



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities

DIVISION of PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT and STATEWIDE PLANNING  
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Rabbit Creek Community Council  
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ms. Rappoport and Mr. Holland,

Thank you for taking the opportunity to provide comments to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Alaska's federally required four-year program for transportation system preservation and improvement. Alaska's surface transportation program is primarily driven by federal funds and therefore project funding must be amended periodically to meet project development schedules and federal requirements. This process ensures that Alaska will receive the maximum amount of federal funding available to maintain and improve its surface transportation program.

Regarding your comment on Need ID 29731, Seward Highway O'Malley Road to Dimond Boulevard Reconstruction, the additional connection on the Seward Highway is to improve safety and access between the Dimond Center retail district (and future connections continuing westward) and the residential area to the east and has been in Anchorage planning documents for some time. In addition, the Abbott Loop Community Council ranked the Academy Drive/Vanguard Drive project (formerly an Municipality of Anchorage [MOA] project, now working its way through the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions [AMATS] funding process) as its number one priority Capital Improvement Project for several years in a row.

This STIP amendment only includes minor revisions to the funding for the Seward Highway project, and the scope of the project as it exists within the STIP has not been proposed for changes. It is anticipated that more than 90% of this project will be federally funded.

DOT&PF is moving forward with the construction of the Scooter Avenue/Academy Drive underpass because of the documented safety and operational benefits of this new east-west connection. When completed, this project will provide a vital link between Abbott Road and the Old Seward Highway for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.

Regarding Need ID 30689, Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), thank you for acknowledging the role that non-motorized facilities have in access to the outdoors, and your interest in this program. While it may appear that the program's funding has been reduced, the funding has not changed, but has been broken out into individual TAP projects. When this amendment is finalized, you will be able to search the online STIP tool to find the individual TAP projects here

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip/stip/tabsearch/index.cfm>. Select Program “TAP” from the filters’ options to produce a report of all active TAP projects.

Thank you for your interest in the 2020-2023 STIP and for taking the time to provide comments. If you have any additional questions please regarding projects in Central Region, please contact David Post, the Anchorage Field Office Planning Manager, at [david.post@alaska.gov](mailto:david.post@alaska.gov) or (907) 269-0512, and you may direct TAP questions to Julius Adolfsson, the Statewide Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator, at [julius.adolfsson@alaska.gov](mailto:julius.adolfsson@alaska.gov) or (907) 465-6978.

Sincerely,

*Maren Brantner*

Maren Brantner  
STIP Manager

Cc: Julius Adolfsson, Statewide Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator, DOT&PF  
David Post, Anchorage Field Office Planning Manager, DOT&PF  
Todd VanHove, Anchorage Field Office Planning Chief, DOT&PF