

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Planning Department
Long Range Planning Division

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Mayor Suzanne LaFrance

August 21, 2024

To the Federation of Community Councils Board of Delegates and Community Councils Executive Boards:

10-Year Review of Community Council Boundaries Project Update

The public participation process for the Municipality's *10-year review of community council district boundaries*, which began in late 2022 with an online questionnaire, continued in 2023 with consultations with individual community councils, and progressed through a series of six meetings of a Boundary Advisory Committee through fall 2023, will resume this fall. The Planning Department will release a set of recommended draft district boundary changes for public review in late September. These will reflect the results of the public process from 2023.

The public comment period will extend through October and November. Community councils will have at least two months during this review period to submit their recommendations to the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC). The PZC will hold a public hearing in December. Community councils should provide comments as resolutions adopted at general membership meetings. The project details and specific requests to you follow:

Project Background. Every 10 years the Municipality reviews community council boundaries and seeks input as to whether any boundaries between the community council districts should be adjusted. We initiated this 10-year review in November 2022 with visits to the Federation Board of Delegates and the project's online questionnaire. For complete information about this project, its overall requirements, and the public process completed to date, visit the [project web page](#). It includes the project's *White Paper No. 1* which summarizes the public process and *boundary review criteria*. The requirements for 10-year boundary reviews and the public process are established in AMC 2.40, *Community Councils*.

Public Participation Process (2022-2023). Approximately 420 people (and some community council boards) responded to an online survey questionnaire regarding community council district boundaries. That public feedback is documented in the project's *White Paper No. 2* on the [project web page](#), and formed the basis for identifying approximately three dozen "Boundary Study Areas" in early 2023. A "Boundary Study Area" means that a community council boundary was identified for further evaluation as part of this project. Boundary Study Areas typically comprised a part of a community council district or certain boundary segments where the public comments suggested consideration for changes. Planning staff reached out to the executive officers of the community councils where boundary study areas were identified, to get initial feedback.

With the help of the Federation, the Community Councils Center, and volunteers from community councils, a *Boundary Advisory Committee* made up of 12 community council members organized to help the Planning Department evaluate the Boundary Study Areas. This committee served as a sounding board for Planning staff, sought input from affected Community Councils, and made its own recommendations. Committee meetings were noticed and open to the public.



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Evaluation of Boundary Study Areas and Recommendations.

The Boundary Advisory Committee and staff applied *boundary review criteria* based on municipal code to assess each Boundary Study Area and identified alternative options for addressing the boundary issue. In most cases, after assessing a Boundary Study Area, the staff and Committee both recommended “no change.” In about 10 cases, a change to a district or a boundary was recommended. A “Summary of Action” available on the project website documents the Boundary Advisory Committee’s recommendations regarding each Boundary Study Area. Details about the evaluations and the Boundary Advisory Committee’s deliberations are available in *White Paper No. 2* and the Committee’s meeting minutes on the [project web page](#). The public hearing draft recommended boundaries and report to be released at the end of September will reflect the outcomes of this public evaluation process.

Next Steps & Your Community Council’s Role.

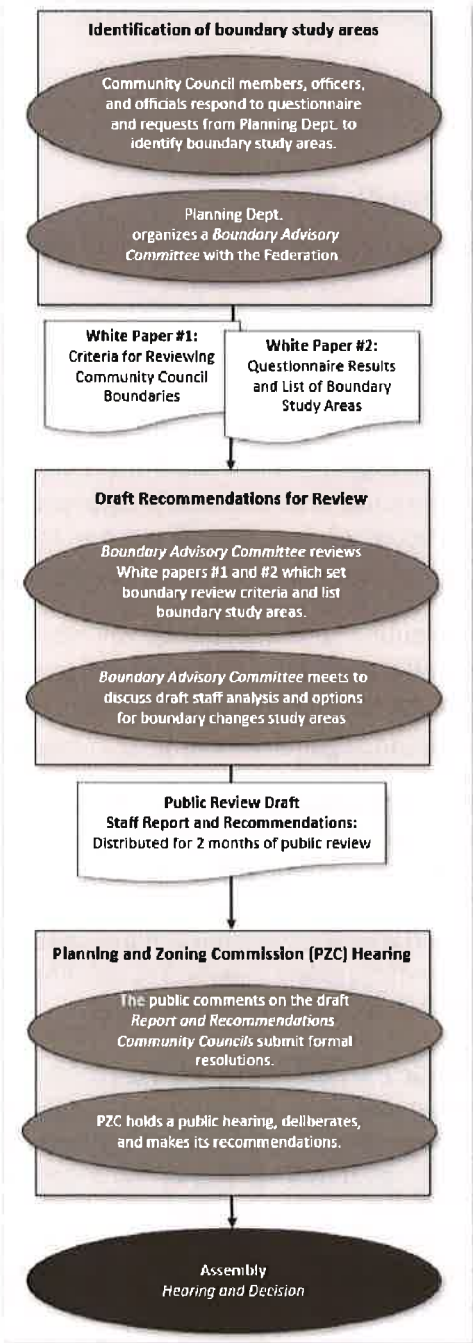
- **September:** Please introduce this topic at your September general membership and executive committee meetings. Assign members who will follow this project and report to your community council.
- **Last week of September:** Be on lookout for a public notice and emails to your officers announcing that the public hearing draft report and recommendations with maps are released for public review.
- **October-November:** Community councils, please deliberate on this topic at your general membership meetings in October and November and adopt resolutions addressed to the PZC stating your community council’s position as to the recommended boundaries. *Planning staff is available to report at meetings and provide technical assistance.*
- **December:** The PZC will hold public hearings in the first and second weeks of December. Community Council representatives may choose to provide verbal testimony to supplement written resolutions.
- **First Quarter 2025:** The Assembly will receive the PZC’s recommendations and hold a public hearing and take final action.

Please contact me at if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Tom

The Boundary Review Process:



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