

Rogers Park Community Council

(Including Anchor Park, College Village, Woodside East and Rogers Park)

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The Rogers Park Community Council (RPCC) has the following comments on the Seward-Glenn Mobility PEL Study (SGM). These comments are based on our previous resolutions on the previously completed Midtown Congestion Relief PEL Study (MCR).

Traffic Modeling

RPCC's 2020 01 13 resolution regarding the MCR study requested that the Traffic Model be updated with the most recent Alaska Department of Labor (DOL) population projections and that the PEL report be updated with the expected future traffic volumes, levels of service, traffic safety, and other traffic operations metrics based on the updated Traffic Model. Regarding the SGM we note that new DOL population projections will be available the summer of 2022. We request that the SGM traffic forecast be updated after that information is available.

Reviewing the SGM (Online Open House #1, January 24 - February 28, 2022) the existing conditions section states that on the Seward Highway, most of the traffic comes from or goes to Northeast Anchorage and less than 5% of the trips on the Seward Highway originate in the Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB), yet the growth in the MSB figures prominently in the extrapolation of SGM traffic volumes into the future. (SGM Traffic Forecast, Draft, January 2022) We request the Traffic Forecast extrapolation be revised to better match the expected growth of the population served by future projects in the SGM study area.

We note that the draft Traffic Forecast mentions that a traffic forecast based on the AMATS Travel Demand Model (TDM) is also being prepared for this project. Consistent with our resolution regarding the MCR, we request that the Demand Model be updated with the most recent DOL population projections, and also we ask that the Traffic Forecast document be updated to compare and contrast the forecasts (TDM vs extrapolation) and explain how the two forecasts will be used in the SGM study.

Speed Limit

RPCC's 2020 01 13 resolution regarding the MCR study, RPCC advocated for a maximum speed limit of 35 mph on frontage roads and 45 mph on the highway through the entire midtown area. We request these same maximum speeds to be used in the SGM study and its modeling work. This will greatly increase pedestrian and motor vehicle safety and reduce noise.

Bridge at Chester Creek

The south boundary of the Seward-Glenn Mobility (SGM) PEL study, near 20th Avenue, is adjacent to the north boundary of the completed Midtown Congestion Relief PEL study. According to the final MCR PEL report, the existing culvert pathway structure at Chester Creek would be replaced with a bridge, as part of a future project, to widen the crossing and provide space for the trail adjacent to the creek (MCR PEL report paragraphs 7.3.5 and 7.4.3, and Figure 32). RPCC's 2020 01 13 resolution regarding the MCR study supported using a bridge to replace the Chester Creek culvert. The RPCC requests that the SGM PEL report discuss the interface between the two studies and specifically mention that the MCR PEL and the adjacent community support a bridge to replace the existing pathway culvert. We also request that the Chester Creek work be included in whichever project, the SGM or MCR, moves forward first.

Pathways on both sides of the highway

RPCC's 2021 04 12 resolution regarding the MCR study supported non-motorized facilities along and across the highway corridor that are "accessible, safe, buffered, well-lit, usable year-round, and designed to minimize winter maintenance." Figure 32 of the final MCR notes that existing pathways on the east and west sides of the highway are to be improved, and new pathways on the west side will be added. The RPCC now requests the SGM to also recommend adding new pathways on the west side of the highway (where none now exist in the SGM study area) and improving existing pathways, and making all pathways in the study area accessible, safe, buffered, well-lit, usable year-round, and designed to minimize winter maintenance.

Sufficient Time for Community Council Participation

The SGM Online Open House was posted on January 24, 2022. Comments were requested by February 28, 2022. In order for a Community Council to pass a resolution on a topic, the membership must be able to review the draft resolution in advance. This process requires a minimum of 2 months.

Respectfully,

Pete Mjos, President
Rogers Park Community Council