

Safe Routes to School Committee
Turnagain Community Council
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
632 W 6th Avenue, Suite 840
Anchorage, AK 99501

Anchorage Assembly
632 W 6th Avenue, Suite 250,
Anchorage, AK 99501

November 2, 2016

Dear Mayor Berkowitz and Anchorage Assembly Members,

On behalf of the Turnagain Community Council (TCC), the TCC Safe Routes to Schools Committee is writing to thank you for your on-going support for our program of projects to improve conditions around the West-Romig campus for pedestrian and bicycle safety.

As you'll recall, we met with the Assembly last year to introduce our goals and list of project improvements. We've also been working with the Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage School District (ASD), the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), and the Anchorage Park Foundation, as well as our state representatives. Thanks to them, and to you, we now have two of our projects completed, and one project we view as partially completed.

- **COMPLETED:** The intersection of the Minnesota Drive off-ramp and Hillcrest Drive was reconfigured to improve pedestrian visibility and safety, a project completed by the Municipality in 2015.
- **COMPLETED:** The West High parking lot has also recently been improved, to provide safer ingress and egress as well as improvements to parking lot circulation for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Thanks to the Anchorage School District and DOWL, we were able to provide input into pedestrian and bicycle issues prior to final design and construction of that project, and it was modified to include additional crosswalks and a sidewalk along part of Hillcrest Drive.
- **COMPLETION TO THE EXTENT OF CURRENT STANDARDS:** The pavement of the Intersection at West Northern Lights Blvd (WNL) and Arlington Drive has been improved by AK DOT&PF as part of the rehabilitation of WNL. Other improvements suggested by our Committee could not be accommodated at this time (improved pedestrian-scale lighting and a crosswalk).

Specifically, we'd like to thank Stephanie Mormilo (Municipality), Nick Bell (Anchorage School District), and Terry Schoenthal (now employed by the Municipality of Anchorage) and other staff at DOWL, and Chong M. Kim (Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities) for bringing these great projects to completion.

TCC still has a number of projects we'd like to complete in the coming years. The attached flier describes the projects and shows our progress. These projects are all on TCC's Capital Improvements Projects prioritization list.

Our goal is to increase the number of students and neighbors who can walk or bike to, from, and around the West/Romig campus safely. For students, this increases their activity level (which improves overall health and academic performance), and decreases traffic congestion at these schools. With your help, we can make the West-Romig area much safer for students, trail users, and the community in general.

The TCC Safe Routes to Schools Committee looks forward to partnering with you in the future to help us accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,



Barbara Bundy, Co-Chair



Dan Gleason, Co-Chair

cc: Stephanie Mormilo, Municipality of Anchorage
Terry Schoenthal, Municipality of Anchorage
Mike Abbot, Municipality of Anchorage
Deena Paramo, Anchorage School District
Nick Bell, Anchorage School District
Mark Luiken, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Chong M. Kim, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Beth Nordlund, Anchorage Park Foundation
Sen. Berta Gardner, Alaska Legislature
Rep. Harriet Drummond, Alaska Legislature
Jonathan Tarrant, Turnagain Community Council

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General Project Locations

- ✓ Improvements to the intersection of the Minnesota Dr. off-ramp and Hillcrest Dr.
- ✓ Improvements to the West High parking lot
- ✓ Sidewalk on south side of Hillcrest Dr. on campus (to Wildwood Lane)

- 4 Crosswalk (across Wildwood Ln.) at Hillcrest Dr. and Wildwood Ln.
- 5 Improvements to pedestrian access to campus from Belmont Dr.

- 6 Improvements to pedestrian access to campus from Arlington Dr.
- 7 Crosswalk (across Arlington Dr.) at Northern Lights Blvd. and Arlington Dr.
- 8 Sidewalk on Hillcrest Dr., Wildwood Ln. to Forest Park Dr.
- 9 Improvements to pedestrian access between Wildwood Ln. and Forest Park Dr.
- 10 Repave and restore existing shoulders on Forest Park Dr.
- 11 Crosswalk at Esquire Dr. and Forest Park Dr.
- 12 Sidewalk on Esquire Dr.
- 13 Crosswalk at Forest Park Dr. and Hillcrest Dr.



