

Spenard Community Council
1057 West Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, AK 99503



December 4, 2024

Dear Midtown District Plan Steering Committee,

In continued work towards the Midtown District Plan (MTDP), Spenard Community Council (SCC) asks that the Spenard Corridor Plan, authorized by the West Anchorage District Plan adopted on July 10, 2012 by AO 2012-47 as amended and adopted as its own plan on September 15, 2020 by AO 2020-74, be incorporated into the Midtown District Plan where Spenard is geographically represented. To further that effort, SCC also asks that the following Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Action Items be included:

Vision:

From the Spenard Corridor Plan: Spenard will be seamlessly connected to neighboring districts such as Midtown and Turnagain, contributing to the livability of the city as a whole. New multi-story buildings that provide retail, employment and housing opportunities for existing and new residents will blend with existing buildings in a manner that maintains the eclectic character of the neighborhood while expanding the vibrancy of Spenard. Growing vitality will contribute to a feeling of safety by providing “eyes on the street” and this, in turn, will support high frequency transit service and potential commuter rail transit.

Goal 1: Support Transit and Increase Ridership

Action: Design transit stops and hubs to facilitate efficient and comfortable bus use to include umbrella-style shelter, seating, trash can, and secure bicycle racks.

Action: Improve transit service along the Spenard Corridor by increasing the frequency of bus service throughout the Corridor to a minimum of 30 minutes.

Goal 2: Recognize Spenard as a Destination

Action: Cope Street & Wilson Street Park Improvements

Action: Promote development of gateways and enhancement of key intersections

Goal 4: Enhance and Protect Neighborhoods Surrounding Spenard Road

Action: Design and upgrade Chugach Way from Spenard Rd to Arctic Blvd as a facility for multimodal transit

Action: Put all parcels in the Spenard Corridor on the Municipal water system

Goal 5: Create Great Public Streets

Action: Place and maintain public trash cans no further than at each intersection in the Spenard Corridor

Action: Redesign both Northern Lights Boulevard and Benson Boulevard to two way streets and remove the couplet.

Action: Design facilities classified as Minor Arterials and smaller as Complete Streets

Action: Redesign Fireweed Lane from Spenard Road to the New Seward Highway for multimodal transit, including buffers no smaller than 2 feet between non-motorized and motorized transit lanes

Goal 8: Create a Safe Pedestrian and Bike Network

Action: Remove Minnesota Drive from the National Highway System

Action: Remove Tudor Road from the National Highway System

Action: Lane reductions on Northern Lights and Benson Blvd for safer active transportation

Action: Update all intersections to allow for non-motorized crossing at all points.

Action: Create marked and signaled crosswalks across lanes designed for motorized transit at a distance no further than 0.2 miles.

Action: Create diagonal crossing opportunities at intersections that involve facilities classified as Minor Arterials or larger

Action: Create East-West bicycle connectivity between the UMED district and Spenard Road

Action: Redesignate functional classifications where inappropriate.

Goal 9: Integrate Fish Creek (Ch'atanaltsegh Liq'aka Betnu) as a Centerpiece for Spenard

Action: Daylight Fish Creek, generally from Cuddy Family Park through Chugach Way, and across Minnesota Drive at 40th Avenue.

Goal 10: Accommodate Safe and Balanced Roadway Access

Action: Design and upgrade Spenard Road from Benson Blvd to Minnesota Dr for multimodal transit, including buffers no smaller than 2 feet between non-motorized and motorized transit lanes

Action: Rehabilitate 36th Avenue to include lower design speed. Redesignate the functional classification if necessary.

Goal 11: Accommodate and Manage Parking

Action: Incentivize shared parking lots in the Spenard Corridor through a tax abatement program.

Action: Manage ROW for community priorities.

Goal 12: Design for Year-Round Use

Action: Transportation routes scheduled for upgrade shall include an enhancement or buffer zone of no less than 4 feet between the lanes for motorized and non-motorized transit to allow for a safe distance between transit modes and snow storage.

Goal 13: Prioritize Sustainability and Resilience

Action: Mixed-use buildings and other non-residential development along the corridors shall be sited and designed to sensitively transition to adjacent single-family properties. Corridor development must strategically arrange site features, integrate architectural elements and include site design elements that reduce impacts on abutting single-family properties.

Action: Reduce operational impacts of noise and odor, minimize the presence of looming walls that impact privacy and ensure adequate solar access to sensitive properties are all key factors to consider.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sarah Preskitt, President
Spenard Community Council

December 4, 2024
Date

Approved by a vote of 12 in favor, 2 opposed