



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities

DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES  
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March 20, 2019

Potter Creek Homeowners Association

Attn: Regina and Robin Robbins  
18640 Snowy Plover Cr  
Anchorage, Ak 99516

Mr. and Mrs. Robbins

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) received your email, on behalf of the Potter Creek Homeowners Association, requesting rumble strips not be installed on the Seward Highway for a 0.5 mile stretch between Turnagain Trailhead (MP115.0) and Potter Valley Road (MP115.5). The rumble strips are currently planned as part of the Seward Highway, MP 114 to Dimond Blvd Pavement Preservation project. I will do my best to address points made in your email.

The project team has communicated with the Rabbit Creek Community Council and area residents on the project scope. Your statements, concerns, and questions regarding rumble strips have been discussed with them, as well, over the life of the project.

As a Safety Corridor with serious and fatal head-on and run off collisions, DOT&PF finds it necessary and in adherence to policy to reinstall rumble strips. The Potters Marsh area has had three serious head-on collisions (two with fatalities) since the Safety Corridor was designated in 2006. Our records show single vehicle run off the road crashes will occur every mile of the Seward Highway over time. Potter Marsh averages nearly one run off the road crash per mile per year, the same as the rest of the Seward Highway on a per mile basis. The odds are that at least half of those crashes will result in an injury. Exclusion of rumble strips for a 0.5 mile section of the highway can adversely impact traffic safety.

DOT&PF takes into consideration all required impacts to residents as part of a project's development. The Department's Noise Policy does not require a sound or noise study for the installation of rumble strips. Information on noise from rumble strips can be found on the DOT&PF website ([http://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/rumble/rumble\\_faqs.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/rumble/rumble_faqs.shtml)).

The traffic study provided to the Rabbit Creek Community Council was performed in compliance with study standards and at a place/time/date recommended by area residents. Through historical research, the traffic counts were collected during a summertime peak volume on Sunday, August 12, 2018 from 4-7pm. We believe study's findings to be valid. Regardless, this project is a federally funded Preventative Maintenance project in which any addition of turn lanes would not be eligible work as part of the project. Dedicated turn-lane improvements would

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need to be considered for further evaluation in a future major reconstruction or safety project. Breaks in the edge and centerline rumble strips at all public approaches are provided according to current standards.

It is DOT&PF's responsibility to provide for the safety of the traveling public by installing centerline and shoulder rumble strips within this section of the highway Safety Corridor. DOT&PF understands the noise concerns of residents and community council and hope that they also understand DOT&PF's safety responsibility.

Sincerely,



Sean Baski, P.E.  
Project Manager

Cc:

Wolfgang E. Junge, P.E.