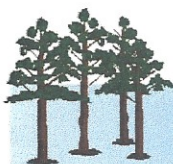
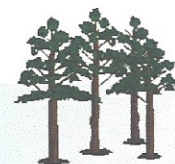


Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC) A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



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Craig Lyon, AMATS Coordinator
Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Solutions
Municipality of Anchorage
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519

March 18, 2021

Comments on Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Solutions – Amendment #2 to the Transportation Improvement Program

Please accept these comments from the Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) on the proposed Amendment #2 to the Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Solutions' (AMATS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). They were approved at our March 11, 2021, meeting by a vote of 18 yays, zero nays, and four abstained.

The two Rabbit Creek area projects on this TIP are already approved for design funding. We are herein reiterating previous concerns about the scope of design for these projects as follows:

RDY 00005 Rabbit Creek Rd Reconstruction from Seward Hwy to Golden View Dr
RCCC continues to request that this project be scoped as an upgrade with turning pockets, not a contiguous center lane. This is a critical safety concern.

RDY00010 Mountain Air Drive

For this project, Amendment #2 includes the comment: "Recommend separated pathway." Other projects specify similar features, without the qualifying term "recommended." We request that project scoping and design be changed to say: "Non-motorized access will include a separated pathway and safety features required for a Safe Route to School."

Additionally, the TIP Amendment focuses on receiving federal funding for design of local roads to handle traffic from the Seward Highway Overpass at Scooter Road Underpass, so that the Municipality is not responsible for \$20 million when the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) pushes ahead with the Overpass. We agree with our Assembly members in opposing the Seward Highway Overpass at Scooter Road Underpass because of the \$20 million in scarce transportation funds that would be required if this project feature is pursued. We believe there are many worthier transportation projects that would better benefit Anchorage residents. The RCCC has previously submitted comments opposing the Overpass, and requests attention to our comment below.

RDY00013 Academy Drive/Vanguard Drive

We appreciate that this project appears to benefit neighborhoods in this area by including non-motorized improvements and considering adjacent land use as we have previously recommended. However, RCCC has repeatedly commented to AMATS that the adjacent Overpass at Scooter Road is not merited by current land use and traffic patterns and will induce additional vehicle travel through neighborhoods. The Overpass remains unnecessary.

If Scooter Underpass is built, we are relieved that this TIP uses federal funding and avoids a \$20 million burden to Muni taxpayers for local road upgrades. We would like the TIP to specify that the design funding will include analysis of two specific alternatives: a no-build alternative for the Overpass at Scooter Road; and an Overpass with deferred connectivity, such that the Overpass would be open only for emergency egress and non-motorized traffic until and unless land use patterns merit vehicle connection.

We appreciate your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Carl Johnson, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Attachment

cc: John Weddleton, Assembly
Suzanne LaFrance, Assembly
Senator Roger Holland
Representative James Kaufman