

Turnagain Community Council
c/o Breck Tostevin, President
3340 Knik Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99517

May 11, 2009

sent via email: holmesba@muni.org

Mr. Bruce Holmes
Office of Management & Budget
632 W. 6th Ave, Room #860
Anchorage, AK 99501

**RE: Turnagain Community Council 2009 Capital Project
Rankings**

Dear Mr. Holmes:

Attached please find the Turnagain Community Council 2009 Capital Improvement Project Rankings adopted at our May 7, 2009 meeting. If you have any questions concerning these ranks please feel free to contact me (tccpresident@yahoo.com or 269-5282).

Sincerely,



Breck Tostevin
President, Turnagain Community Council

cc: Assembly Member Harriet Drummond
Acting Mayor Matt Claman
Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Senator Hollis French

Community Council Survey 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS NEEDS LIST

*** RANK EACH DEPT/CATEGORY SEPARATELY ***

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	PRIORITY RANK
Turnagain	Rank #
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION	
LYN ARY PARK	3
MARGARET EAGAN SULLIVAN PARK (WESTCHESTER LAGOON)	6
TONY KNOWLES COASTAL TRAIL TO FISH CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION	5
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING	
35th Ave/McRae St Upgrade - Wisconsin St to Spenard Rd	2
Borland St/Turnagain Blvd Area Flooding and Glaciation	6
Fish Creek Improvements - Cook Inlet to Lake Otis Pkwy	8
Lakeshore Dr Extension/Upgrade - Aero Ave to Wisconsin St	11
Milky Way Dr Surface Rehab - Aero Ave to Wisconsin St	9
Northern Lights Blvd Pedestrian Connection - Lois Dr west to Captain Cook Estates Cir	4
Northern Lights Blvd Upgrade Phase IV - Postmark Dr to Nathaniel Ct	Delete
Turnagain Area Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements	3
Turnagain Blvd Upgrade - 35th Ave to Spenard Rd	5
Turnagain Pkwy Surface Rehab - Iliamna Ave to Northern Lights Blvd	10
Turnagain St Upgrade - Northern Lights Blvd to 35th Ave	1
West High and Romig Middle Schools Access and Circulation	7
STATE OF ALASKA	
Hillcrest Dr Off-Ramp Surface Rehab - Minnesota Dr to Hillcrest Dr	1
Minnesota Dr Northbound Expansion - 16th Ave to 26th Ave	Delete
Northern Lights Blvd @ Minnesota Dr Pedestrian Safety & Capacity Improvements (HSIP)	See Com-ments
Northern Lights Blvd Rut Repair - Minnesota Dr to Wisconsin St	2

See additional comments

See comments

See comments

LIST SHOULD INCLUDE ALL KNOWN NEEDS INCLUDING THOSE ALREADY IDENTIFIED FOR FUNDING IN MOA BUDGETS

Community Council Survey

2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS NEEDS LIST

*** RANK EACH DEPT/CATEGORY SEPARATELY ***

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	PRIORITY RANK
Turnagain	Rank #
STATE OF ALASKA	
Northern Lights Blvd Sound Barrier Fence along Churchill Dr	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Point Woronzoff Dr Upgrade - Postmark Dr to west end	<input type="text" value="Delete"/>

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2010 Capital Projects Needs List —
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION
Adopted at TCC May 7, 2009 Meeting**

