

Turnagain St./Turnagain Blvd. Upgrade (W. Northern Lights Blvd. to Spenard Rd.) RECOMMENDATIONS approved at Turnagain Community Council meeting February 4, 2016

- **At this point, TCC is focusing comments on Turnagain Blvd.**

- **Rationale:**

- Turnagain Blvd. — Bond funding originally scheduled for construction 2016 was pulled at last minute. But MOA Project Manager Steve Gillette said definitely it will be on 2017 bond.
- Turnagain St. — Steve confirmed that there will not be any construction funding coming forward for this section of the road for awhile, so our committee has plenty of time to engage local residents (like Vicki Russell) and to come up with input.
- The planners have come up some design alternatives for Turnagain St., which were not in play in 2011 when concept designs were presented and commented on by TCC. Some include full property takes. *The consultants were the first to admit that there will need to be a lot more community discussion before moving forward — and committee fully concurs.*

Turnagain Community Council Project Recommendations on Draft Design Elements:

- **Turnagain St:**

- At this point, only recommendation would be to request city/consultants provide more opportunities for TCC/neighbor/property owners input on new alternatives at a future time.

- **Turnagain Blvd:**

- **Overall TCC comments:**

- This is TCC's #1 Capital Improvement Project, TCC expresses support for the overall design components that will improve drainage; provide safer travel for pedestrians/bikers, etc. on both sides of road; provides visual aesthetics and safety spacing and buffers with landscaping on both sides of road — will enhance and compliment adjacent Kiwanis Fish Creek Park on east side of road; and provides additional parking closer to some of the park amenities (picnic shelter).

- **Street ID pedestal at Spenard Rd. and Turnagain Blvd. (similar to one at Spenard Rd. and McCrae Rd.)**

- TCC supports the concept of installing a street ID pedestal similar in design to the ones already installed at Spenard Rd. and McCrae Rd. to tie into the look along Spenard Rd. — looks good at night, but a little washed out and hard to read in day. TCC suggests making the panels behind the lettering slightly darker to increase daytime visibility.

- **Trail connection between road multi-use trail and Fish Creek Trail**

- TCC needs assurance that there is coordination during design/construction of the road improvements with the Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation Project currently in the design phase and proposed for 2017. This is important since part of the Fish Creek trail runs through the park and is a significant non-motorized connector for Turnagain and Spenard residents. TCC would also like clarification on the location of the trail from Spenard Rd. and the Kiwanis Fish Creek park along Turnagain Blvd.

- **Multi-use trail section that runs through Kiwanis Fish Creek Park on east side of road**

- Instead of running part of the multiuse trail straight and parallel with the road, slightly curve it inward into the park (similar to what exists now). This will allow room for pockets where trees can be planted in a couple of groupings, rather than just in a straight row between the 5' sidewalk and the trail on east side of road. In these groups, mix evergreens and deciduous trees.

- **Tree Landscaping Species on east side of road**

- TCC requests that no moose fencing be installed around the tree landscaping on the east side of the road, as it would have to be in place for several years and would detract from the aesthetics of the area. While we know there are no guarantees, we request that the tree species planted are ones that moose tend not to bother (Amur Chokecherry/Canada Red Cherry), rather than birch trees.

- **Parallel Parking on east side of road along park**

- This was an idea that TCC supported in 2011 — provides more parking for the northern section of Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, including closer vehicle access to the picnic shelter area and tennis courts. The only parking currently available is the lot on southern boundary of park.

- **Pathway between parallel parking to park picnic shelter**

- TCC requests that a pathway be included in the project scope, to connect the parallel parking along the road to the park picnic shelter.

- **Landscaping on west side of road in pockets of ground next to curb, between sidewalk and road**

- If the pockets of ground on the west side of the road are planted with grass, these areas tend to turn into weeds patches and look unkempt, due to lack of proper maintenance. TCC recommends appropriate-sized shrubs (specifically, Golden Flame Spirea) where possible, so mowing will not be needed. They will also serve to provide more of a visual buffer between pedestrians using the adjacent sidewalk and the road. Where pocket size may not be able to accommodate shrubs, we request imprinted concrete be installed.

- **Trail deadend on north part of road**

- Draft plan shows multi-use trail east of road deadending near tennis court area because there's not enough space to continue the trail up to 35th Ave. & McRae Rd. intersection. TCC encourages the planners to continue to look for ways to extend the trail up to intersection, so that it can tie into the trail/sidewalk to the north.

- **Traffic Calming**

- There are speed humps currently placed in Turnagain Blvd. Since those will be removed as part of construction, TCC asked at the open house if they will be replaced — the consultant's answer was "No." TCC requests consideration of installing other traffic calming features for this long, straight stretch of road through a primarily residential area, including the placement of a raised intersection at Wiley Post and Turnagain Blvd. and bump out curbs at appropriate locations. TCC also requests that the city/project consultants do outreach to local residents on Turnagain Blvd. side streets, to see what they may want/not want in terms of traffic calming features before completing the design.