

# Dennis Egan a 'big proponent' of 'The Road'

Posted: October 24, 2014 - 12:06am



Michael Penn | Juneau Empire

Sen. Dennis Egan speaks to the Juneau Chamber of Commerce during their luncheon at the Juneau International Airport on Thursday. Sen. Egan is being challenged by Tom Williams

By [EMILY RUSSO MILLER](#)

JUNEAU EMPIRE

A long-time supporter of “The Road,” State Sen. Dennis Egan says he is in favor of the new Alaska Department of Transportation-backed plan for the contentious state project that proposes building a road out of isolated Juneau.

Egan, a Democrat running for re-election, told the Juneau Chamber of Commerce Thursday that he favors DOT Alternative 2B for what’s officially called the Juneau Access project.

“I personally am a big proponent of The Road, and I agree with Alternative 2B,” he said during the chamber’s weekly luncheon as its guest speaker.

“I would have personally liked the west side of Lynn Canal,” he added, “but I’m fully supportive of Alternative 2B.”

Alternative 2B, one of eight proposals put forth by the DOT and the one most favored by state officials, proposes building a 50-mile road on the east side of the Lynn Canal. The road would connect Juneau’s Glacier Highway to a new ferry terminal at the Katzeihin River Delta, providing a jump off point to Haines and Skagway.

Opponents of the road project, which has been divisive subject for decades among Southeast communities, decry the cost of building the road, environmental impacts during construction of it, as well as public safety concerns. Alternative 2B would cost \$574 million, according to DOT estimates.

Egan is running against Republican candidate Tom Williams. Williams [told the Juneau Chamber of Commerce last week](#) that he is “absolutely” a road proponent and he “unequivocally” supports Alternative 2B.

Egan was appointed to his seat in the Alaska Legislature in 2009 by then-Governor Sarah Palin after Kim Elton resigned to accept a position in the Department of the Interior. Egan ran unopposed in the 2010 election.

The DOT has been hosting public meetings in Juneau, Haines and Skagway on the Juneau Access Project. The last meeting was held Thursday in Skagway. For more on that story, see next week's edition of the Empire's sister publication, the Capital City Weekly. (Coverage of last week's meeting in Haines was published in this week's CCW.)

The DOT is still accepting written comments on the project until the public comment period ends on Nov. 10. Voice an opinion by filling out a comment at:  
[http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/juneau\\_access/test\\_comments.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/juneau_access/test_comments.shtml)