

Correspondence



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



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Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions
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March 9, 2020

Dear AMATS –

The Rabbit Creek Community Council has reviewed the proposed 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). This document is immensely important to everyone in Anchorage as it provides the framework for all modes of transportation for our community for many, many years, and would tap hundreds of millions of federal dollars to support these transportation options, in addition to millions in our very limited state and municipal funds. We are concerned that this dense, complex document falls far short of where it should.

In brief, we are extremely concerned that the document:

- 1) Fails to acknowledge or coordinate with goals and commitments in the Anchorage Climate Action Plan as adopted by the Assembly, May 21, 2019. According to the Climate Action Plan, the MTP was to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Unfortunately, it does not and this shortcoming needs to be addressed, particularly given that transportation accounts for 40% of GHG emissions in the Muni.
- 2) Fails to include Performance Measures, contrary to a stated expectation. For reasonable examples, see Transportation Plans from Portland, Oregon (<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/67263>) and Boulder County, Colorado (<https://www.bouldercounty.org/transportation/plans-and-projects/transportation-master-plan/>).
- 3) Focuses on tremendously expensive, land intensive projects favoring long transits across and out of the Muni over much less expensive, less land intensive, shorter connections, transit, and pedestrian options more in keeping with the 70-80% of trips that are for local travel within the Muni.

See Attachment I, unanimously approved at the RCCC's February 13th meeting with 14 yeas, zero nays, and zero abstentions, for additional specifics on the overall MTP.

Our detailed recommendations and comments are organized into four attachments: (I) an overview of recommendations and comments on the overall MTP as noted above; (II) Table 1 covers projects presented in the plan that are within or adjoining the area of the Rabbit Creek Community Council. These recommendations were approved at the RCCC's February 13th meeting by a vote of 12 yeas, zero nays, and 1 abstention; (III) Table 2 covers several projects in the area of the greater Municipality, but which are routes to major shopping, work, recreation, and broader transit connections commonly used by Rabbit Creek, as well as other residents and visitors; and (IV) RCCC May 31, 2019 recommendations on the Muni's 2020 Capital Improvement Program for

transportation, which document our continuing support for some of the projects in MTP 2040. Many of these recommendations have been made repeatedly over the years, and are pertinent to our recommendations on the MTP. Please note that our recommendations are also consistent with the long-standing Hillside District Plan as well as with the Anchorage Comprehensive Plan, both of which resulted from several years of study and citizen input.

Given the significance of this document economically, environmentally, and for how Anchorage will continue to thrive as a community where we can all live, work, and play, we would appreciate your incorporating our recommendations as you finalize this plan. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss these comments, or need further clarification.

Sincerely,



Ky Holland, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council



Ann Rappoport, Co-Chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Attachments

- I. Recommended Changes to the Goals, Policies, and Data Included in the MTP 2040
- II. Proposed MTP 2040 Projects within & adjoining Rabbit Creek Community Council: Recommendations and Comments from RCCC
- III. Proposed MTP 2040 Areawide Projects with RCCC Recommendations to Support, Modify, or Delete
- IV. 2020 Capital Improvement Program – Rabbit Creek Community Council Recommendations

cc: John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly
Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly
Meg Zalatel, Anchorage Assembly
Pete Petersen, Anchorage Assembly
Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Shaina Kilcoyne, SWS Energy and Sustainability Manager