

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.

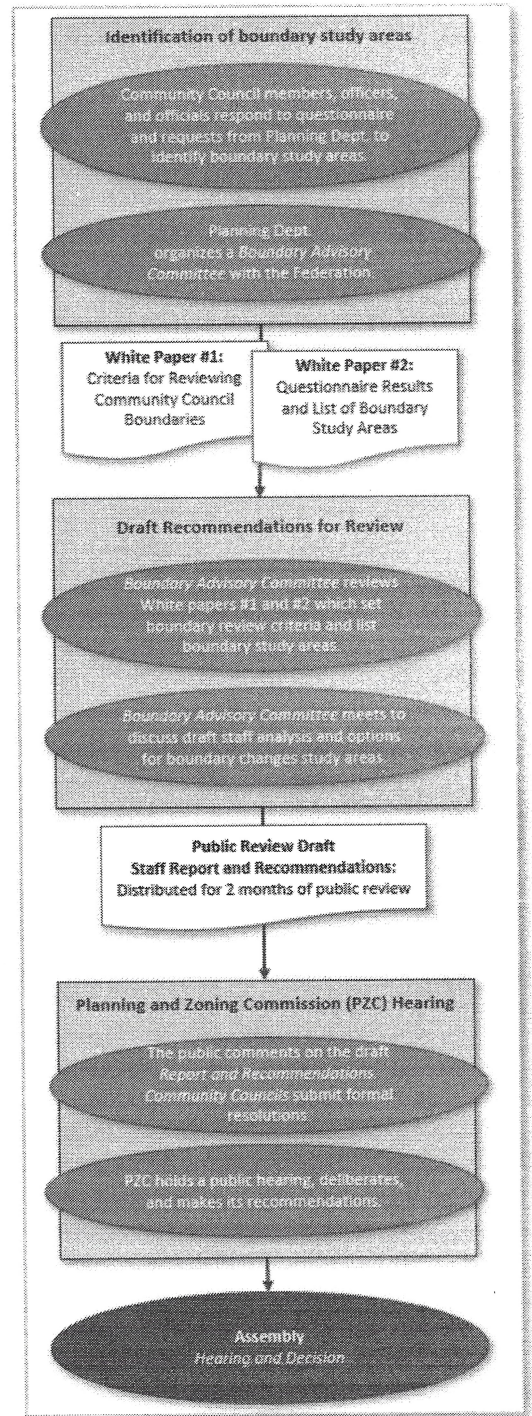
- **September:** Please introduce this topic at your September general membership and executive committee meetings. Assign members who will follow this project and report to your community council.
- **Last week of September:** Be on lookout for a public notice and emails to your officers announcing 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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September 2024 Community Council Update

Register to Vote: The 2024 General Election is on November 5th, and the registration deadline is October 6th. You can check your registration status at myvoterinformation.alaska.gov, additional information on this election can be found at elections.alaska.gov, and my office is here to help.

Internship Applications Open: No matter what the major is, UAA students may serve in my office, earn 12 credits and gain invaluable work experience that can supercharge their transition to a career after graduation. Applications are accepted online and are due at the end of October. Apply online with UAA's Department of Political Science.

Legislation Update:

- **SB 103** recently passed into law without the governor's signature. It allows law enforcement and first responders to receive mental health counseling from trained peers while protecting their privacy. This bill will give our first responders a safe and confidential way to talk about the most emotionally intense aspects of their work.
- **SB 159** also passed into law without the governor's signature. This bill designates the Friday before Memorial Day as Alaska Veteran's Poppy Day. The poppy became synonymous with the sacrifice of those who died in WW1 after it was seen growing all over the torn-up battlefields of the Western Front. It was immortalized in the poem "In Flanders' Fields," and is now a symbol of remembrance in over 120 countries.
- **HB 148**, which I carried in the Senate, raises the maximum amount for the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) by nearly 50% and extends eligibility to career and technical schools, part-time students, and those pursuing graduate studies. It also increases eligibility for APS by allowing students to qualify based on either a high GPA or test score, rather than requiring both. These changes are intended to retain more high-achieving students in Alaska.

Expanded Access to Foods Stamps and Health Care: Thanks to an amendment from Rep. Genevieve Mina and Sen. Cathy Giessel, the state will increase the income threshold for food stamp applicants and eliminate restrictions on owning certain assets, like a car or an emergency fund. Sen. Löki Tobin also amended the bill to allow schools to offer Medicaid-covered health services to students on-site. These policies will go into effect in July 2025.

HB 344 took effect without Gov. Mike Dunleavy's signature last week. I was proud to support both amendments on the floor, and the consideration of the bill through the committee process.

