

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2014 Capital Projects Needs List —
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION
For consideration at the TCC meeting May 2, 2013**

(Recommended additional language underlined, recommended deletions in ALL CAPS and [])

1. Balto Seppala/Lloyd Steele Parks (Amended) —

Scope: Funds will be used to repair the playground and safety surfacing, fix and add neighborhood park amenities and make turf repairs to the multiuse athletic fields.

Need: Balto Seppala and Lloyd Steele Parks are [IS AN] important neighborhood parks [PLAYGROUND] that provide recreational and open space areas in the Turnagain [SPENARD] neighborhood. [ADDITIONALLY, THE PLAYING FIELD IS IMPORTANT FOR AREA-WIDE SOCCER.] [THE] Playground and safety surfacing need to be compliant with current industry-wide safety standards. In addition, funding is needed for design and construction of a multi-use trail that would surround and connect both parks using the board walk that was constructed in 2010, as per the TCC-approved conceptual Master Plan for the parks. Any other items identified and submitted to the Anchorage Park Foundation during their Report Card community input survey in 2011 by Turnagain Community Council members and TCC committee recommendations should be considered. Pending final budget approval by the Governor, the Alaska State Legislature approved \$210,000 for Balto Seppala Park in 2013, which will receive a \$40,000 matching grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. Additional funding to compliment these grants would allow for comprehensive improvements to these two connected parks in the Turnagain neighborhood. This is the number one park project priority for the Turnagain Community Council.

2. Point Woronzoff[f] Overlook (Amended) —

Scope: Funds will be used to replace broken and missing parking barriers and bollards or use boulders in place of bollards, build a sustainable trail to the beach, repair the asphalt and drainage in the parking lot, replace ID signage with appropriate wording (i.e. "Point Woroznof Overlook," and add dog waste station.

Need: Point Woronzof Overlook is one of the most popular places for Anchorage residents and visitors to go and view the sunset and the inlet. Additionally, it is a popular access point and trailhead for the Coastal Trail. The park facilities at this location currently do not meet the demands of the users and improvements are necessary for park user and trail safety. Currently, there is a very steep and dangerous trail to the beach. The trail is severely eroding. Additionally, the parking area needs asphalt and parking barrier repair. Any other items identified and submitted to the Anchorage Park Foundation during their Report Card community input survey in 2011 by Turnagain Community Council members and TCC committee recommendations should be considered. This is a high priority park project for the Turnagain Community Council.

3. Earthquake Park (Amended) —

Scope: Funds will be used to upgrade and repair existing interpretive signs, replace missing park ID signage, upgrade landscaping, install security items like low-level lighting and/or security cameras, and add park amenities like trashcans, benches and picnic tables.

Need: Earthquake Park is a very popular trailhead and point of interest along the Coastal Trail. Additionally, the park is a popular destination for Alaska tourists. Interpretive signs are showing their age and need to be repaired and updated; one interpretive sign is missing, as well as an entrance park ID sign. New benches, bear-proof trash receptacles and picnic tables are needed to accommodate the high number of park visitors. Security is an issue in the parking lot and could be addressed with installation of low-level parking lot lighting and security cameras. Current landscaping needs maintenance and upgrades and curb areas need to be repaired. Any other items identified and submitted to the Anchorage Park Foundation during their Report Card community input survey in 2011 by Turnagain Community Council members and TCC committee recommendations should be considered. This is a high priority park project for the Turnagain Community Council.

4. Lyn Ary Park Property Acquisition (Addition to List) —

Scope: Funds would be used to acquire private property within the boundaries of Lyn Ary Park, to ensure this land is permanently protected as public parkland.

Need: Lyn Ary Park is heavily used by Turnagain neighbors and contains a popular trailhead for the Coastal Trail. Property at the northern end of Lyn Ary Park at the north end of the ball field and where a portion of the Coastal Trail is located (parcel #9999999999) is currently owned by the Marston Foundation. Acquisition of this property for permanent parkland status is identified in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan that was approved in 2010. This is a high priority park project for the Turnagain Community Council.

5. Coastal Trail Buffer/Greenbelt Acquisition (Addition to List) —

Scope: Funds would be used to acquire undeveloped land or conservation easements along the Coastal Trail for protected greenbelt status.

