

February 29, 2024

Eagle River Valley Community Council  
Federation of Community Councils  
1057 W Fireweed Ln, Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Updates to AMATS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

### **Eagle River Road Rehabilitation**

The Eagle River Valley Community Council (ERVCC) would like to express its strong objection to the recent removal of RDY00017 Eagle River Road Rehabilitation from the current 2023-2026 TIP Amendment.

When the project was initially identified, the cost fell within the AMATS funding range. Given delays and cost increases, AMATS is removing the project from the TIP as it is now deemed too expensive. To add insult to injury, the now \$60 million project has been replaced with a potential \$2.5 million Eagle River Road Pathway, but only *if funding should become available*.

Eagle River Road is a critical connector for Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) residents living within the ERVCC boundary area. The portion of Eagle River Road from Mile 5.3 to the Eagle River Nature Center was rehabilitated in 2012-2013, and it was anticipated that improvements to the section between MP 0 to 5.3 would begin immediately thereafter.

The portion of Eagle River Road from MP 0 to 5.3 has narrow shoulders, drainage issues, multiple driveway and road access points, poor lighting, and pavement failures. It is unsafe for pedestrians and other non-motorized users.

Rather than removing the project from the TIP, the ERVCC strongly requests AMATS replace funding for Eagle River Road Rehabilitation project Milepoint 0 to 5.3 (Old Glenn Highway to Oriedner Road) with an updated design to include a separated pathway for non-motorized users and provide a safe path to Ravenwood Elementary School. If necessary for funding purposes, this project could be split into two phases (MP 0 to Eagle River Loop and Eagle River Loop to Oriedner, for example). The project's complete removal, however, is unjustifiable - especially given Eagle River's relative lack of transportation funding investments relative to other areas within the Municipality of Anchorage.

### **Hiland Road Interchange**

ERVCC also encourages AMATS and DOT&PF reconsider delaying NHS0010 Glenn Highway and Hiland Road Interchange Preservation and Operational Improvements past FY 2028. This interchange is used by Southfork and ERVCC area residents as the primary access to the Glenn Highway and is the sole access to the MOA's landfill. Pavement over the bridge and on

the entrance and exit ramps is failing, and, as Eagle River continues to grow, additional capacity should be added to the southbound entrance ramp. We encourage interchange improvements be considered holistically along with improvements at Artillery Road to complement previous DOT&PF improvements on the Glenn Highway between Hiland and Artillery roads and the Eagle River bridges.

### **Artillery Road Interchange**

Separately, and just as critically, ERVCC would like to advocate for improvements at the Artillery Road interchange. This project is another example of stalled investments in Eagle River infrastructure. Improvements at the Artillery Road Interchange would benefit not only local residents but would support efficient movement of goods and people at the regional level. This project was originally funded in 2011 and 2012, and design stalled at 65% in 2017. We encourage AMATS, MOA, and DOT&PF to use the remaining state grant funds and develop a path forward to raise the bridge ceiling over the Glenn Highway, improve circulation for vehicles entering and exiting the highway from Artillery Road, and provide safe pedestrian access.

Sincerely,



Julie Jessen  
President, Eagle River Valley Community Council



Joy Webb  
Secretary, Eagle River Valley Community Council