<https://tinyurl.com/SenDunbar-Newsletter>

Russian Jack Community Council: 2023 Capital Improvement Project list - DRAFT

Project	Criteria				Funds on hand?	Total Rubric Votes	Individual Votes: 10/4 system	Notes
	Safety Impact	Public Health & Impacts Quality of life & wellness	Aligns with other Plans and/or priorities w/ Community Councils					
Boniface Pkwy Pedestrian Improvements - west side of DeBarr Rd to 22nd Ave (10-22)	1	1	1	1	1	4		
Russian Jack Springs Park Trail & Bridge improvements <i>done</i>	0	1	1	1	1	3	<i>Still need trail work done</i>	
Northern Lights Blvd at Bragaw St Pedestrian Crossing Improvements	1	1	1	0	0	3		
E 20th Avenue - enhanced shared roadway from Russian Jack Spur Elementary School access gate to Rosemary Street	1	1	1	0	0	3	Language from AMATS Non-Motorized Plan. Connects to East High, may be Safe Route to	
Reka Drive Sidewalks Construction - Bragaw Street to Pine Street	1	1	1	1	0	3	Language from MTP2040 plan project #434	
Bragaw St at Penland Pkwy Traffic Safety Crossing	1	1	0	0	0	2		
6th Ave at Boniface Pkwy Separated east and west-bound left turn lane	1	1	0	0	0	2	May need to change this to 4th Avenue.	
Boniface Pkwy Access Management - Tudor Rd to Glenn Hwy	0	1	1	1	0	2		
Intersection (the T) of San Roberto and Lane - Pedestrian and Safety Upgrades	1	1	0	0	0	2		
School Pedestrian and Safety Upgrades	1	1	0	0	0	2	Review & refine	
Traffic Calming	1	1	0	0	0	2	Review & refine	
San Antonio Park	1	1	0	0	0	2		
Community Garden for Russian Jack Community	0	1	0	1	1	2		

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Rehabilitate roads in the area of 20th and 24th Avenues between Boniface Parkway and Glacier Street.	0	1	0	0	1		Kendra will look into which portions still need to be done. Update language.
Williwaw Park Upgrades	0	1	0	0	1		

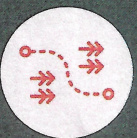
We believe in Anchorage, and believe we can do more to make Anchorage a better place to live, work and play. Project Anchorage will:



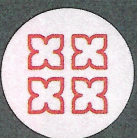
Lower property taxes



Ensure visitors contribute



Build new projects to improve our quality of life



Grow our economy

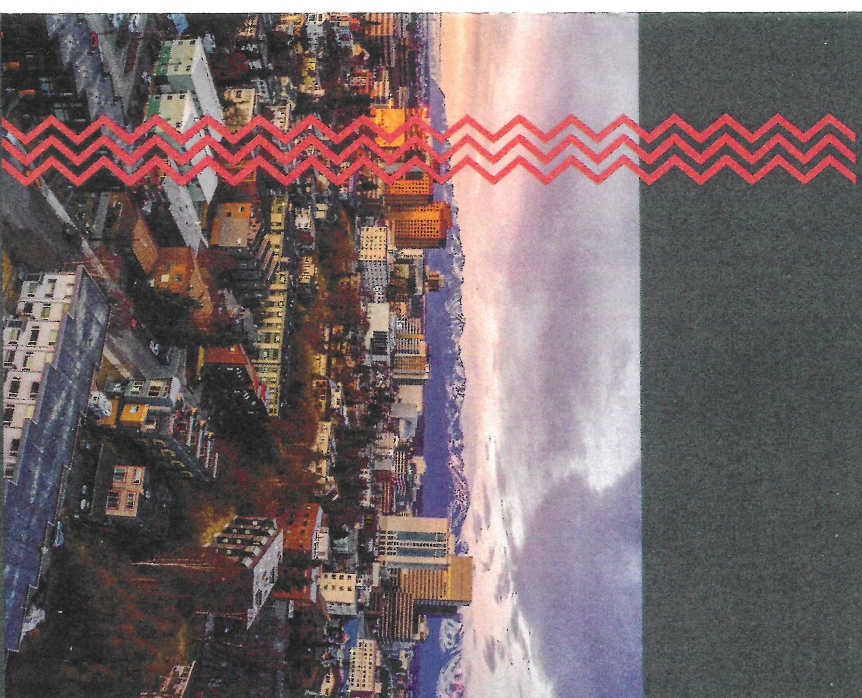
Our coalition

Project Anchorage is backed by a coalition of businesses and business organizations including:



Get in touch

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 🌐 projectanchorage.com



 PROJECT ANCHORAGE

Let's build a better Anchorage

Initiative Details

Project Anchorage is an initiative put forward by Anchorage residents and businesses and business leaders that would implement a 3% sales tax to be dedicated as follows:

- **Two thirds of the revenue would go dollar for dollar to lower property taxes**, increasing housing affordability and making Anchorage a more attractive place to live and do business.
- **One third of the revenue would fund projects** that make Anchorage a better place to live, work and play.

Open Call for Projects

What can we build together?

What do you want to see happen in Anchorage? We believe the best ideas

will come from Anchorage residents, and are soliciting project ideas. Projects will be selected completely

from ideas that come from Anchorage residents and ultimately voted on by Anchorage voters!



Submit your project idea
by September 15th, 2024



Fast facts

\$180m

Project Anchorage would generate **\$180 million** per year

20%

of the revenue from the sales tax would **come from visitors**

20%

Project Anchorage would result in a **20% reduction in property taxes**



The initiative would **exempt a variety of expenses including groceries, childcare, medical expenses, gasoline, and banking services**. The tax would apply **only** to the first \$1,000 of an eligible expense.



Learn more at
ProjectAnchorage.com