Need: The Coastal Trail is the most popular recreational trail in Anchorage with residents and visitors alike. Efforts should be made to acquire or otherwise protect with conservation easements portions of the trail and adjacent natural greenbelt buffering that run through nonMunicipally-owned property to ensure the integrity of the trail user experience is retained. Specifically, properties to be considered for acquisition by any willing sellers are located west of Lyn Ary Park to Earthquake Park. Because the city has constructed road access to this land, the Municipality should use funding to identify and acquire for protected Coastal Trail greenbelt designation any available land before it is cleared and developed for housing. This is a high priority park project for the Turnagain Community Council.

6. Lyn Ary Park (Addition to List) —

Scope: Funding would be used to leverage 2006 and 2008 State Legislative Grants awarded to this park for the purpose of upgrading park amenities.

Need: Project improvement projects identified in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan include: upgrades to trails, parking, site furniture (benches, litter bins, picnic tables), playground equipment, installation of dog refuse stations, interpretation signage and park gateways, pathway upgrades, additional playground equipment, and bleacher and bench improvements. This is a high priority park project for the Turnagain Community Council.

7. Didlika Park (Amended) —

Scope: Funds will be used to repair the playground and safety surfacing and fix neighborhood park amenities.

Need: Didlika Park is an important neighborhood park playground for the Turnagain [AND SPENDARD] neighborhood[S]. The playground and safety surfacing need to be compliant with current industry-wide safety standards.

TCC is not ranking the following Park and Recreation projects:

- **Multi-use Athletic Field Rehabilitation** — TCC supports rehabilitation of athletic fields in Turnagain. But without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.
- **Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park** — TCC supports improvement projects for this park, but is not ranking this CIP item because it is not located within the TCC boundaries.

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2014 Capital Projects Needs List —
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING
For consideration at the TCC meeting May 2, 2013**

(Recommended additional language underlined, recommended deletions in ALL CAPS and [])

1. W. Northern Lights Blvd. Drainage Improvements under the Alaska Railroad Overpass —

Scope: This project will study the issue and then implement the recommended alternative to address the drainage concerns under the overpass.

Need: There area drainage concerns in the low spot on the road going underneath the Alaska Railroad crossing. This project is the number one priority for the Turnagain Community Council.

2. 35th Avenue and McRae St. Upgrade – Wisconsin St. to Spenard Rd. (Amended)—

Scope: The project will upgrade the road to urban collector standards, using Context Sensitive Design practices. Improvements are expected to include pavement, curbs, storm drains, street lighting, pedestrian facilities, and landscaping.

Needs: This collector street is a 22' to 24' strip-paved road with inadequate drainage, lights, and no pedestrian facilities. 35th Avenue is a designated walking route for Lake Hood Elementary School but there are no paved shoulders, or sidewalks, or pathways on either side of 35th Avenue. Moreover, there is no piped storm system, drainage being provided by roadside ditches. This is a high priority for Turnagain Community Council and TCC supports additional funding for the project, so that the entire project can be constructed.

3. Turnagain Blvd . Upgrade – 35th Avenue to Spenard Rd. (Amended) —

Scope: While the scope is not set, urban collector improvements typically include a new road base, pavement, curbs, storm drains, street lighting, and pedestrian facilities. Details regarding pavement widths and pedestrian facility locations will be developed during the public involvement and design phases of the project.

Need: This local road is a strip paved street with inadequate drainage, pedestrian facilities and lighting. This is a high priority for Turnagain Community Council, which supports a road designed using the Context Sensitive Design process. Improvements needed include curbs, drainage, pedestrian facilities on east side of road to connect with trail through Fish Creek Park and, if room, a sidewalk on the west side. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.

4. Turnagain St. Upgrade – W. Northern Lights Blvd. to 35th Ave. (Amended) —

Scope: While the scope is not yet set, urban collector improvements typically include a new road base, pavement, curbs, storm drains, street lighting, and pedestrian facilities. Details regarding pavement widths and pedestrian facility locations will be developed during public involvement and design phases of the project.

