way limit of Phillips field Road as shown on the plat of Doyon Estates subdivision, filed in the Fairbanks Recorders Office on October 16, 1997 as Instrument No. 97-100 ; thence in a westerly direction along said easterly extension of the southermost right of way limit of Phillips Field Road to an intersection with the westernmost right of way limit of Mouton Street as shown on the plat of Doyon Estates subdivision, filed in the Fairbanks Recorders Office on October 16, 1997 as Instrument No. 97-100 ; Thence southeasterly and southwesterly along said westernmost right of way limit of Mouton Street to the northern most boundary of Government Lot 10, Section 8, T1S, R1W, F.B.& M.; thence in a westerly direction along the northerly boundary of Government Lot 10, Section 8, T1S, R1W, F.B.& M. extended to intersect with the thread of the Chena River; thence downstream along the thread of the Chena River to the section line common to Sections 7 and 8, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along said section line to the easterly extension of the northerly boundary of Fred Meyer Subdivision as filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office as Plat No. 91-55; thence westerly, southerly and easterly along the boundary of said Fred Meyer Subdivision to the northwestermost corner of Lot 2, Block 1, Fairwest Subdivision West Addition filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office January 24, 1964, as Instrument No. 64-486; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly lot line of said Lot 2, Block 1, to the northermost right of way limit of Mitchell Avenue as shown on said plat of Fairwest Subdivision West Addition; thence in an easterly direction along the northermost right of way limit of Mitchell Avenue as shown on said plat of Fairwest Subdivision West Addition extended to the section line common to Sections 17 and 18, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the section line common to Sections 17 and 18, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M. to the northermost 1/16 corner common to Sections 17 and 18, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in an easterly direction along the northermost east-west 1/16 line to the northerly 1/16 corner on the centerline (north-south) of Section 17, T1S, R1W, F.B. &
M.; thence in a southerly direction along the centerline (north-south) of Section 17, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M. to the center 1/4 corner of Section 17, T1S, R1W, F.B. M.; thence in a easterly direction along the centerline (east-west) of Section 17, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M. to an intersection with the westernmost right of way limit of Peger Road, State of Alaska Project S-0665(2); thence in a southerly direction along the westernmost right of way limit of Peger Road, State of Alaska Project S-0665(2), to a point on the extended southermost right of way limit of Van Horn Road, State of Alaska Project S-0665(2); thence in an easterly direction along the southermost right of way limit of Van Horn Road, State of Alaska Project S-0665(2), to the easternmost limit of Schacht Street as shown on the plat of Metro Industrial Airpark subdivision filed in the Fairbanks Recorders Office on December 12, 1969, as instrument No. 69-12194; thence in a southerly direction along the easternmost limit of said Schacht Street to the southwest corner of Lot 1-A as shown on the replat of Lot 1, Block 7, Metro Industrial Air Park filed in the Fairbanks Recorders Office on June 18, 1985, as Instrument No. 85-96; thence in a easterly direction along the southerly boundary of said Lot 1-A to the southeasterly corner of said Lot 1-A at the westerly boundary of the Subdivision of the Arvo A. Joki Property in the SE 1/4 of Section 21, T1S, R1 W. F.M., filed in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on May 31, 1973, as instrument No. 73-34; thence in southerly easterly and northerly directions around the perimeter of the Arvo A. Joki Property encompassing Tract A and Tract B to the southermost right of way limit of Van Horn Road, State of Alaska Project S-0665(2); thence in an easterly direction along the southermost right of way limit of Van Horn Road, State of Alaska Project S-0665(2) to the easternmost limit of South Lathrop Street, a 66 foot section line easement centered on the section line common to Sections 21 and 22, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the easternmost limit of South Lathrop Street, a 66 foot section line easement centered on the section line common to Sections 21 and 22, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the north-south centerline of Section 23 to the southerly limit of Section 23, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the north-south centerline of Section 23, to the southernmost 1/16 corner on said north-south centerline of Section 23, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in an easterly direction along the northernmost 1/16 line of said Section 23 to the northernmost 1/16 corner common to Sections 23 and 24, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the section line common to Sections 23 and 24 to the southerly limit of Parcel B of Exhibit A to the Special Warranty Deed recorded in the Fairbanks Recorder's Office on February 27, 1985, in Book 414, Pages 331 through 337, as Instrument Number 85-4616; thence North 89°59'52" East along the southerly boundary of said Parcel B a distance of 330.14 feet; thence
North 00295" West a distance of 330.22 feet to a point on the southerly boundary of said Parcel B; thence North 8959'59" East a distance of 690.39 feet to a point on the southerly boundary of said Parcel B; thence South 000901" East a distance of 660.40 feet to a point on the southerly limit of said Parcel B; thence North 8959'46" East a distance of 300.44 feet to the southeastermmost corner of said Parcel B which lies on the westerly 1/16 line of Section 24, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly 1/16 line of Sections 24 and 25, T1S, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the meanders of the north bank of the Tanana River; thence in northeasterly and southeasterly directions along the meanders of the north bank of the Tanana River to an intersection with the section line common to Sections 32 and 33, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 33, 28, 29 and 32, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., to the section corner common to Sections 21, 28, 29 and 20, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 20 and 21, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., to the northermost right of way limit of the Richardson Highway 6 Mile Badger Road Interchange, State of Alaska Project NH-IR-0A2-4(9)/63886; thence in a northeasterly direction along the northermost right of way limit of the Richardson Highway 6 Mile Badger Road Interchange NH-IR-0A2-4(9)/63886; thence in a northerly direction along the westerly 1/16 corner common to Section 15 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 15 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., to the section corner common to Sections 10, 15, 16 and 9, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 9 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., to the 1/4 corner common to Sections 9 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the westerly 1/16 line of Section 21, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., to the westerly 1/16 corner common to Sections 21 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in an easterly direction along the section line common to Sections 21 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M., to the centerline of Badger Road State of Alaska Project RS-0622(6); thence in a northerly direction along the centerline of Badger Road State of Alaska Project No. RS-0622(6) to the centerline of Holms Road State of Alaska Project RS-0622(1) /63872; thence in a southeasterly direction along the centerline of Holms Road to a point of tangent at centerline station 24+59.63; thence South 02°32'10" West (basis of bearing for this call is Holms Road State of Alaska Project RS-0622(1) /63872) to the section line common to Sections 21 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M; thence in an easterly direction along said section line to the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 36 and 35, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 36 and 35, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., and located on the Fairbanks Base Line; thence east along the Fairbanks Base Line to the southerly 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., thence in a westerly direction along the northerly 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the centerline (north-south) of Section 3, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the centerline (north-south) of Section 3, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M.; to the centerline of Badger Road; thence south along the centerline of Badger Road to a point of tangent at centerline station 36+29.63; thence North 02°32'10" East (basis of bearing for this call is the true point of beginning of this description) to the southerly 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., thence in a northerly direction along the westerly 1/16 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the westerly 1/16 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., and located on the Fairbanks Base Line; thence in a northerly direction along the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the westerly 1/16 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., thence in a northerly direction along the centerline of Holms Road State of Alaska Project RS-0622(1) /63872; thence in a southeasterly direction along the centerline of Holms Road to a point of tangent at centerline station 24+59.63; thence South 02°32'10" West (basis of bearing for this call is Holms Road State of Alaska Project RS-0622(1) /63872) to the section line common to Sections 21 and 16, T1S, R1E, F.B. & M; thence in an easterly direction along said section line to the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the section line common to Sections 36 and 35, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the westerly 1/16 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the westerly 1/16 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., and located on the Fairbanks Base Line; thence east along the Fairbanks Base Line to the southerly 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., thence in a westerly direction along the northerly 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the westerly 1/16 line of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the mid 1/16 corner located in the NE 1/4 of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly 1/16 line of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the westerly 1/16 corner on the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the 1/4 corner common to Sections 36 and 33, T1N, R1E, F.B. & M.; thence in a northerly direction along the centerlines (east-west) of Sections 32 and 31, T1N, R1E, F.B. & M., to the 1/4 corner of Section 31, T1N, R1E, F.B. & M., located on the Fairbanks Meridian; thence north along the Fairbanks Meridian to the northermost 1/16 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., thence in a westerly direction along the northerly 1/16 line of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the mid 1/16 corner located in the NE 1/4 of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the easterly 1/16 line to the easterly 1/16 corner on the centerline (east-west) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a westerly direction to the interior 1/4 corner of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M.; thence in a southerly direction along the centerline (north-south) of Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., to the 1/4 corner common to Section 36, T1N, R1W, F.B. & M., and located on the Fairbanks Base Line, the true point of beginning of this description. This description encompasses an area of 33.77 square miles.

