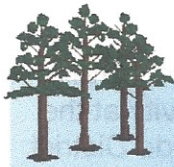
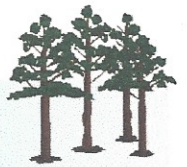


## Correspondence



### **RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)**

A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



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

Non-motorized Transportation Planning  
Municipality of Anchorage  
PO Box 196650  
Anchorage, Ak 99519-6650

December 20, 2020

Re: Policies to support non-motorized corridors separate from developed roadways

Dear MOA Non-Motorized Transportation Plan planners –

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) is interested in developing non-motorized pathways within existing undeveloped Rights-of-Way and Section Line easements. These corridors are a practical way to connect neighborhoods and community destinations where road upgrades and roadside pedestrian amenities are not likely to be funded, whether because of terrain features, cost, or low neighborhood density. They may also serve to provide fire department or other emergency access to isolated neighborhoods, improving response speeds and offering alternative exit routes.

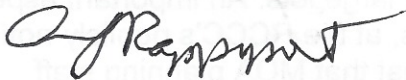
Over the years, the RCCC has made numerous comments regarding the need to maintain neighborhood connectivity and ensure access for emergencies, which are particularly challenging in our steep neighborhoods with large lots. An important aspect of these goals is to have non-motorized pathways. Thus, at the RCCC's publicly-noticed December 10, 2020, meeting, the RCCC voted to request that MOA planning staff incorporate the following policies into the draft Non-Motorized Trails Plan (15 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstained).

1. Use of undeveloped ROW and Section Line Easements. Municipal planning and Right-of-way staff will work with Alaska Department of Natural Resources to acquire use agreements for Section Line Easements where these easements can provide convenient non-motorized connectivity, in accordance with adopted planning goals and plans, within the municipality.
2. Municipal and citizen partnership for pedestrian corridor development. Municipal agencies will develop a template for partnering with citizens' groups or non-profits who initiate public trail corridors along existing undeveloped easements, so that public insurance and bonding and other supports are available.

3. Maintenance funding for pedestrian connections. The Municipality will identify ways to program funding for maintenance of pedestrian connections, both within and outside of roadways.
4. Continued authority of existing trails plans. The pending Non-Motorized Trails Plan should clearly state that it does not address pedestrian connectivity at the necessary level of detail, and that, the Areawide Trails Plan, the Hillside District Plan, and other adopted neighborhood plans remain the appropriate documents for implementing trail connections.
5. Coordination with Anchorage Park Foundation's (APF) Schools on Trails program. This program involves working with schools, neighbors, and kids to identify and establish safe pathways within neighborhoods to schools, and to promote outdoor learning. Funds can be provided to citizen-led efforts to plan and establish these trails, including trail work through the APF's Youth Employment in Parks program. This program should be recognized and included in the plan.
6. Early neighborhood outreach is essential to successful planning. Trail planning should incorporate early notices and involvement of neighbors to best identify the most useful routes, and reduce/mitigate any perceived or actual problems for potentially affected home/land owners.

Our Council seeks to support those projects that are compatible with the Hillside District Plan and Anchorage Comprehensive Plan and these recommendations fit within their tenets. We would be happy to sit down with you (e.g., Zoom) and discuss these comments as you are developing the Plan.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair  
Rabbit Creek Community Council