1. **Coastal Trail Buffer/Greenbelt Acquisition (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Acquire undeveloped land and conservation easements on non-municipal properties west of Lyn Ary Park to Earthquake Park for protected Coastal Trail greenbelt designation. Because the city is constructing road access to this land, it is a high priority that the city identify and acquire any available land before it is cleared and developed for housing.
2. **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Rehabilitation (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Rehabilitate, through bio-engineering improvements, to address erosion/drainage and deterioration along the trail.
3. **Lyn Ary Park** — TCC hopes to finalize a Master Plan in 2009. Leverage 2006 and 2008 State Legislative Grants to provide safety upgrades to trails, parking, turf, signage, landscaping, playground and tennis court facilities. Projects that have been discussed in the past include: redesign access trail access to Coastal Trail due to road construction, redesign sledding hill for safe use, replace perimeter bollards with lower maintenance materials, upgrade parking lot, resurface tennis court.
4. **Earthquake Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Install low-level parking lot lighting and security cameras. Upgrade landscaping.
5. **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Fish Creek Trail Connection** — TCC supports this project, but emphasizes that any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts as well as impacts to creek and adjacent riparian habitat.
6. **Margaret Sullivan Park (Westchester Lagoon)** — Projects include a children's play area, safety upgrades to the Trail Watch Headquarters, trail safety improvements, parking, lighting and winter access improvements. TCC supports these projects, but desires no/minimal vegetation removal to ensure the aesthetic/habitat quality of the park are preserved.
7. **Pt. Woronzof Park (ADDITION TO LIST)**— Park signage along the Coastal Trail and Pt. Woronzof Road identifying park boundaries, so the public knows it is parkland, not airport land. If this can be done through other means than the CIP process, please inform TCC how this can be accomplished.
8. **Lloyd Steel/Balto Seppala Parks (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Design and construction of a multi-use trail that would surround and connect both parks using the board walk that will be constructed summer of 2009, as per the TCC-approved conceptual Master Plan for the two parks.

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2010 Capital Projects Needs List —
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING
Adopted at TCC May 7, 2009 Meeting**

1. **Turnagain St. Upgrade – W. Northern Lights Blvd. to 35th Ave.** — Upgrade using Context Sensitive Design. Curbs, drainage, pedestrian facilities on at least one side of road, and landscaping. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
2. **35th Avenue and McRae St. Upgrade – Wisconsin St. to Spenard Rd.** — TCC supports the project contingent upon agreements in site design, traffic calming features, landscaping, and property acquisition between the Municipality and the 35th & McRae Neighbors for a Safe Community group.
3. **Turnagain Area Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements** — TCC supports implementation of projects identified in the Traffic Calming Study completed in 2006 and the specific designs TCC has approved working with PM&E and consultants.
4. **West Northern Lights Blvd. Pedestrian Improvements – Lois Dr. west to Captain Cook Estates Cir.** — TCC supports this project in the form of a walkway, as recommended in the Anchorage Pedestrian Plan that we commented on in 2008. Because of the constraints of the area, a narrower walkway, rather than a sidewalk, is appropriate. We do want to make sure that any design does not impair/impact Fish Creek in this immediate area. *(Please note, the problem description on the CIP list refers to the north side and it should be the SOUTH side.)*
5. **Turnagain Blvd . Upgrade – 35th Avenue to Spenard Rd.** — Upgrade using Context Sensitive Design. Curbs, drainage, pedestrian facilities on east side of road to connect with trail through Fish Creek Park; if room, sidewalk on west side. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
6. **Borland St./Turnagain Blvd. Area Flooding and Glaciation** — Identify and construct drainage improvements. TCC supports this maintenance-identified project. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
7. **West High and Romig Middle Schools Access and Circulation** — Design and construct access and circulation improvements, as per Master Plan that is now being developed.
8. **Fish Creek Improvements – Cook Inlet to Lake Otis** — TCC supports water quality and drainage capacity improvement projects for the entire stretch of Fish Creek, including daylighting the creek wherever possible.
9. **Milky Way Drive Surface Rehab – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin St.** — Rehabilitate existing pavement and repair deteriorating curbs.
10. **Turnagain Parkway Surface Rehabilitation – Illiamna Ave. to Northern Lights Blvd.** — The existing road condition is fine; this is a low priority for TCC.

11. **Lakeshore Dr. Extension/Upgrade – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin** — Aero Ave. currently does not extend down to Lakeshore Dr. and the Corps of Engineers denied a wetland permit to extend this road, so TCC feels this project is questionable. Also, during the airport's General Aviation Master Plan public process, TCC learned that the Heritage Land Bank has had discussions with Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport with regard to the airport acquiring the western portion of Lakeshore Dr. TCC requests more information on this proposal and also how this CIP project would integrate with that potential airport acquisition.