Need: This local road is paved with inadequate pedestrian, lighting, and drainage. This is a high priority for Turnagain Community Council, which supports funding for upgrades, using the Context Sensitive Design process. Project should include curbs, drainage, pedestrian sidewalk on west side of road, and landscaping. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.

5. Fish Creek Trail Upgrade – Barbara St. Park to Spenard Rd. —

Scope: This project will resurface the trail segments that are worn or unsafe and replace bridges along the trail as needed. Signage will also be upgraded.

Need: The Fish Creek Trail is well used and showing its age. There are many bridges that need to be replaced and sections of the trail that need resurfacing.

6. West/Romig Neighborhood Pedestrian Easement Rehabilitation (Addition to List) —

Scope: This project would rehabilitate pedestrian easements connecting the Huntington Park neighborhood to the West High/Romig Middle School campus.

Need: Heavily used, paved easements connecting student pedestrian traffic to the school campus from the Huntington Park neighborhood in Turnagain need to be regraded and repaved for safety and maintenance purposes. These easements connect Belmont Dr. and Arlington Dr. to the adjacent West/Romig school campus.

7. Turnagain Area Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements (Addition to List) —

Scope: Funding would be used to integrate appropriate traffic calming projects in the Turnagain neighborhood.

Need: A Turnagain Traffic Calming Study was completed in 2006, which identified various traffic calming projects throughout the neighborhood (some which have been constructed). Since that time, additional traffic calming needs have been identified by Turnagain residents. Turnagain Community Council supports continued implementation of traffic calming projects, with specific locations and projects to be determined through a collaborative effort between the Municipality and TCC.

8. Fish Creek Improvements – Cook Inlet to Lake Otis —

Scope: This project will construct water quality and drainage capacity improvements on Fish Creek.

Need: Development has affected the natural flow of the creek and creek capacity is inadequate for current flow. Turnagain Community Council supports water quality and drainage capacity improvement projects for the entire stretch of Fish Creek, including day-lighting the creek wherever possible. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

9. West High and Romig Middle Schools Access and Circulation —

Scope: This project will design and construct access and circulation improvements to address West/Romig school campus safety and traffic flow issues.

Need: A state grant provided the funding for the development of a Master Plan for the West/Romig campus renovation. The road construction and access improvements are the first phase of implementing recommendations from this plan. Safety concerns have been raised with the current access arrangement at these schools. Traffic circulation is impacted due to school activities. Over 2,700 students attend these two schools and the school area is bordered by two major transportation routes (Minnesota Drive and Northern Lights Boulevard). [THIS PROJECT IS A PRIORITY FOR THE] Turnagain Community Council recognizes school access and circulation problems and supports the need for appropriate improvements. Because of the complexity of the traffic flow and safety issues in and around the West/Romig campus, any proposed improvements need to be carefully evaluated, taking into consideration surrounding traffic flow and land uses.

10. Milky Way Drive Surface Rehab – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin St. —

Scope: This project will address the deteriorating pavement and curb conditions on a collector route by replacing worn curbs and overlaying the existing pavement.

Need: Pavement on this collector street is deteriorating. This is identified as a collector route in the Official Streets and Highways Plan. [THIS PROJECT IS A PRIORITY FOR THE TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL.] Turnagain Community Council supports retaining this project on the Needs List for future funding consideration, but TCC is ranking other road projects higher on the ranking list.

11. Turnagain Parkway Surface Rehabilitation – Iliamna Ave. to Northern Lights Blvd. —

Scope: Replace or overlay pavement.

Need: Pavement on this collector is deteriorating. Turnagain Community Council supports retaining this project on the Needs List for future funding consideration, but TCC is ranking other road projects higher on the ranking list.

TCC is not ranking the following PM&E projects:

- **Lakeshore Dr. Extension/Upgrade – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin (Amended)—**

Scope: Improvements would include a new road base, curbs, pavement, underground storm drains, street lighting, and pedestrian facilities.

Need: While no immediate need exists, the OS&HP identifies this as a possible future street connection. Aero Ave. currently does not extend down to Lakeshore Dr. and the Corps of Engineers has previously denied a wetland permit to extend this road. The western portion of Lakeshore Dr. is a parcel identified during the West Anchorage District Plan public process as a potential land acquisition parcel by Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. TCC requests more information on this proposal and also how this CIP project would integrate with that potential airport acquisition.

