

Approved 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Program – Projects Pertinent to Rabbit Creek Community Council

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project list provided by the Municipality of Anchorage has been organized into three lists for review and voting: State of Alaska projects (where most of the funding will be federal); Municipality projects; and Parks and Recreation (and Trails). Projects headlined in blue were on the Muni’s 2021 list for the 2020-2025 CIP Program; projects headlined in **green** are those that were also on the Muni’s “2020 Survey” as prioritized by the poll taken at the RCC May 2019 meeting. RCCC previous comments and initial recommendations from the current Land Use and Transportation Committee follow each project description in **bold italics**. You can find the current list here: <https://www.muni.org/communitycouncilsurveys/homepage/> then scroll down and click on ‘Rabbit Creek’ or other areas.

The Muni annually asks Community Council’s to submit surveys expressing their community priorities; the Muni considers these when creating the official Muni proposed CIP. Note, some of the projects on this list are not in the RCCC area, but are popular areas utilized by our community members. If you’re interested in the full list of projects throughout Anchorage see the link above, and for archived priorities from past years, see: <https://www.muni.org/communitycouncilsurveys/homepage/media/communitycouncilsurveys/rabbitcreek/2020-rabbit-creek-cip-priorities.pdf>

Following each project on the current Muni list, we have indicated the 2020 ranking by RCCC (if the project was ranked then) and information about previous RCCC recommendations. Note, RCCC also provides recommendations on additional projects we would like to see considered, and can recommend projects that should be removed from consideration.

State of Alaska Projects

DeArmoun Rd Upgrade Ph II - 140th Ave to Hillside Dr

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$28,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$28,000,000.00

Need: Drainage, pavement condition, lighting, and safety issues have been identified.

Project Scope: The project scope is not set.

Project Status: Environmental and design work was completed by the State of Alaska. However, the project is being re-evaluated in light of public comment and future funding is uncertain. This is a state owned facility.

RCCC previous input: *The neighborhood has had many concerns about past designs for this project; State of Alaska did not agree to design supported by the community. There has not been a high increase in traffic over recent years, nor is one expected now, to justify this expense/project. Recommend the project be deferred. Prioritized #8 of 9 State projects in 2019 by RCCC.*

Elmore Rd at Rabbit Creek Rd Intersection Safety Improvements

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$0.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$0.00

Need: Safety concerns have been raised about this intersection.

Project Scope: Construct safety improvements once clarified.

Project Status: This is a state owned facility and evaluation and funding would be by the State of Alaska.

What is accident/fatality occurrence here? Safety improvements need to be designed with community input in accord with designation of this area as a Special Study Area in the Hillside District Plan. RCCC previous input: Prioritized #6 of 9 State projects in 2019 by RCCC.

Left Turn Lane from Rabbit Creek Rd to Old Seward Hwy

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$250,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$250,000.00

Need: Vehicles making the left-hand turn at this intersection must yield to oncoming traffic and therefore often come to a complete stop. Due to the slope and winter conditions, stopping can be a challenge for the traffic headed west on Rabbit Creek Road when a vehicle is waiting to make the left-hand turn.

Project Scope: Construct a left turn lane on Rabbit Creek Road at the Old Seward Highway intersection.

Project Status: The project has not started. Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway are state-owned roads. As such, evaluation and prioritization of the project will be made by the State of Alaska DOT.

RCCC previous input: Prioritized #2 of 9 State projects in 2019 by RCCC.

[Confusing on 2019 Recommendations – this project listed twice as #2 and #3 priorities]

Additional State projects ranked by RCCC in 2019 follow: [DO WE WANT TO ASK TO ADD ANY OF THESE?]

Old Seward Highway Upgrade – Rabbit Creek Rd to Potter Valley - This project has been on our CIP list for at least 15 years, but is again missing from the list. The road is in poor condition and used by pedestrians/joggers, bikes and for sight-seeing/birdwatching; use increased with increasing neighborhood and Bird TLC development. RCCC recommends allotting some of the equipment being used for New Seward Highway resurfacing be used to make at least modest grading and repaving on this section of Old Seward Highway. improvements or using the equipment being planned for new Seward highway resurfacing. We understand that this could be a very expensive project, but request that at last a modest grading and repaving be planned.

