

Turnagain Community Council Safe Routes To School Committee

Planning for improved pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle safety around the West-Romig campus

September 2014

WHO is involved in this effort?

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Committee is part of the Turnagain Community Council. Members of the committee live along Forest Park Drive, Esquire Drive, Hillcrest Drive, Arlington Drive, and elsewhere in Turnagain.

To date, we have reached out to:

- Anchorage School District
- West and Romig Principals
- Traffic Engineering Division, Municipality of Anchorage
- Anchorage Parks Foundation
- West High Parent-Teacher-Student Association
- Neighbors and potentially affected households in the West-Romig area

WHAT is proposed?

We're proposing a variety of upgrades to pedestrian routes around the West-Romig campus, within the Turnagain Community Council area. We've identified nine projects that would improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. The committee focused on projects with maximum benefits to students and minimum impacts to residents. Our ideas are described in more detail in the rest of this handout.

WHY are these improvements needed?

Neighborhood residents are concerned about student pedestrian safety, and are requesting improvements. During the majority of the school year, un-maintained and poorly lit paths present safety issues. The heavily used crossing on Hillcrest Drive and the Minnesota Drive off-ramp is particularly dangerous. The West-Romig campus is a constricted site with pedestrian and vehicle circulation conflicts. Meaningful pedestrian improvements could result in a safer campus and neighborhood.

WHEN are these projects going to happen?

There are a number of actions needed before any improvements can be made. This is a long-term planning effort that will require the support of the State, Municipality, and Anchorage School District.

WHERE are these projects located?

These projects are designed to form a string of improvements along several existing pedestrian routes to and from the West-Romig campus and Turnagain area neighborhoods. General locations shown on the next page, and specific locations are on following pages.

HOW can I comment, participate, or contribute?

We need your comments, suggestions, and concerns. Send them to SRTS Committee Co-Chairs Dan Gleason and Barbara Bundy in any of the following ways:

- Email to bebundy@gmail.com or dan.gleason@hotmail.com
- Call or text Barbara at 907-230-0940 or Dan at 907-980-1958
- Post a comment to the blog <http://turnagainsafety.blogspot.com>
- Take the walkability survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y8R592Y>

We went door-to-door to talk to potentially affected property owners this summer.

We also welcome your participation on the committee. Contact Barbara or Dan to join.

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General Project Locations

- 1 Improvements to the intersection of the Minnesota Dr. off-ramp and Hillcrest Dr.
- 2 Improvements to pedestrian access to campus from Belmont Dr. and Arlington Dr.

- 3 Crosswalks on Hillcrest Drive at Wildwood Lane, Esquire Drive, and Forest Park Drive
- 4 Crosswalk (across Arlington Dr.) at Northern Lights Blvd. and Arlington Dr.

- 5 Sidewalk on Hillcrest Dr., Wildwood Ln. to Forest Park Dr.



- 6 Sidewalk on Esquire Dr.
- 7 Repave and restore existing shoulders on Forest Park Dr.
- 8 Improvements to pedestrian access between Wildwood Ln. and Forest Park Dr.
- 9 Improvements to the West High parking lot

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Proposed Projects and Project Elements

1 Improvements to the intersection of the Minnesota Dr. off-ramp and Hillcrest Dr.

Shift crosswalk to east to improve visibility, install colored or textured concrete, permanent flashing pedestrian sign, pedestrian-scale lighting, on-campus lights.



3 Crosswalks on Hillcrest Drive

Install crosswalks, possibly colored or textured concrete.



2 Improvements to pedestrian access to campus from Belmont Drive and Arlington Drive

Rehabilitate pedestrian connections from neighborhood to campus.



4 Crosswalk at Northern Lights Blvd. and Arlington Dr.

Add crosswalk across Arlington Dr., possibly colored or textured concrete, shift eastern sidewalk to align with western sidewalk, improve lighting and drainage.



8 Improvements to pedestrian access between Wildwood Ln. and Forest Park Dr.

Improve existing pedestrian-only access.



9 Improvements to the West High parking lot

Delineate pedestrian walkways within parking lot.



5 Sidewalk on Hillcrest Dr., Wildwood Ln. to Forest Park Dr.

Install a sidewalk on Hillcrest Drive, either within the existing shoulder (parking lane) or on the right-of-way beyond the existing curb, or partially on both. Along the north side of campus, the sidewalk would be on the south side of the street. Between Wildwood Lane and Forest Park Drive, it could be on either side of the street.



OR



6 Sidewalk on Esquire Dr.

Install a sidewalk, either within the existing shoulder (parking lane) or on the right-of-way beyond the existing curb, or partially on both.



OR



7 Repave and restore existing shoulders on Forest Park Dr.



Remove grass and weeds on shoulders, re-pave shoulders from Northern Lights Blvd to Esquire Dr.