- **Chester Creek Flooding —** TCC supports studying appropriate flooding control options, but is

not ranking this CIP item because it is not located within the TCC boundaries.

- **ARDSA Storm Drain System Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation Program** — Without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

TCC Continues to Request that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List:

- **Northern Lights Boulevard Upgrade Phase IV – Postmark Drive to Nathaniel Court** —

Scope: The scope for this project has not been determined. Typically, an arterial street upgrade would include a new road base, pavement, curbs, storm drains, street lighting, pedestrian facilities and landscaping. However, in May 2012, pedestrian amenities along the road (sidewalk on one side, new bike path on the other) as well as turnouts were deleted from the project description by the AMATS Policy Committee in the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Project planning document. The specific street section will be developed in the design study phase, which would include significant public involvement.

Need: The arterial street has not been constructed to urban standards. But, the improvements are not priority. No funding is programmed in the six-year Capital Improvement Program.

TCC Comment: TCC has consistently requested the deletion of this project from the CIP list and we will continue to oppose any design upgrades to this section of W. Northern Lights, except for repair and appropriate maintenance, such as the overlay work recently completed.

Specifically, TCC opposes: 1) widening of existing lanes or shoulders or lane additions; 3) clearing of existing vegetation or filling of wetlands; and 4) upgrades to accommodate airport-generated traffic from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport North Airpark and West Airpark onto WNL, which negatively impacts the Turnagain residential neighborhood. At the request of TCC, pedestrian amenities along the road (sidewalk on one side, new bike path on the other) were deleted from the project description by the AMATS Policy Committee in the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Project in May 2012, as the public is well served by the existing Earthquake Park Trail and Coastal Trail. Also deleted in the description were turnouts, as they would serve no practical purpose along this road.

**for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2014 Capital Projects Needs List —
STATE OF ALASKA**
For consideration at the TCC meeting May 2, 2013

(Recommended additional language underlined, recommended deletions in ALL CAPS and [])

1. Northern Lights Blvd./Benson Blvd. Rut Repair — Minnesota Dr. to Wisconsin St. —

Scope: Overlay or re-surface the existing roadway, including the section of Benson Blvd. where it splits off from W. Northern Lights going eastbound to Minnesota Dr.

Need: The rutting of this road surface may impact safety and maintenance.

TCC Continues to Request that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List:

• **Minnesota Dr. Northbound Expansion – 16th Ave. to 26th Ave. (Amended) —**

Scope: Add a north bound lane.

Need: [TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING ROAD CONFIGURATION.] This project has been deleted from the Needs List.

TCC Comment: TCC recommends the above language change, as this was stated on the Public Works Survey Response to TCC's input last year for the 2013 Capital Budget regarding this project. There is no reason to continue to include this project, if it has been deleted from CIP funding consideration.

TCC continues to oppose this project and submitted comments September 26, 2005, during, the Long-Range Transportation Plan comment period. Following is a summary of those comments:

Even though this proposed road project is not located within Turnagain Community Council boundaries, Turnagain residents use this road as their major thoroughfare to downtown from our neighborhood — impacts associated with this proposal would far outweigh any benefit.

There is no demonstrated need for this additional lane; traffic flows relatively smoothly along this stretch of Minnesota Dr., even during rush hour, except when road conditions during bad weather deteriorate, then it slows down. It seems that's a good thing; bad road conditions should warrant a slow down, especially in that curved area at Westchester Lagoon.

There is no readily available land to add a third lane from 26th Ave. to 16th Ave., so drastic, costly, and parkland-degrading measures would need to be taken to accommodate any widening of the road — let alone the addition of a sidewalk and pathway, as would likely be included in the project description.

This proposal runs contrary to goals in the Long-Range Transportation Plan: "Develop an attractive and efficient transportation network that takes into account the cost of building, operating, and maintaining a system that considers the equity of all users, and the secondary costs associated with all other community values." And, "Balance the project purpose with landscaping and other aesthetic considerations." There's already important buffering between a busy road and residential areas that would have to be removed to make room for another lane along this stretch of Minnesota Dr., and removal of naturally vegetated parkland and filling of a portion of the lagoon would certainly degrade the aesthetics of the area.