

AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Resolution 2015-07

A RESOLUTION OF AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (AHCC) REGARDING THE
NORTHERN ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND MEDICAL DISTRICT DRAFT DESIGN STUDY
REPORT (DDSR) UNDER REVIEW BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION (PZC)

WHEREAS, Case No. 2015-0057 was scheduled to be heard by the PZC on August 10, 2015 and council comments were due by July 20, 2015, which is before the general membership of the AHCC was scheduled to meet,

WHEREAS, according to the AHCC bylaws, the executive board is authorized to make decisions and speak on behalf of the council when the general membership is unable to do so,

WHEREAS, the executive board met and approved comments to be submitted on behalf of the AHCC, which were submitted on-line on July 20, 2015,

WHEREAS, the PZC subsequently postponed action on this case until September 14, 2015, which is before the AHCC general membership meeting scheduled for September 17, 2015,

WHEREAS, the executive board received additional information on this case and met regarding this information as cited below,

WHEREAS,

- The PZC is to evaluate the DDSR in accordance with MOA 21.03.190(B)4,
- The DDSR violates the currently adopted U-Med District Framework Master Plan (last amended by the MOA in 2011) provisions for the recommended Integrated Campus approach, since it does not maintain the integrity of the central east/west ski trail over or under the proposed street (p. 42), might not maintain the integrity of the ski trail along Northern Lights Boulevard, does not provide a landscaped median and separated pathways on each side of the street (p. 34), and north access is not in the current plan (p. 45),
- The DDSR does not include an evaluation of the safety hazards the proposed road will cause along Bragaw Street due to increased traffic from the road (especially near East High School), and costs to accommodate cut-through traffic
- The DDSR does not include necessary safety features due to inadequate budget (trail overcrossing at the project mid-point and mid-point roundabout which would act to slow traffic),
- The DDSR and the project's previous work violate Title 21 and the State of Alaska Preconstruction Manual requirements to evaluate all feasible alternatives to accomplish the project purpose and need (it did not evaluate improving perimeter roads and intersections),
- The DDSR does not include an updated alternatives evaluation of all feasible alternatives: the project's previous alternatives evaluation (in the 2011 Reconnaissance Report) was based on a four-lane road, whereas the current road is a two-lane road (significantly changing its effect on traffic delay),
- The DDSR cost estimate appears to be inadequate to account for removal of organic materials, replacement with suitable fill, conflicts with underground utilities, and resolving right of way issues,
- The DDSR ignores the resolution made by the Watershed and Natural Resources Commission, by not providing a design that deters moose from crossing the roadway,
- The DDSR indicates that the preferred alternative is not least environmentally damaging (p. 19 and 45) and the Corps of Engineers can only grant a permit for the Least Environmentally Damaging and Practicable Alternative,

- The DDSR depicts a road alignment that adds pollutant-containing road runoff (such as oil and road salt in winter sanding material) into Chester Creek and thus will be in conflict with numerous provisions of the Chester Creek management plan (which is designed to protect this important anadromous fish stream and provide runoff buffering capacity to reduce flooding).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Airport Heights Community Council executive board, on behalf of the council, respectfully requests the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny or reject the application and request that the project management team revise and resubmit a plan that addresses the noted deficiencies.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED by the Airport Heights Community Council executive board on September 9, 2015



President

AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Addendum to Resolution 2015-07

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 17, 2015, the Airport Heights Community Council confirmed the council's support of Resolution 2015-07 that was approved by the council's executive board on September 9, 2015. The confirmation motion vote was FOR 25, AGAINST 0, ABSTAIN 1.



Barbara Karl
President