– ranked #1 of 9 State projects by RCCC in 2019!

Golden View and Rabbit Creek Rd Intersection Improvement - This is the most trafficked intersection in the RCCC area and also one of the more dangerous as cars coming uphill and downhill converge with the shoulder used by pedestrians and cyclists. This project was originally identified as a top priority. Project scope: Repair and improve intersection at Golden View Dr and Rabbit Creek Rd in conjunction with upgrade of Rabbit Creek Rd.

– ranked #4 of 9 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Old Seward Highway Rut Repair – Repair ruts Old Seward Highway from Rabbit Creek Road to Potter Valley Road. [This is a smaller version of our #1 ranked State project.]

– ranked #5 of 9 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Rabbit Creek Rd Upgrade – Seward Highway to Golden View Dr. - This road has not been constructed to suburban arterial standards which typically include a new road base, paved lanes and shoulders, pedestrian facilities, and street lighting. No work is underway or scheduled in the 6-year CIP. This is a state-owned facility and evaluation and funding would be by the State of Alaska. The route is identified as a minor arterial in the Official Streets and Highways Plan.

– ranked #7 of 9 State projects by RCCC in 2019; speed and safety are issues here; providing a center lane will not solve the problems.

Abbott Rd/Hillside Dr. Trail – Rabbit Creek Rd to Seward Hwy - The trail is not fully constructed between Rabbit Creek Road and the Seward Highway. RCCC recommends this project be added to the CIP Needs List for evaluation and future funding consideration to encompass construction of missing trail links and reconstruction of those in poor condition. Both Abbott Road and Hillside Drive are state owned facilities and funding should be from state or federal sources.

[2019 CIP recommendations identified this as a \$40,000,000 project which seems high for a trail?]

– ranked #9 of 9 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Municipality Projects

145th Ave/Metz Ct Area Drainage

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$80,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$80,000.00

Need: Flooding and glaciation occur at this location. This request is a priority to the LRSA, the community councils, and the neighborhoods.

Project Scope: This project will construct drainage improvements in the 145th Avenue and Metz Court Area. Improvements are expected to include improved ditching, new culverts, and brush clearing.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. The project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration.

Not included on 2019 Project list reviewed by RCCC; should be a local road service area project.

164th Ave Upgrade - Golden View Dr to Betty St

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$3,900,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,900,000.00

Need: This is a dirt/gravel road with substantial slope. Sections of the roadway are not in the right of way.

Project Scope: This project will move the roadway into the right of way and acquire easements/right of way as needed. The road will be upgraded to current local road standards including drainage improvements.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. The project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration.

RCCC has previously recommended objections to this project; continue to recommend the project not be funded or deleted from the list. Should be coordinated with local road service.

Golden View Dr Connection (West) - Romania Dr to Potter Valley Rd

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$20,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$20,000,000.00

Need: This connection will be a vital link in south Anchorage that will enhance traffic circulation in the area and promote safety. This collector connection is in the Official Streets and Highway Plan. This connection is vital for safety reasons because Golden View Drive to the north provides the only collector street egress from this large area of south Anchorage. It is a high priority for emergency services (police, fire, medical) and the Rabbit Creek Community Council.

Project Scope: This project will construct a collector route between Romania Drive and Potter Valley Road. The exact route and scope will be determined in the design process which includes public involvement. Improvements are expected to include pavement, drainage, pedestrian facilities, lighting, traffic calming, and landscaping.

Project Status: The project area is included in the Hillside District Plan as a special study area. This study will occur before the project advances.

RCCC recommends the project be deferred until the study established by the Hillside District Plan is undertaken in coordination with developers presenting a viable plan for development in the surrounding area. Developers of the adjacent land should contribute to the costs of the road and associated necessary pedestrian trails and access.

– ranked #14 of 15 Muni projects by RCCC in 2019.

Golden View Dr/Bufalo St/Elmore Rd/145th Ave Area Chip Seal Surfacing

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$200,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$200,000.00

Need: These gravel roads frequently have pot holes and contribute to Anchorage's air quality concerns.

Project Scope: Resurface these roads with a chip seal.