✓ = Completed

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Proposed Projects and Project Elements

- 1 Improvements to the intersection of the Minnesota Dr. off-ramp and Hillcrest Dr.

Shift crosswalk to east to improve visibility, install colored or textured concrete, permanent flashing pedestrian sign, pedestrian-scale lighting, on-campus lights.



COMPLETED

- 2 Improvements to the West High parking lot

Delineate pedestrian walkways within parking lot.



COMPLETED

- 3 Sidewalk on south side of Hillcrest Dr. on campus

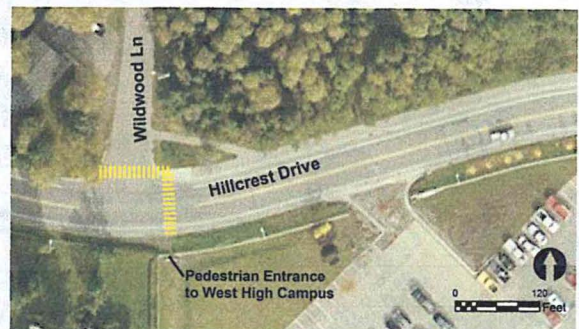
Install sidewalk in grassy area, keeping existing fence, trees, and shoulder.



COMPLETED

- 4 Crosswalk at Hillcrest Dr. and Wildwood Ln.

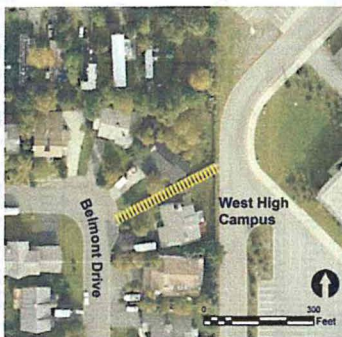
Install crosswalk, possibly colored or textured concrete.



Improvements to pedestrian access to campus from:

- 5 Belmont Dr. 6 Arlington Dr.

Rehabilitate pedestrian connections from neighborhood to campus.



- 7 Crosswalk at Northern Lights Blvd. and Arlington Dr.

Add crosswalk across Arlington Dr., possibly colored or textured concrete, shift eastern sidewalk to align with western sidewalk, improve lighting and drainage.



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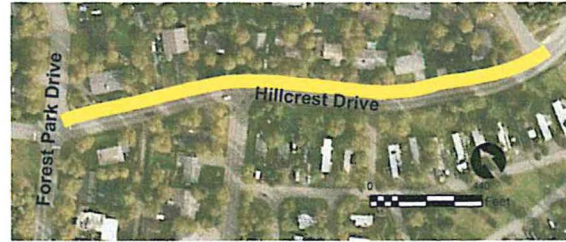
Proposed Projects and Project Elements

8 Sidewalk on Hillcrest Dr, Wildwood Ln. to Forest Park Dr.

Install a sidewalk, either within the existing shoulder (parking lane) or on the right-of-way beyond the existing curb, or partially on both.



OR



9 Improvements to pedestrian access between Wildwood Ln. and Forest Park Dr.

Improve existing pedestrian-only access.



10 Repave and restore existing shoulders on Forest Park Dr.

Remove grass and weeds on shoulders, re-pave shoulders from Northern Lights Blvd to Esquire Dr.



11 Crosswalk at Esquire Dr. and Forest Park Dr.

Install crosswalk, possibly colored or stamped concrete.



12 Sidewalk on Esquire Dr.

Install a sidewalk, either within the existing shoulder (parking lane) or on the right-of-way beyond the existing curb, or partially on both.



OR

13 Crosswalk at Forest Park Dr. and Hillcrest Dr.

Install crosswalk, possibly colored or stamped concrete.