All land is located within the Fairbanks Recording District, Fourth Judicial District, State of Alaska.

Approved in writing this 3rd day of March 2016.
LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
By: ________________________

Lynn Chrystal, Chair

Attest:
By: ________________________

Eileen Collins, Staff
Section V
Reconsideration by the Commission

Per 3 AAC 110.580(a) “within 18 days after a written statement of decision is mailed under 3 AAC 110.570(f), a person may file an original and five copies of a request for reconsideration of all or part of the decision, describing in detail the facts and analyses that support the request for reconsideration.”

Per 3 AAC 110.580(e) “the commission will grant a request for reconsideration or, on its own motion, order reconsideration of a decision only if the commission determines that

1. a substantial procedural error occurred in the original proceeding;
2. the original vote was based on fraud or misrepresentation;
3. the commission failed to address a material issue of fact or a controlling principle of law; or
4. new evidence not available at the time of the hearing relating to a matter of significant public policy has become known.”

Additionally, per 3 AAC 110.580(f) “if the commission does not act on a request for reconsideration within 30 days after the decision was mailed under 3 AAC 110.570(f), the request is automatically denied.” Also per 3 AAC 110.580(f) “if the commission orders reconsideration or grants a request for reconsideration within 30 days after the decision was mailed under 3 AAC 110.570(f), the commission will allow a petitioner or respondent 10 days after the date reconsideration is ordered or the request for reconsideration is granted to file an original and five copies of a responsive brief describing in detail the facts and analyses that support or oppose the decision being reconsidered.”

Section VI
Judicial Appeal

Per 3 AAC 110.570(g), this is the final decision of the commission, unless reconsideration is timely requested or the commission orders reconsideration. A decision of the Local Boundary Commission may be appealed to the Superior Court under AS 44.62.560(a) and Rules of Appellate Procedure 602(a)(2). A claimant has 30 days to file an appeal with the Superior Court.