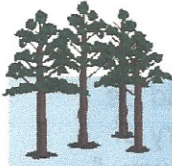


Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)

A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

August 18, 2022

To: AMATS Policy Committee via Aaron Jongenelen

Re: Requesting revisions to final AMATS TIP 2023-2026 for August 25th Policy Committee meeting

In May 2022, Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) submitted comments to the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) staff, regarding the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

We want to particularly thank AMATS staff for incorporating one of our key requests, by revising the project description for RDY0005 Rabbit Creek Road Reconstruction (Seward Highway to Goldenvue Drive), so that it will “look at left turn accommodations where possible” and not lock into the concept of a center turn lane. Our Council favors left turn pockets, not a continuous center lane.

Additionally, with the final vote on the TIP scheduled for the August 25th Policy Committee meeting, RCCC would like to emphasize a few of our earlier comments.

RDY0005 Rabbit Creek Road

RDY0005 still needs revision regarding non-motorized improvements. The current language is to “include non-motorized improvements where possible.” Please change this to, “include separated non-motorized improvements.” Rabbit Creek Road is a very high-volume major collector, with vehicles commonly traveling at 55 mph despite the posted limit of 45 mph. With those speeds, the shoulder is simply not safe for pedestrians nor most bicyclists.

PLN00018 Recreational Trails Plan

Please change the title of this plan to “Recreational and Utilitarian Trails Plan.” Also, we request that the statement of purpose be expanded to make it clear that some trails serve commuter or travel purposes, and will therefore be eligible for active transportation construction and maintenance funding.

We suggest adding to the project description: “Plan for direct, safe, low-stress routes and crossings for utilitarian travel between neighborhoods and community destinations, as a convenient alternative to motorized transportation.”

PLN00019 Non-Motorized Facilities Inventory

While we are excited that this inventory is included in the TIP, we believe it would be significantly more useful if the project description is amended to include inventory of non-motorized easements, pedestrian rights-of-way, and undeveloped rights-of-way." Anchorage has numerous platted public easements, pathway tracts, and rights-of-way (ROW) that have never been developed. These undeveloped easements are depicted on Municipal plats but have never been compiled into a data base for purposes of transportation planning, yet they offer important and direct connections between neighborhoods and destinations (for example, connecting between cul-de-sacs).

Pedestrian and bicycle connections can be shorter, safer, and healthier if developed along pedestrian easements and non-motorized ROW and not just along main roadways. The Municipality's Public Works Department recently verified through the legal department that undeveloped easements and ROW are available for non-motorized connectivity (Lance Wilber, August 8, 2022).

Fund a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions reduction plan

RCCC and numerous other commenters on the MTP 2040 requested monitoring and reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG). AMATS staff pledged in the MTP Comment Response to pursue GHG studies in future planning efforts. While thus acknowledging the necessity of such studies, AMATS did not nominate any GHG planning efforts for the TIP. Funding should not be delayed any longer: the Anchorage Climate Action Plan sets a target of 40 percent reduction of GHG in the Municipality by 2030. Anchorage cannot meet that target by waiting until the next TIP.

Therefore, RCCC again respectfully requests funding for a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring and Reduction Plan for the Anchorage transportation system. This should be a quantitative study that will identify strategies and actions to reduce emissions and meet our Climate Action Plan targets.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our Council's requests.



Ann Rappoport, Co-Chair

cc: Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly
Randy Sulte, Anchorage Assembly