

Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)

A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



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The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) has previously submitted detailed comments on both State and Municipality (Muni) transportation plans, including the Seward Highway, O'Malley Road to Dimond Boulevard reconstruction. We remain concerned about one aspect of this project that was proposed nearly 20 years ago, but which is no longer reasonable, affordable, nor justifiable.

While not in our area, the Seward Highway, Dimond to O'Malley, reconstruction involves a major road used daily by a vast majority of our residents. The project feature which is of concern is the proposal to construct an underpass to connect 92nd Ave (Scooter Avenue) from west of the Seward Highway to east of the Seward Highway. RCCC has repeatedly recommended that this project feature be deleted. This project feature was proposed in the early 2000s to relieve congestion at the Dimond Blvd on/off ramps of the Seward Highway. Current traffic use and magnitude in the area, coupled with the disruption to the neighbors and neighborhood quality to the east of the Seward Highway that would result from this project, all justify the need to delete the 92nd Ave underpass.

This justification is further strengthened in consideration of this feature's excessive cost, particularly when the state is in an extended and serious budget deficit. The Assembly has opposed this project. The Muni is already burdened by the need to repair and upgrade existing roads at a time of diminished budgets. The project would result in an excessive taking of land and has a poor cost/benefit ratio.

If there is to be a project here, a pedestrian underpass would be an alternative that could provide safe transit for neighbors at a much reduced cost in dollars and land. Note, it is unclear whether FY 21 design funds recommended for this project are for the larger Seward Highway work or this underpass.

We appreciate your attention to these concerns and request that you respond as to how our concerns can be incorporated in the continuing project design and development.

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Ky Holland, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

cc: Wolfgang Junge, Regional Director, ADOT&PF
James Potts, P.E., Project Manager, Jacobs
John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly
Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly