

July 26, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

A pedestrian pathway is under construction in Sutton along the Glenn Highway on State and Federal road easement. Part of this project is a pedestrian bridge crossing Eska Creek. Tutka is the general contractor providing the construction service. Federal Scenic Highway money was used to develop this project administered through a grant-funded organization identifying themselves as "Chickaloon Village".

It is generally acknowledged that a pedestrian path is beneficial to the community of Sutton including public safety. However, no public meetings were held to participate in the planning, design, construction and naming of the pathway. Concerns by adjacent property owners and others were brought to the Sutton Community Council who had no previous notification of the pathway's design or construction.

It has most recently been brought to the attention of the Sutton Community Council that the new pathway has been unceremoniously named "Dene' Tene'" (whatever that means). How did this happen?

Not only was it rude and inconsiderate to assume an Athabascan name for a public pathway in Sutton, it violates Alaska Historical Commission guidelines for geographic names. Furthermore, this presupposition does not reflect the State of Alaska Community and Regional Affairs information of Sutton-Alpine as: [not included in ANSCA and is not federally recognized as a Native village.]

Sutton is not "Chickaloon Village". There are no records or geographic site findings to prove otherwise. Using federal taxpayer dollars funneled through a private organization to discriminate against the true history and character of Sutton is not acceptable. It does not promote cultural values or respect and violates State law. Can anyone explain to our community why public policy and process has been ignored? Where do we go from here?

Sincerely,

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