

## Correspondence



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



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Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
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Dear Joe:

Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) thanks you for your resourcefulness and persistence in achieving amenities for Potter Marsh during your tenure at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)! Most recently, we appreciate your e-mail update on October 26 regarding the timeline for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded improvements at the South Potter Marsh pull-out, as well as the northern boardwalk extension. We have some follow-up questions regarding this timeline, and oversight for the ARPA improvements.

Toilet location: Thank you for talking to Rys Miranda of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources about increasing the separation between the mailboxes and the toilets. Your e-mail indicated that the toilets can be moved "a little" - is it possible to increase the separation by 20 to 30 feet? The toilets are a potential loitering place, and this is a concern for people stopping at the mailboxes at late hours. In addition, cars that stop directly in front of the toilets will impede use of the mailboxes if there is inadequate separation. Please let RCCC know what separation distance looks possible. Can you confirm there can be project notes regarding this concern, so that the next ADF&G Project Manager and the contractor will be informed.

Pedestrian crosswalk and signage: We are pleased that the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has agreed to incorporate the needed pedestrian crosswalk into the upcoming 'shave and pave' rehabilitation of the Old Seward Highway. Do you have an e-mail or other written agreement from ADOT&PF about this that you can forward to RCCC? If there is no written record of this agreement, we would be happy to Sean Baski for confirmation.

Pedestrian pathway: Our questions and comments about this pathway include:

- (1) Is it certain that the pathway would require an environmental review, even if it does not come near any wetlands?
- (2) We assume that the pathway will be on existing filled areas. Can you confirm that the pathway will connect the pedestrian crosswalk to the mailboxes and the school bus zone across that mounded area that appears to be previous fill, long covered by pushki and cottonwoods.
- (3) Regarding use of contractors versus volunteers for pathway construction: This appears to be a very simple project that can be done with small machinery. Mechanized equipment could compact the gravel and create an out slope for drainage, which will greatly minimize future pathway maintenance. By comparison, a volunteer project might be faster, but it also might require an outsized amount of

coordination for a small amount of actual labor, and hand compaction would be less effective. If you have a Scout Troop that ADF&G likes to partner with, great! RCCC has found Eagle Scout candidates to be helpful with construction and maintenance on the Rabbit Creek Greenbelt, but lately they seem to be in scarce supply. If you are including the pathway in the environmental documents for the boardwalks, can you also make a project note to include them in the bid documents?

School bus drop-off location: In your October 26 email, you said you might wait until parking lot construction begins to talk again to the Anchorage School District (ASD) regarding designation of a school bus zone. A designated school bus zone is a safety request by the community, and it was a distinct point of the ARPA request. Consequently, we would like to involve ASD with the designation this winter, before the project goes out to bid. It seems important to have the bus zone and signage designated before construction, so that dimensions and sign placement are clear to the contractors who will pave and paint the area. Please keep us advised of progress. RCCC would be happy to approach the ASD about this aspect of the project.

General timeline:

1. Has all of the ARPA funding been transferred to ADF&G?
2. Is there any deadline for spending the ARPA funding, and if so, can the Boardwalk and Pathway construction meet those deadlines?
3. Since several of the ARPA elements will take a couple of years to be built, we think the Council can best follow progress through a project liaison. Our project liaisons will be Nancy Pease ([nancypease2@gmail.com](mailto:nancypease2@gmail.com)) and Ann Rappoport ([annr.rccc@gmail.com](mailto:annr.rccc@gmail.com)); you can also reach us via [rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com](mailto:rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com).

We look forward to following the progress of this exciting project in our community and providing local knowledge to assist with project implementation.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair  
Rabbit Creek Community Council

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