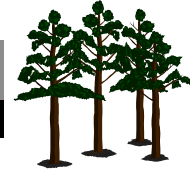




## Rabbit Creek Community Council

1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99503



May 31, 2017

Municipality of Anchorage  
Office Of Management and Budget  
Lance Wilber, Director  
632 W 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage AK 99501

Re: Community Council Survey on 2018 CIP priorities

Dear Budget Director:

At a meeting on May 11, Rabbit Creek Community Council approved the following ratings and comments on the capital improvement projects (CIP) listed in the Office of Management and Budget's 2018 CIP community survey.

In addition to these comments, RCCC will also complete the OMB's online ranking survey. The online ranking exercise does not provide for detailed input. Therefore, this letter provides analysis from Council members to help the budget team evaluate the public benefits of each project. Please note that RCCC has requested deletion of several projects that appear to be ill-timed or a waste of money, and has added one project to the CIP wish list: Old Rabbit Creek Road repairs.

### **Rabbit Creek Capital Project Priorities**

#### **Category: Project Management and Engineering**

Important and needed now to relieve existing problems

- Chugach State Park Access Improvements – Needed to relieve several neighborhoods of ever-growing problems of overflow parking, blocked emergency access, and neighborhood safety. This project delivers citywide benefits by meeting burgeoning demand for access to trailheads.

Beneficial but not urgent

- Mountain Air Drive extension – will provide secondary ingress & egress to new subdivisions in case of wildfire or other disasters, and will reduce

congestion and the hazardous turning situation during Bear Valley School's peak traffic periods.

- Potter Valley Road Surface rehab – Old Seward Hwy to Greece Drive: RCCC requests deletion of the statement that the road surface is “standing up better than expected.” Instead, note that a surge in road and new home construction has resulted in increased large-vehicle traffic and cracking of the pavement. Ongoing subdivision construction will continue to stress the road surface.
- Golden View Drive Intersection and Safety Upgrades – Rabbit Creek Road to Romania Drive. Rabbit Creek requests editing of this title. The project does not appear to include the intersection, since that is part of the DOT&PF roadway. Delete the words “Intersection and”. The road upgrades would create a safer and less-congested school zone, including a pedestrian pathway, which is a goal of the Council; but the intersection is the greatest safety hazard and that has not been included in this project.

Less important/beneficial, or not needed

- Golden View Drive/ Buffalo St/Elmore Rd/145<sup>th</sup> Ave Area Chip Seal Surfacing – these roads have existing chip seal. Surfaces that are “too smooth” encourage some drivers to speed, creating safety hazards.

Add this project

- Old Rabbit Creek Road drainage and pavement repairs – a portion of this road is cracked and eroding and buckling heavily. A near-term repair will avoid costly rebuilding later.

Delete these projects

- Little Rabbit Creek Flooding and Glaciation Improvements – no problems with this creek have been reported to the Council
- Golden View Drive Connection (west) - Romania Drive to Potter Valley Road – this project would accelerate development of several large tracts and worsen the traffic hazards on currently substandard roads, including Golden View Drive, Potter Valley Road, and the Old Seward Highway. The Hillside District Plan Policy 9E states that public funding should not be spent on new infrastructure until existing substandard infrastructure is upgraded.
- 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue Upgrade – Golden View Drive to Betty Street – RCCC has requested deletion of this project for the past five years. It would misappropriate several million dollars of public funds to resolve a drainage

issue on two private lots, attributable to poor platting. In addition, the LRSA located downhill from this project would be stuck unfairly with maintenance costs for the drainage system. This is waste of taxpayers' money.

## **Rabbit Creek Capital Project Priorities**

### **Category: State of Alaska**

Important and needed now to relieve existing problems

- Rabbit Creek Road upgrade – Seward Hwy to Golden View Drive - This stretch of road has the highest traffic speeds and the worst record of crashes and fatalities on our Council area. Traffic volumes are high in all seasons.
- Golden View and Rabbit Creek Road intersection improvement – This intersection has had high-speed T-bone type crashes. Pedestrian and bike crossings are very hazardous because of the intersection width and high speeds. Congestion is mostly during mornings on school days.

Beneficial but not urgent

- Old Seward Highway upgrade – Rabbit Creek Road to Potter Valley Road –this road needs total reconstruction. There are poor sight lines, periodic flooding and glaciation near the pump station, severely cracked pavement, and no shoulders. There is a serious hazard from pedestrians and cyclists sharing the traffic lane with vehicles. RCCC has long-recommended that this roadway be designed as a parkway or country lane that integrated into the east side of Potter Marsh, with traffic calming features and safe non-motorized pathway(s) that serve recreationists and are compatible with the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Refuge.
- DeArmoun Road Upgrade Phase II - 140th Ave to Hillside Drive  
This road has a steep, hazardous curve and poor sightlines. However, the previous proposal for re-design intruded on the rural character and required several eminent domain acquisitions.

Less important, less beneficial, or not needed

- Elmore Road at Rabbit Creek Road intersection—This is a high hazard intersection because of poor sight lines, but aggressive enforcement of speed limits could resolve some of the danger.
- Abbott Road/Hillside Drive Trail – Rabbit Creek Road to Seward Hwy—  
There is a serious safety need for a non-motorized pathway but it seems

unlikely that this project can be built efficiently before the road is upgraded.

Delete this project

- Old Seward Highway rut repair - Potter Valley Road to Rabbit Creek Road – The pavement is degraded by heaving and cracking, but the State is wasting money to repave every year without fixing the road base. In addition, the rough surface serves to slow vehicles, which slightly decreases the risks of pedestrians and cyclists who must share the traffic lanes (because there are no shoulders).

**Rabbit Creek Capital Project Priorities**

**Category: Parks and Recreation**

Important and needed now to relieve existing problems

Campbell Creek Greenbelt – The broken bridge requires replacement and much of the trail is hazardous because of root damage. This trail is a city-wide asset and a commuter connection.

Section 36 Park Improvements – The Southeast hillside is deficient in developed parks. This high-elevation park is a needed venue for winter recreation, which has high public health and tourism benefits.

Beneficial but not urgent

- Coastal Trail Bridge repair and Replacement – this is a safety issue, important to the use of our best-known and most-used trail. This trail is a city-wide asset and signature tourism attraction.
- Tony Knowles Coastal Trail erosion –Connectivity to the natural coastal setting is an economic and public health asset. This trail is a city-wide asset and signature tourism attraction.
- TAP – Transportation alternatives. The Hillside has an untapped asset: numerous platted but undeveloped pedestrian easements that can provide neighborhood connectivity and encourage walking instead of driving. These easements require surveying and signage to be put to use.

- Community Garden Site Selection, etc. – This investment, targeted to Downtown, Midtown, and neighborhood centers, makes higher-density living attractive. It supports our comprehensive land use plan goals of encouraging infill and redevelopment. It attracts people to Anchorage as a “live, work, play” city.
- Dog Park Site Selection, etc. - This investment, targeted to Downtown, Midtown, and neighborhood centers, makes higher-density living attractive. It supports our comprehensive land use plan goals of encouraging infill and redevelopment. It attracts people to Anchorage as a “live, work, play” city.

Less important, less beneficial, or not needed

- Wayfinding – There are already trail maps, kiosks, and cell phone applications to guide recreationists. The need for this project is not clear to our Council members.
- Forest Health and Park Safety – This should be a maintenance cost and not a capital budget allocation.
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please let RCCC know if you have questions about our input.

Sincerely,  
Adam Lees, Chair

CC: Assembly representatives John Weddleton and Suzanne LaFrance, Rep. Jennifer Johnston, Sen. Cathy Giesel