

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Subject: Letter on Chugach Way Design



To Christina Huber and DOT&PF Project Team:

We, the members of the Spenard Community Council (SCC), are writing to encourage a rapid design process for Chugach Way. The SCC has pushed to redesign this roadway for many years and are eager to reach a final design to finally reconstruct the roadway.

Already, the SCC has participated in two long planning studies on Chugach Way, so this next design phase should build on these studies with meaningful public engagement. For example, both studies included a design option with a multi-use pathway and a swale for snow storage (see attachment), but this design could be better constrained to the existing right-of-way, pedestrian safety, snow storage, and other practical considerations.

As the project team prepares to launch the design process in January 2025, the SCC offers these priorities for the neighborhood:

- **Meaningful public engagement:** Ensure public comment periods provide adequate time for understanding and comments, while balancing planning fatigue. Consider the SCC as a partner to also support public outreach and events for this project.
- **Design the road in context:** Use the Spenard Corridor Plan as the guiding document with other road design and planning processes occurring nearby on Spenard Road, Minnesota Drive, and long-term goals to daylight Fish Creek.
- **Stay within Right-of-Way:** Keep the design as close to the narrow right-of-way (30 feet) as possible, which may include burying electrical utilities.
- **Prioritize safe active transportation:** Chugach Way is heavily used by non-motorized travel, including school bus pick-ups, and should be given priority for safe year-round travel. Traffic calming, like raised intersections or stop signs, can also allow for safer driving speeds.
- **Design for snow:** The reality is that we need adequate snow storage since removal takes time, so the use of swales (landscape buffer) between the roadway and/or pathway is a simple solution.

This project is vital to the future of Spenard and will significantly enhance the quality of life for our residents with a focus on improving neighborhood connectivity, enhancing the appearance of our neighborhood, and increasing quality of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

President, Spenard Community Council

Date

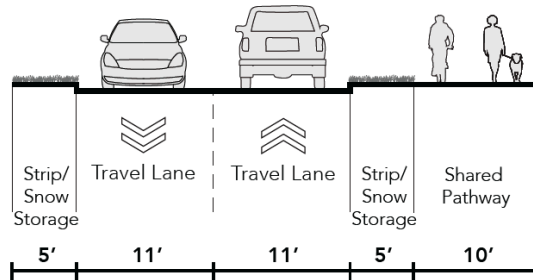
Passed with a vote of _____ approved, _____ opposed

Attachment: Example cross sections from 2019 and 2021 studies

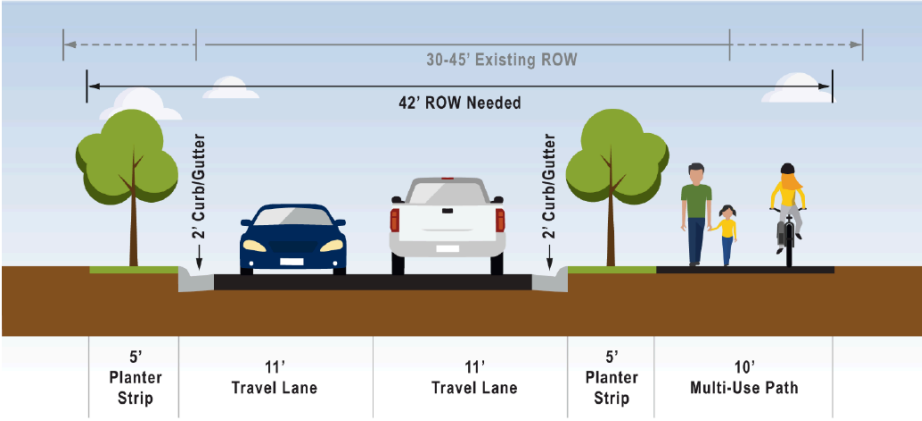
Option 1 cross-section from the 2019 Reconnaissance Study:

Option I

- » 12' added right of way
- » 11' travel lanes
- » 5' strips for landscaping, buffering and snow storage
- » 10' shared pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians on north side of Chugach Way



"Denali Peak" cross-section from the 2021 Elements Report.:



"Denali Peak" Cross-section Alternative

DRAFT