Project Status: The project has not started. The project will remain on the needs list for future funding consideration.

– ranked #10 of 15 Muni projects by RCCC in 2019.

Little Rabbit Creek Flooding and Glaciation Improvements

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$0.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$0.00

Need: Due to development in the area, portions of Little Rabbit Creek are running steeper than before leading to erosion that is threatening structures.

Project Scope: This project will construct stream bank and channelization improvements to reduce flooding and glaciation and improve fish habitat.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. Project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration.

– ranked #11 of 15 Muni projects by RCCC in 2019.

Rabbit Creek Rd Upgrade - Seward Hwy to Golden View Dr

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$27,500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$27,500,000.00

Need: This road has not been constructed to suburban arterial standards.

Project Scope: While the scope has not been set, suburban arterial standards typically include a new road base, paved lanes and shoulders, pedestrian facilities, and street lighting.

Project Status: This is a state-owned facility and evaluation and funding would be by the State of Alaska. The route is identified as a minor arterial in the Official Streets and Highways Plan.

– ranked #7 of 9 State projects by RCCC in 2019. RCCC appreciates that this project has been added to the CIP list per our 2019 recommendations.

Additional Muni projects ranked by RCCC in 2019 follow; the needs for all were pending review by the Muni: [HOW DO WE WANT TO VOTE WHETHER TO KEEP THESE ON OUR REQUEST LIST?]

Hillside Plan & Projects for Fire Prevention & Mitigation –

Need: Assess areas with high fuel loads, limited access and potential choke points for egress and access to isolated neighborhoods. Use Firewise funds to assist with local home preparation and creating shaded fuel brakes along key defense and access routes. Conduct annual assessment and evaluate drills in each area of the hillside. A 2019 evaluation drill in the Rabbit Creek area has been requested.

Project scope: Hillside areas with high risk for wildfires.

– ranked #1 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Golden View Dr. Pedestrian and Bike Path –

Need: Provide grade separated pedestrian and bike route from RC Road to Golden View School and south past Moen Park and to the end at Romania along Golden View Drive.

Project scope: Bike path along Golden View Dr from Rabbit Creek Rd south to Romania.

– ranked #3 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Mountain Air Dr. Extension –

Need: Creation of this connector has been a community development priority for years.

Project scope: Complete extension/connection of Mountain Air Dr. from current terminus to connect with Rabbit Creek Rd at Fire Station 10/Bear Valley Elementary School. NOTE – a bond to fund initiation of design for this project was approved by the voters in the April 2020 Muni election.

– ranked #4 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Mountain Air Dr./Hillside Dr. Extension –

Need: Currently all traffic is routed to Golden View Drive to the west and Clarks Road to the east. This extension would provide a much needed secondary egress for this portion of south Anchorage.

Construction of this extension will increase safety for the south Anchorage hillside area. This project is a high priority for emergency services including police, fire, and medical.

Project scope: This project will construct a new collector connection south of Rabbit Creek Road and east of Golden View Drive. Improvements may include pavement, street lighting, drainage, and pedestrian facilities. Improvements at the Rabbit Creek Road/Mountain Air Drive intersection may be included as part of the project if the Alaska DOT is agreeable.

Project Status: Project is on hold until additional funding is received (\$2 million of \$11 million total estimated cost was funded by previous state grant. The design has been completed. State grant funding is proposed for right-of-way acquisition and then construction.

– ranked #5 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Hillside Intersections and capacity for new development –

Need: Coordinate MOA and SOA projects to prioritize support for major intersections that are unsafe and unable to handle increased traffic from additional development. Upgrade the major intersections before new roads and development continues that will feed in to these intersections.

Project scope: Hillside major intersections including Rabbit Creek and Golden View Dr., Potter Valley and New Seward Highway/Old Seward Highway, Rabbit Creek and Old Seward Highway.

– ranked #6 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Bluebell and Goldenview Dr. Improvements –

Need: Complete planned improvement to the intersection that was not completed due to insufficient funds for the Golden View Drive improvements. Engineering work has been completed.

Project scope: Intersection of Blue Bell and Goldenview Drive

– ranked #7 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Traffic Calming along 162nd to Mountain Air Dr. –

Need: Address increased traffic along streets that were not constructed or upgraded to support the new development to the east, and the lack of second connections that were originally intended to be built to support the new subdivisions that remain isolated with no secondary access or egress routes.

