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GOVERNORSTATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

In August 1974, the voters of Alaska approved initiative Number 1, an act to relocate the capital of Alaska from Juneau to a location west of Meridian 141, known as Western Alaska. Subsequently, and in accordance with that mandate, I appointed a nine-member Capital Site Selection Committee to handle the task of selecting up to three sites to present to the public. In November 1976, the voters chose a site near Willow.

In 1977, still in accordance with the original initiative approved by the voters and following the legislature's passage of an amendment to AS 44.06 as the initiative is now known, I appointed the New Capital Site Planning Commission. This group was to come forward with a Development Plan describing in detail the plans for a new capital city of the size projected by the Capital Site Selection Committee. In addition, the plan was to outline all costs and present a financial plan with alternatives so Alaskans could see what the capital was to be, how much it would cost and how it would be financed.

The task before the Capital Site Planning Commission was formidable. It required rigorous discipline and an accelerated pace to assimilate a massive amount of new information in widely divergent fields about a subject both complex and controversial. This citizens group has met its responsibilities and for that deserves our commendation.

This report summarizes several volumes of work and gives the reader the opportunity to learn what is involved in the formation of a new city and moving of a seat of government.

I congratulate the commission for its efforts.



Sincerely,  
  
Jay S. Hammond  
Governor

This is the "Detailed Development Plan" mandated by the Alaska Legislature for the building of a New Capital City. It is a plan for a new kind of urban life, offering new choices for Alaskans.

A major goal of Alaskans supporting the relocation of the state capital was to make the seat of government more accessible to the people, and this plan was prepared with that in mind. The establishment of a new urban center for more than 30,000 people in 12 to 15 years on land now unsettled has far-reaching possibilities by way of setting important precedents in housing and community design, transportation, energy efficiency and environmental conservation.

As the seat of government, the new city affords a special opportunity to all Alaskans desiring to improve the quality of life in their community. The city proposed here is conceived to contribute to the growth of its inhabitants and to stimulate and uplift their lives. This should be the basic purpose of every city.

In May of 1977, the legislature passed the enabling act creating the New Capital

Site Planning Commission and outlining its specific mission. After a comprehensive search of state and national talent, the commission engaged Morton Hoppenfeld as executive director and assembled a small core staff. This citizens group then set out to fulfill the requirements of the legislative act.

Rather than turn over the entire responsibility of the project to a single, large consulting firm with limited daily control, a wide spectrum of consultants, including the very best available in Alaska and throughout the country, was contracted. Most of the 23 major specialist consultants were identified and contracted by the end of September. The final planning and design team was selected in December. The cost and financing plan, together with a legislative package, was presented to the legislature in February. This report on the Detailed Development Plan is the next milestone in the process.

We trust you will find this work an expression of the hopes and dreams of the public which asked for a new capital city. This new Alaska city we propose places people and nature in harmony.

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The building of the city portrayed here is feasible in every respect and in the context of the financial plan described as part of this report. The land will allow it. There is water and other resources necessary for construction, as well as the resources needed to fuel it with energy. Although it would take a substantial investment, it can bring some returns. Its place among state spending priorities will be decided by you.

This report describes how the relocation of Alaska's capital can be achieved; how it can be financed, at what cost and over what period of time; what legislative action is required; how the move will effect Juneau; and makes suggestions of how to reduce the impact. This report is for legislative debate and public discussion, and the basis for decision in both arenas.

Success with this development process will require wholeness in concept and boldness in action. The development process is interwoven. Alteration of any part of the plan must be done with an assessment of the whole. That is the essence of a sound planning process. Cities like the one proposed here have been built successfully elsewhere.

THE NEW CAPITAL SITE  
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