

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Subject: Letter to Assembly on Functional Classifications of Roadways in Spenard



Dear Anchorage Assembly,

We, the members of the Spenard Community Council (SCC), are writing to urge the reclassification of key roadways in Spenard.

The Official Streets and Highways Plan (OSHP) sets the rules for how roads are classified and what standards may be applied to them in the Design Criteria Manual (DCM). The DCM has not been updated since 2007 and the OSHP has not been updated since 2014 (AO 2014-63). Section 21.03.070 of Title 21 calls for the community to review and reassess the comprehensive plan and its elements every 10 years *“in order to make it consistent with economic and demographic trends, recent and proposed land use decisions, and adopted studies and plans.”*

Spenard Road

The SCC has had continued difficulties getting Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and muni Project Management & Engineering to implement the Spenard Corridor Plan as intended, based on the explanation that Spenard Road is an arterial. Spenard Road is classified as a Minor Arterial in the OSHP, but only carries at most 7,720 vehicles per day. The OSHP calls for arterials to be roads carrying 10,000 to 20,000 vehicles per day.

We would like to request that the Assembly fulfill the code and amend the OSHP to change the designation of Spenard Road from a Minor Arterial to some sort of designated collector. This would allow the plan to be implemented as intended.

Fireweed Lane

We would also encourage the Assembly to do the same with Fireweed Lane between Spenard Road and the Seward Highway, which is also designated as a minor arterial yet should be a collector. Fireweed Lane sees even less traffic.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

President, Spenard Community Council

Date

Passed with a vote of _____ approved, _____ opposed