Project scope: 162nd to Mountain Air Dr. assessment and traffic calming. This could also include looking ahead to the eventual connection of Mountain Air Dr. north and east to connect to Rabbit Creek Rd. and Bear Valley.

– ranked #8 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Potter Valley Rd Surface Rehab – Old Seward Hwy to Greece Dr (03-18) –

Need: Pavement is deteriorating and pavement rehabilitation will be required. The 2017 PCI survey determined the road was in Fair condition.

Project scope: This project will overlay or replace pavement on this collector street.

Project Status: The project is on hold pending further funding (\$300 K of total \$3.2 million is available) through state grants or local bonds. Fortunately, the road is standing up better than expected.

– ranked #9 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Hillside Project Prioritization –

Need: The RCCC is requesting a process be developed to prioritize upgrades to major intersections with a history of capacity and safety problems, before additional local roads and subdivision development is approved in order to insure the resulting additional load on major intersections will be addressed before current problems are worse. This includes the Golden View/Rabbit Creek Road, Rabbit Creek Road/Old Seward Highway, and Potter Valley/Old Seward Highway-New Seward Highway intersections.

Project scope: Cooperative MOA and SOA project prioritization of major SOA intersection upgrades and local MOA road and subdivisions.

– ranked #12 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

House District 27 Residential Pavement Rehabilitation –

Need: Deteriorating pavement on Anchorage roads is increasing safety concerns and maintenance costs. Many of the local roads in Anchorage are showing their age and in many cases how poorly they were initially constructed. This program allows the Municipality to preserve the useful life of the road base and avoid much more expensive full reconstruction projects as well as improving the quality of life for residents.

Project scope: This project will fund pavement overlay, rehabilitation, and replacement projects throughout House District 27 within the Municipality of Anchorage. Some funding may also be used for drainage work as needed for the preservation of the roadway. Project priorities will be established by the Street Maintenance, Traffic Section, and Project Management and Engineering, with input from elected officials and the public. Projects to be funded are primarily local roads, but some trail rehab is also anticipated. Project anticipated to cost \$15 million with no funds currently available.

– ranked #15 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019.

Parks and Recreation (and Trails)

NOTE – Land Use & Transportation Committee recommend that Section 36 be ranked #1, Chugach State Park Access be ranked #2, and all other trails be ranked equally as #3. This would logically prioritize the greatest needs and impact for the RCCC area.

Areawide Trail Safety Upgrades

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$3,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,000,000.00

Need: Safety upgrades are needed along major greenbelt trails to support trail use in all seasons. This includes lighting missing links and spur trails, wayfinding with emergency locators, bridge upgrades as needed.

Project Scope: Add LED lighting to spur trails and missing greenbelt trail links. Upgrade/replace aging bridges. Add systemwide wayfinding.

Project Status: Park maintenance performs monthly safety inspections and repairs the park assets as necessary.

Campbell Creek Greenbelt

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$3,500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$1,500,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$2,000,000.00

Need: Anchorage has over 250 miles of paved trails. Current infrastructure is outdated, unsafe and in need of repair. Trail use, both summer and winter, will continue to increase and safety and quality condition of trail infrastructure and amenities needs to be a priority.

Project Scope: Asphalt repair, lighting assessment and improvements, bridge repair/replacement, signage improvements

Project Status: Bond funding and State legislative grant requests are pending. Areawide greenbelt trails (Campbell Creek Greenbelt, Chester Creek Greenbelt Coastal Trail and Ship Creek Trail) need a repair program to address safety and security concerns (over 250 miles).

Campbell Creek Trail - Separated Grade Crossing @ Lake Otis

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$12,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$50,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$11,950,000.00

Need: Provide a safe and seamless connection for the Campbell Creek trail.

Project Scope: Design and construct an elevated bike/pedestrian bridge over Lake Otis Blvd to connect the east and west portions of the Campbell Creek Trail.

Project Status: A new design study was completed in 2019.

