

Correspondence



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

1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

Jon Knowles, Project Manager/Engineer
Alaska DOT Central Region
Jon.knowles@alaska.gov

February 12, 2023

Re: DeArmoun Road– Pavement Repair Project from 140th to Hillside CFHWY00286

Dear Mr. Knowles:

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) was pleased to confirm recently that pavement repair along DeArmoun Road will get underway in summer of 2023. We are herein inviting you to attend, via Zoom, our next monthly meeting, March 9th, 7-9 pm where we hope you can provide a project update and responses to the recommendations included in this letter.

We are particularly concerned about the dangerous intersections in the areas of 140th Avenue and of McDonell Lane and thus, appreciate the interest you expressed for our safety concerns during a phone conversation with RCCC Board Member Nancy Pease. Accordingly, RCCC would appreciate assurance that the pavement repair project can include signage and striping to remedy a dangerous crossing where the multi-use pathway on the north side of DeArmoun Road terminates, near 140th Avenue. Additional background on this situation and our specific recommendations follow.

Background

There is a hazardous crossing at the termination of the multi-use pathway at McDonell Lane and DeArmoun Road. Bicyclists and pedestrians need to cross DeArmoun Road at that point. It is risky to cross because of turning traffic from a busy intersection at 140th, about 100 feet to the east. Also, DeArmoun Road begins to curve at that point, limiting the sight distances.

The DeArmoun and 140th intersection is about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from South High School. It carries a good deal of traffic related to the school, with many, less-experienced, high school-aged drivers. We hope you can visit the site to observe this use on a weekday afternoon, when school traffic is high.

Recommendations

At our February 9, 2023, meeting, RCCC discussed safety concerns on DeArmoun. The Council voted to send the following specific requests to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT) Project Manager for CFHWY00286 with a vote of 16 yeas, 0 nays and 3 abstentions:

- Evaluate the unsafe crossing created by the terminus of the bike lane at McDonell Lane.
- Provide a crosswalk and signage across DeArmoun Road at the safest point for pathway users. This may include a “crosswalk ahead” sign for westbound traffic, west of the 140th intersection. Additional striping to indicate where bikers and pedestrians should use the shoulder adjacent to the vehicle turning lane on DeArmoun Road would also improve safety here.
- Provide a crosswalk and signage for 140th at the intersection.
- Provide additional ‘Share the Road’ signs along DeArmoun east from 140th to Hillside Drive. We understand that both the lanes and the shoulder are narrow: therefore, signage is important.

The Council looks forward to your engineer’s assessment regarding whether the current unsigned crossing point meets ADOT safety standards, given sight distances, travel speeds, and the width of the road. This is especially important if the Pavement Repair project cannot provide solutions for a safer crossing. Your findings will provide important information for our Council to determine if we need to request new funding for a safety solution or safer speed limits at this intersection.

We have attached a photo of the intersection. Again, we hope you can visit it in-person.

We look forward to hearing from you at our March 9th meeting. Our agenda and the Zoom link will be posted on our Rabbit Creek Community Council website a few days prior to the meeting: <https://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>. This will provide a better estimate on when this item will be discussed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair



John Riley, Co-Chair

Attachment