

# RESOLUTION 2021-1

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

March 18, 2021

## Resolution 2021-1 AMATS Draft Non-Motorized Plan

The NECC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the AMATS Non-Motorized Plan.

Whereas, the NECC has long identified two high priority, long-standing goals for non-motorized connections within our community which projects have focused not only upon greater community connectivity but also increased access to the community at large by East Side Residents, and

Whereas, the NECC has proposed, endorsed, and campaigned for the following projects for the purposes of accomplishing those goals:

- An East-West link bringing the Chester Creek Trails to the foothills at or about Chanshtnu Park, and
- A North South trail running along Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (in or out of the base) connecting “the curve” to North East Anchorage by the Powerplant and thence to the bike path north of the highway in addition to a connection at Muldoon to the ‘diverging diamond’ which crosses the Glenn Highway and connects with the Glenn Highway Trail.

Which projects should include as the NECC has documented:

- Construction of bridges in Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.
- Connected and upgraded trail along the South Fork of Chester Creek from Cheney Lake Park through the existing easement to Patterson Street.
- Designation of some form of ROW and usage agreement, as well as eventual trail development along the MOA JBER boundary or in JBER.

The connection from Cheney Lake to Muldoon is currently identified in the Plan as exiting the Cheney Lake trails from the east at Foothill, to Sherwood, and East 20th. The Muldoon interface with East 20th is unsignaled, and at the top of a relatively steep hill. A much better connection is currently heavily used, and noted on the 2020 Bike Trail Map. Replace the Plan’s connection with: east of Cheney Lake north to E. 16th, Patterson St. Chester Ct, and through to Begich Middle School and Creekside Center Drive. This allows users to go to north or east and arrive at signaled intersections at DeBarr or Muldoon, both of which

continue on to Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. This would also take advantage of a current PM&E non-motorized project along Patterson St.

While the NECC has also endorsed additional matters such as the completion of a second tunnel under DeBarr as set forth in the Russian Jack Springs Master Plan for decades, further connection above or below the Glenn Highway connecting the Northeast communities to the bike path on the North side of the highway, integration of our most eastern neighborhoods with non-motorized connectors, facilitating seamless access to school and services as recommended by a number of east side persons to the Community and Economic Development committee of the Assembly in February, and

Whereas, though NECC has been at pains to pursue these plans through CIP listing, political efforts, and external grant development, the Plan largely ignores the interests of the largest community council in Anchorage, and

Whereas the NECC applauds the Plans recognition in Chapter 2 that Anchorage lags way behind other northern cities in addressing non-motorized users, and likewise applauds the recommendations that the MOA affiliate or join NACTO, and

Whereas, while the NECC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Plan, significant work is still required with the community to complete the Plan, and

Whereas the draft in failing to reject prior management and design eschewing protected bike lanes and total reliance on paint as the most important aspect of providing safe infrastructure for non-motorized users, appear to endorse a policy of "more of the same", which does little or nothing to make Anchorage safe for "All Ages and Abilities",

Now therefore be it resolved that **while** the NECC supports the inclusion of the projects mentioned above in the Non-Motorized Plan, as well as the increased connectivity, safety, and access for non-motorized users as discussed above, ***the NECC also finds that additional collaboration with the community is necessary to complete the Plan and that the plan cannot be endorsed at this time.***

Votes for: 11

Votes Against: 0

Abstain: 2

**Motion Passed** / Did Not Pass

President: Rachel Bonner