



Ann Rappoport <annr.rccc@gmail.com>

RE: Request for Old Seward Highway Traffic Calming from RCCC

1 message

Junge, Wolfgang E (DOT) <wolfgang.junge@alaska.gov>

Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 10:32 AM

To: Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>

Cc: "Weddleton, John" <john.weddleton@anchorageak.gov>, Suzanne LaFrance <suzanne.lafrance@anchorageak.gov>, "mayor@muni.org" <mayor@muni.org>, "Meehan, Joe (DFG)" <joe.meehan@alaska.gov>, Brooke Blessing <brooke.blessing@anchorageak.gov>, Ann Rappoport <annr.rccc@gmail.com>, "Pease, Nancy" <nancypease2@gmail.com>, RCCC-Jess Grunblatt <jessg.rccc@gmail.com>, Judy Michaels <judym.rccc@gmail.com>, Dianne Holmes <dianneholmes@alaska.net>, "McCarthy, Shannon K (DOT)" <shannon.mccarthy@alaska.gov>, "Ferguson, Cynthia L (DOT)" <cynthia.ferguson@alaska.gov>, "Thomas, Scott E (DOT)" <scott.thomas@alaska.gov>, "Rotkis, Diana L (DOT)" <diana.rotkis@alaska.gov>

Dear Co-Chairs Rappoport and Holland:

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about the Old Seward Highway south of Rabbit Creek.

A traffic study is currently underway in which we have gathered driving data during the month of July and August, along with pavement condition assessment, current signage, speed and geometry. We will still need to gather additional radar or speed data of motorists in the next summer.

Regarding lowering of the posted speed limits, while lower speeds do reduce the severity of crashes, it may not be prudent or effective to do so. Lowering the speed limit can in fact worsen, rather than improve conditions if the public does not perceive it as credible, not to mention enforced. Often direct and credible warning signs actually change driver behavior and improve actual conditions. Studies have shown us that motorists do not rely solely speed limit signs alone, but rather a combination of factors, including line of sight, driveways and activity levels (perceived conflicts), pavement conditions, clear zones (or lack thereof) and road geometry, ergo why occasionally our signing efforts are educational in nature, not prescriptive.

The department installs all required signs along our state maintained roads and highways—where sight distance or other conditions limit knowledge of conditions evident to drivers and non-motorized users. Additional optional signs, such as a "Share the Road" signs are intended to encourage and educate drivers and are often the result of extensive coordination with local governments.

This discussion is timely as the department is starting to develop the paving project for this section of the Old Seward scheduled for 2023. Paving projects are limited in what they can include—as they are meant to address aging pavement, drainage problems, and other items associated with the existing road such as signage and striping. It cannot change the alignment, or result in additional footprint of the existing roadway. These projects can, however, install more signage relevant to road conditions, including signs if they are part of an agreement with the local government.

We look forward to working with the Rabbit Creek Community Council on these issues over the next year.

Sincerely,

From: Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 3:07 PM
To: Junge, Wolfgang E (DOT) <wolfgang.junge@alaska.gov>
Cc: Weddleton, John <john.weddleton@anchorageak.gov>; Suzanne LaFrance <suzanne.lafrance@anchorageak.gov>; mayor@muni.org; Meehan, Joe (DFG) <joe.meehan@alaska.gov>; Brooke Blessing <brooke.blessing@anchorageak.gov>; Ann Rappoport <annr.rccc@gmail.com>; Pease, Nancy <nancypease2@gmail.com>; RCCC-Jess Grunblatt <jessg.rccc@gmail.com>; Judy Michaels <judym.rccc@gmail.com>; Dianne Holmes <dianneholmes@alaska.net>
Subject: Request for Old Seward Highway Traffic Calming from RCCC

Mr. Junge,

Please see the attached letter from the Rabbit Creek Community Council regarding concerns over mixed use and hazards on the section of Old Seward Highway south of Rabbit Creek Road.

Best regards,

Ky Holland
CoChair, RCCC
907 7272735