

[Gov](#) / To ADN re Rail Plans

Oct 10, 2007: The following email was sent by the Chair to Rindi White, following the ADN [article](#) on Rail Plans:

I am sorry you seem to be demonstrating an affinity for the minority who want the rail to come thru Willow. We will see at the Oct 24 meeting what officials say, but at this point there is absolutely no indication that anyone in Willow will earn money from the rail, at least not once it is in. Perhaps those who have gravel pits will gain some money in the building, but they are a tiny number in our community. Currently Dave Hansen of the borough's economic development office is saying that a corresponding road, with the frontage roads it would ultimately require are not being planned (contrary to previous state plans and borough officials) altho rumor has it that the powers that be state that if they can just get the 200 feet of right of way now, they will go back and take 800 feet to finalize both. Then what we would see is an interchange the size of the Parks-Glenn interchange in our currently beautiful little community. If you have watched what has happened down there, the frontage is completely built up and the problems concurrently.

It would have been much more correct of you to have reflected the rest of what I said to you, that this should be a regional decision. That right now we need to decide where the communities of Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla and attached smaller communities will come to play in nature. This seems so very short sighted of the current leaders, craving out one decision when really a set of bigger ones is quietly hulking in the background. Alaska is about beautiful nature, not about being just another urban blight such as predominate in the lower 48's. Alaskans were bold before seeking an economic pathway different from the others, we should be forward thinking now and avoid the trials that others are now facing since they did not attend to places of peace for their people.

If I remember correctly, this is the second time your presentation of Willow in writing has addressed the minority, not the majority. I have so noted and will not again give you a chance to present an incorrect picture of what I have said as the representative of our community and it's votes.

Linda Oxley