Chugach State Park Access Improvements

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$500,000.00

Need: The population growth of Anchorage and the increased popularity of Chugach State Park have created safety concerns. The high volume of vehicles driving to and parking near existing park access points has overwhelmed the existing facilities. Users typically park in the roadway or on private property near the access points.

Project Scope: Design and construct access improvements as identified in the Chugach State Park Alternate Access study.

Project Status: Construct recommendations from a study. State grant funding is proposed.

– ranked #2 of 15 State projects by RCCC in 2019. RCCC appreciates that this project has been added to the CIP list per our 2019 recommendations.

Community Garden Site Selection and Design and Management Standards.

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$50,000.00

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required: \$50,000.00

Need: The public demand for plots in MOA Community Gardens far exceeds the current availability. New community gardens have been identified in a number of newly completed park master plans. Funding will be used to develop new community gardens.

Project Scope: Identify appropriate parks in the Anchorage Bowl where community garden development is appropriate. Create design and management guidelines to assist the department in building and maintaining community gardens.

Project Status: The department currently manages community gardens at The Gardens @ Bragaw, C Street Gardens, Fairview Lyons and McPhee Gardens.

- Ranked #3 of 3 Parks and Rec projects by RCCC in 2019.

Dog Park Site Selection and Design and Management Standards.

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$75,000.00

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required: \$75,000.00

Need: Anchorage residents love their dogs! There is demand for more fenced dog parks throughout the bowl. Funds will be used to systematically identify appropriate places to build dog parks. Additionally, this project will develop dog park design and management guidelines.

Project Scope: Identify appropriate parks in the Anchorage Bowl where dog park development is appropriate. Create design and management guidelines to assist the department in building and maintaining dog parks.

Project Status: Currently, Anchorage has 8 official dog parks, and one more in development

- LUTC agrees Management Standards would be a helpful addition for Anchorage dog parks!

Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$3,500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,500,000.00

Need: Non-motorized transportation that connects Spenard, Midtown, Turnagain, West Anchorage and Downtown

Project Scope: Connect the Fish Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Project Status: Design development has started internally and MOA Parks and Recreation is positioned to start the public process with funding established.

Forest Health and Park Safety

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$200,000.00

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required: \$200,000.00

Need: Clean-up efforts are still needed for areas of forest impacted by the 2012 windstorm event. Additionally, the recent infestation of spruce bark beetle in southcentral Alaska will result in significant loss of spruce trees and will require mitigation to reduce fire danger and ensure public health and safety. Also, invasive species along greenbelts are impacting native vegetation and riparian/stream health.

Project Scope: Funds will be used to address various issues impacting forest health on parkland. This includes the mitigation of spruce bark beetle kill, the removal of hazard trees from the 2012 windstorm, and the management of invasive species.

Project Status: Park maintenance and horticulture crews continually assess parks and trails and address issues as they come up to ensure that park assets are safe for Anchorage citizens.

- **Ranked #2 of 3 Parks and Rec projects by RCCC in 2019.**

Section 36 Park Improvements

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$400,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0

Additional Funds Required: \$400,000.00

Need: Section 36 is approximately 640 acres of new park in south Anchorage. Improvements are needed to provide residents with access and recreational opportunities.

Project Scope: Funds will be used to begin trail development and complete access improvements.

Project Status: Section 36 uplands are in the process of being transferred to P&R management and will be formally dedicated. Additionally, we anticipate the master plan to be adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission this year.

- **Ranked #1 of 3 Parks and Rec projects by RCCC in 2019.**

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Erosion

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$3,500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$400,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,100,000.00

Need: To protect the eroding banks along the trail corridor.

Project Scope: Design development and implementation to protect the land water interface along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Project Status: Recent and ongoing bank armoring has provided protection for a 5 - 10-year period.
- ***Not in RCCC area but is a high value project for the entire Muni and visitors.***

Wayfinding

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$750,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$150,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$550,000.00

Need: Wayfinding provides increased safety and an improved experience for the area wide trail system.

Project Scope: Design, development and implementation of wayfinding for Anchorage's paved & soft surface trails.

Project Status: Anchorage has over 250 miles of trails and improved wayfinding will address safety and navigation concerns.

- ***Not on RCCC list in 2020; suggest that available funds be used now with additions to the system as additional funding becomes available.***