TCC Again Requests that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List (except for the pavement overlay planned for 2009):

Northern Lights Boulevard Upgrade Phase IV – Postmark Drive to Nathaniel Court

TCC has consistently requested the deletion of this project from the CIP list and we will continue to oppose any upgrade to this section of W. Northern Lights. Specifically, we oppose: 1) pedestrian amenities along the road, as the public is well served by the existing Earthquake Park Trail and Coastal Trail; 2) widening of existing lanes or shoulders or lane additions; 3) clearing of existing vegetation or filling of wetlands; and 4) upgrades to accommodate airport-generated traffic from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport North Airpark and West Airpark onto WNL, which negatively impacts the Turnagain residential neighborhood.

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2010 Capital Projects Needs List —
STATE OF ALASKA
Adopted at TCC May 7, 2009 Meeting**

1. **Hillcrest Off-Ramp – Minnesota Dr. to Hillcrest Dr.** — Replace pavement or overlay pavement due to deterioration.
2. **W. Northern Lights Blvd. Rut Repair — Minnesota Dr. to Wisconsin St.** — Overlay or resurface the existing roadway.
3. **W. Northern Lights Blvd. Sound Barrier Fence along Churchill Dr.** — While TCC is on record supporting this project in concept, we have not re-addressed this project for quite some time. Appropriate design and minimal existing vegetation disturbance are essential during implementation and maintenance responsibility needs to be clarified.

TCC Requests More Information on the Following Project Before We Can Assign Any Ranking:

Northern Lights Blvd. @ Minnesota Dr. Pedestrian Safety & Capacity Improvements (HSIP) — While we can see how this would improve pedestrian safety at this hazardous intersection (pedestrian safety has been compromised with the addition of the dedicated right-hand turn lane onto WNL from southbound Minnesota in 2006), TCC would like more information and traffic modeling study results to see how adding two left-hand turn lanes and eliminating the left/thru lane would impact thru traffic to the west on WNL (i.e., how would it affect traffic in the south thru lane east of the intersection – would it back up significantly more than it does now at rush hour?).

TCC Requests that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List:

Point Woronzof Dr. Upgrade – Postmark Dr. to west end — TCC consistently opposes any upgrade to this road, including the same four items listed for Phase IV-Postmark Dr. to Nathaniel Ct. In addition, the bluff at Pt. Woronzof is experiencing a high rate of erosion, resulting in reduction of the land mass between the fenced-in area at the end of the North/South runway and the bluff. In order to protect the integrity of the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail (which has already had to be relocated inland in this area due to erosion), any removal of vegetation associated with an upgraded road project could accelerate the erosion and further jeopardize the trail.

Minnesota Dr. Northbound Expansion – 16th Ave. to 26th Ave. — This road needs a new overlay due to deteriorating pavement, but TCC is on record opposing this project and submitted comments September 26, 2005, during the Long-Range Transportation Plan comment period. Following is a summary of those comments:

Even though this proposed road project is not located within Turnagain Community Council boundaries, Turnagain residents use this road as their major thoroughfare to

downtown from our neighborhood — impacts associated with this proposal would far outweigh any benefit.

There is no demonstrated need for this additional lane; traffic flows relatively smoothly along this stretch of Minnesota, even during rush hour, except when road conditions during bad weather deteriorate, then it slows down. It seems that's a good thing; bad road conditions should warrant a slow down, especially in that curved area at Westchester Lagoon.

There is no readily available land to add a third lane from 26th Ave. to 16th Ave., so drastic, costly, and parkland-degrading measures would need to be taken to accommodate any widening of the road — let alone the addition of a sidewalk and pathway, as would likely be included in the project description.

This proposal runs contrary to goals in the Long-Range Transportation Plan: "Develop an attractive and efficient transportation network that takes into account the cost of building, operating, and maintaining a system that considers the equity of all users, and the secondary costs associated with all other community values." And, "Balance the project purpose with landscaping and other aesthetic considerations." There's already important buffering between a busy road and residential areas that would have to be removed to make room for another lane along this stretch of Minnesota Dr., and removal of naturally vegetated parkland and filling of a portion of the lagoon would certainly degrade the aesthetics of the area.