

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Newsletter for the Rogers Park, College Village and Anchor Park Neighborhoods

Meeting: Roads, Traffic, Land Use

How will the eventual interconnect of the New Seward and Glenn Highways affect our council area? What's the future of the Bragaw Extension? Will the muni propose widening the Northern Lights-Benson corridor to eight lanes? How will development in the University Medical (UMED) district, and the possible opening of road access to the UMED area from the east, influence traffic on Lake Otis, Northern Lights, and 36th? How do public transit and other non-single-driver-vehicle transportation modes fit into what's coming? Will traffic keep getting heavier, faster, and more noisy?

The answers to questions like these depend to a considerable degree on a document called the Anchorage Bowl Long Range Transportation plan, or LRTP for short. The LRTP is undergoing revision

this year, as it does every three years as a requirement of federal funding. Completion is estimated for May of 2004. It's a process that it behooves us to keep an eye on. The muni and state DOT have jointly released a draft copy of the revision. (There's info a little further down in this article about how to get a copy.)

We'll have some folks at our December 8 meeting to tell us

about the revision project. RPCC member Helen Nienhueser, a member of the "round table" of citizens giving input, will give us her impressions of the process. We've also asked the muni to send a planning representative to give us the official outlook and be available to answer questions. Finally, we hope that a member of the Anchorage Citizen's Coalition will be available to give us a different angle on planning and the future.

If you'd like to do some homework in advance, the draft LRTP revision is available on the Web at: <http://www.muni.org/ice/images/transplan/Approved2001LRTP11.pdf> (a 1 MB download, so it may take a few minutes). Or for a hard copy, contact Tana Klunder in the muni Transportation Planning Office: 343-8406. *cont. on back page*

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, December 8, 7-8:30 pm
Rogers Park Elementary Library

Agenda:

1. Introduction of officers and guests
2. Long Range Transportation Plan revision
3. New Seward safety project
4. Land use code rewrite

*Meeting schedule: second Mondays
 except in summer months.*

News Shorts

Assembly race

Doug Van Etten's term on the Assembly as one of the reps for our area ends next year. Doug has announced his intention to run for reelection and has begun campaigning, as has his one opponent that we know of so far, Dan Coffey. Dan is an attorney, Planning and Zoning Commission member, and local businessman. Stay tuned for what promises to be a spirited campaign.

October meeting feedback

Comments made at our October meeting by a representative of the governor's office have provoked reaction from two public officials. Anchorage School Board member Jeff Friedman copied us on a letter to Gov. Murkowski noting the "erroneous understanding" quoted in our November newsletter that "education spending has increased from last year's budget."

House Rep. Les Gara also wrote Gov. Murkowski, asking that he have his staff acknowledge publicly that "state school funding was cut last year." The governor and his staff, quoted in a recent news article, pointed to an increase in per-pupil funding and to education measures the governor spared from vetoes.

Sound barrier funding

The saga of our *cont. on back page*

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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[http://www.communitycouncils.org/
rogers.html](http://www.communitycouncils.org/rogers.html)

Meetings (cont.)

We'll also get an update from RPCC member and transportation planning consultant Anne Brooks about a safety project on the New Seward Highway between 15th and Fireweed. Anne will stick around to update us on the rewrite of municipal code on land use planning (Title 21), another somewhat technical project that will have big impacts on our quality of life in the future.

Please join us at the meeting for some good education on these topics.

News Shorts (cont.)

quest for sound barriers continues with recent political developments. Senator Johnny Ellis and Rep. Les Gara recently informed us that about \$30,000 in state funds will be forwarded to the muni, to be used for a design study to help get the project started. This includes about \$20,000 left from an initial appropriation procured several years ago by previous legislators, and some smaller amounts that Rep. Gara and Sen. Ellis pulled together after the 2003 session was over.

RPCC's committee managed to get \$250,000 in funding from the legislature in the 2003 session but the governor vetoed that funding. We're hopeful that the design study will strengthen on-going efforts to secure funds for construction. RPCC Vice President and committee chair Dan Graham is looking into costs for construction similar to the new sound barriers on C Street north of Dimond Boulevard. Questions or offers of help can go to Dan at 258-9203.

2004 muni budget

The Assembly expects to finalize the 2004 general operating budget at its Dec. 2 meeting. You can see a full copy of the budget on-line at:

[http://www.muni.org/mayor/
2004budget.cfm](http://www.muni.org/mayor/2004budget.cfm)

or a summary at:

[http://www.muni.org/mayor/
2004budgetsumm.cfm](http://www.muni.org/mayor/2004budgetsumm.cfm)

or read a hard copy at Loussac Library or a library branch.

Help for seniors

Older Persons Action Group, OPAG, reminds us that there is help available for seniors who need assistance with Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, housing, discrimination, telemarketing fraud, or legal services. Contact OPAG at 276-1069.

Senior tax break tightens

In early November, the Assembly took action to tighten requirements for seniors who claim the property tax waiver allowed by state law. Anchorage will now require seniors to reside in Alaska for 185 days of the year to qualify. Filing is only required once, and must be done by January 15.

Wildfire prevention

The Anchorage Fire Department has sent RPCC a stack of household survey forms on wildfire mitigation. This should be of particular interest to residents adjacent to or near wooded or greenbelt areas. You can pick up a survey at the Dec. 8 meeting, or call Loren. More info: Michelle Weston York, AFD: 267-5055.

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