

Project Title: Rabbit Creek Road Safety Improvements -- Left Turn Pocket at Old Seward Highway

TPS Number: 67139

Priority: 5

Agency: Transportation & Facilities

FY2023 State Funding Request: \$250,000

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

A left turn pocket is desperately needed on Rabbit Creek Road for downhill motorists to turn south onto the Old Seward Highway. This will ameliorate the current dangerous conditions for other motorists heading down a steep hill, particularly in treacherous winter conditions.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,150,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	(\$250,000)
Project Deficit:	\$900,000

Explanation of Other Funds:

FY 2023: \$250,000 CAPSIS Phase 1 request for project surveys, engineering, design

FY 2024-5: \$900,000 Phase 2 request for construction through a future CAPSIS request or other grants

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Create a left turn pocket on Rabbit Creek Road at Old Seward Highway via scoping, planning, design, a survey of road right-of-way and adjacent land, and minor acquisition where needed.

Left-hand turns (to the south) onto Old Seward Highway by westbound vehicles on Rabbit Creek Road create an extreme traffic hazard. This intersection has slopes, a curve, reverse banking, and heavy volumes of high-speed traffic (50 mph and faster), particularly as people rush to work and/or after dropping kids at schools uphill. The project is located on a corridor with a high crash rate and several fatalities. Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway are state-owned roads. The proposed left-turn pocket project lies within the scope of a larger, 2-mile long, unfunded project, Number 127 in the AMATS MTP 2040. The left-turn pocket is an immediate need. It can be designed as a permanent element and first phase of Project 127, greatly improving safety conditions for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

This funding would initiate scoping, design, and any ROW acquisition in 2023, with the intent for construction in 2024-25.

Project Timeline:

FY 2023: Phase 1 surveys, environmental work, and design with \$250,000 CAPSIS funding.

FY 2024-5: Phase 2 construction, may include minor right-of-way acquisition

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

State of Alaska

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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This project has been through a public review process at the local level and it is a community priority.