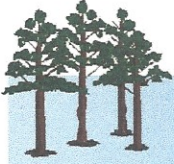


Correspondence



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



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

Craig Lyon, AMATS Coordinator
Permit & Development Center
4700 Elmore Road
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, Ak 99519-6650

July 29, 2019

Dear Mr. Lyon –

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) recently submitted comments on the State's Transportation Capital Improvement Program which includes some of the projects included on the AMATS 2040 MTP Draft Recommended Alternative List of Projects. We have attached those comments as they affirm priorities approved by the Rabbit Creek Community Council at our May 9th meeting, and thus support those CIP and related projects which are also part of the 2040 MTP Draft.

Our Council sets the highest priority on projects identified in the Hillside District Plan and Anchorage 2020, and especially those projects that provide neighborhood connectivity, safe routes to schools, attention to fire risk, and sustainability. Unfortunately, transit options are lacking in the Rabbit Creek area so we have no comments on those projects, other than that such options can help minimize greenhouse gas emissions and thus ameliorate climate change, in support of the Muni's recently approved Climate Action Plan.

For the CIP, the top three State of Alaska priority transportation projects for RCCC are:

(1) Old Seward Highway Upgrade from Rabbit Creek Road to Potter Valley

NOTE: this project does not appear on the AMATS list but should be included.

(2) Providing a turn pocket for left turns from Rabbit Creek to Old Seward Highway

NOTE: this project does not appear on the AMATS list but should be included.

(3) Providing a separate multi-use, non-motorized path on Golden View Drive from Rabbit Creek to Romania NOTE: this project is #306 on the AMATS list. We remain concerned that funding was recently provided to repave Golden View with not even minimal work to provide pedestrian/bike access along a busy road that is a major access link for Golden View Middle School, and beyond to other schools. This is not in keeping with Anchorage 2020/2040, the Hillside District Plan, and strong community desires!

For the Muni's Anchorage Project Management and Engineering, our top three projects are:

(1) Hillside Plan and projects to reduce risk and impact of a Hillside wildfire (this includes full load, access, exits, water, Firewise buffers)

NOTE: we are concerned that the AMATS list does not account for specific roads or trail access that could serve as fire escape routes and other access essential for fire risk prevention. The RCCC's work with Muni and State officials to make our community more "firewise" has included extensive outreach efforts, demonstrations including clearings, and other projects.

(2) Chugach State Park Access

NOTE: better attention is needed for this priority in the AMATS plan where it seems to be generally missing. Chugach State Park is a destination that generates tens of thousands of vehicle trips, and merits state transportation funding.

(3) Providing a separate bike path/pedestrian path on Golden View Drive from Rabbit Creek to Romania

NOTE: this priority compliments our priority (3) above and would be fully accomplished under AMATS project #306. We urge the Muni to consider how a more rudimentary path could be more readily provided for less money. Moreover, as it appears that the complete Golden View upgrade will likely occur in a piece-meal fashion, we request that pedestrian/bike paths be included in each small upgrade. This would be a more economical and practical approach for ensuring the entire pedestrian/bike route will eventually be accomplished.

Our Land Use and Transportation Committee has additional comments on some specific AMATS alternatives:

Project #502 proposes a pathway on Elmore from DeArmoun to Rabbit Creek. We support this project as it would provide helpful access for South High students, as well as improve neighborhood connectivity - a good transportation investment! We are concerned, however, whether the proposed \$2 million is sufficient for a pedestrian bridge across the creek.

Projects #115, 116, 216, and 317 to provide freeway connections through midtown will cumulatively cost over a billion dollars. We question the sustainability of this approach which strongly favors automobile travel, bifurcates neighborhoods, and occupies a huge land footprint, at odds with our Comprehensive Plan's emphasis on infill and revitalization of a compact downtown and Fairview. With current state budget limitations, and an expected decrease in state population, we question the priority to spend billions of dollars on freeways through mid-town that will relieve limited periods of congestion. At full scale, these projects do not appear in keeping with the tenants of Anchorage 2020, Anchorage 4040, or the Muni's Climate Action Plan and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support compact, efficient urban land uses.

Given the current state fiscal situation and trickle down implications for Muni budgets, it seems unlikely the state and Muni will be able to make much progress on the AMATS project list in the near future. However, we encourage the Muni to maintain this list as we need a positive vision for our future as we all work toward coordinated and efficient pedestrian, transit, and transportation alternatives for Anchorage over the next 20 years.

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Ky Holland, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

2020 CIP Rabbit Creek Community Council

Submitted by Ky Holland rabbitCreekcc@gmail.com 907 7272735

May 31, 2019

MOA Parks and Rec List

Supported:

- #1 Section 36 Park Improvements (3 votes)
- #2 Forest Health and Park Safety (2 votes)
- #3 Wayfinding (0 votes)

DELETE - TAP Transportation Alternatives (4 Votes Delete, 1 keep)

No Additions to list.

State of AK Projects

Supported

- #1 (Previous 8) Old Seward Highway Upgrade - Rabbit Creek Rd to Potter Valley (10votes)
- #2 (Previous 5) Turn pocket for left turn from Rabbit Creek to Old Seward Highway (10votes)
- #3 NEW - Goldenview Drive - Separate Bike Path/Pedestrian path RC South to Romania (7 votes)
- #4 (Previous 1) Goldenview RC Intersection (5 votes)
- #5 (Previous 3) Old Seward Highway rut repair (5 votes)
- #6 (Previous 7) Elmore Rd at Rabbit Creek Intersection (2 Votes)
- #7 NEW - Upgrade Major Intersections before new roads/development that feed in to them.(2 Votes)
- (Previous 4) Rabbit Creek Road upgrade (0 votes)
- (Previous 6) DeArmon Rd Phase II (0 vote)

DELETE - DONE! - (Previous 2) Rabbit creek road center

MOA Project Management and Engineering

Supported

- #1 (Previous 2) Hillside Plan and Projects to reduce risk and impact of a hillside fire (fire load, access, exits, drills, water, firewise buffers) (10votes)
- #2 (Previous 1) Chugach State Park Access (8votes)
- #3 NEW - Goldenview Drive - Separate Bike Path/Pedestrian path RC South to Romania (7 votes)
- #4 (Previous 8) Mountain Air Drive Extension (5 votes)
- #5 (Previous 3) Goldenview intersection safety upgrades and RC to Romania drive (4 votes)
- #6 NEW - Upgrade Major Intersections before new roads/development that feed in to them such as GV and RC, Potter Valley and OSH-NSH. (2 Votes)
- #7 NEW Blue Bell @ Goldenview Grade Upgrades (3 Votes)
- #8 NEW - 162ND Traffic Calming at Mountain Air. (2 Votes)
- #9 (Previous 4) Potter Valley Rd Surface Rehab (1 votes)
- #10 (Previous 5) Goldenview Dr/Bufalo/145th ave Area Chip Seal Surfacing (1 Vote)
- #11 (Previous 7) Little Rabbit Creek Flooding and Glaciation Improvements (1 Vote)
- #12 (Previous 9) Golden View Dr. Connection - Romania to Potter Valley (3 votes in favor, 2 votes to remove)
- #13 164th Ave Upgrade - Goldenview to Betty (0 Votes)