

UACC MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2020

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by President Paul Stang at 7:00 pm. Al Milspaugh acted as host for the Zoom meeting. Al Milspaugh announced that the meeting will be live streamed and recorded. These will be available via Zoom and Facebook apps, and as such no privacy should be expected. Paul said that the normal introductions would be suspended. There were 22 people present during portions of the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with Mary Lu Harle seconding, moved to approve the June 3, 2020 minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Marguerite Iverson moved to approve to the agenda, with Susan Klein second. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- a. State Senator Bill Wielechowski-** Bill discussed four issues. These were; 1) Alaska response to census-which is dead last in the nation, 2) the deadline for applying to that Food Bank (Federal) program is September 3rd, 3) a proposal to allow for the 18 Anchorage voter drop boxes to be used for General election, and 4) persons can request absentee ballots online.

Al Milspaugh made a point that if Alaskans don't respond well to the census, Federal funds that could have been allocated to Alaska would go to other States that have a higher response thus greater population. Paul Stang questioned whether if one used a mail in ballot for the primary election they would automatically be given a mail in ballot for the November election. Bill responded saying it depends on what one checked when requesting a mail in ballot, if they checked "all" then they will receive a mail in ballot for the November election.

- b. State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson-** For details on Elvi Gray Jackson's written report to UACC. See Attachment 2.
- c. State House Representative Andy Josephson-** Andy reported matters dealing with the State hearings on workplace safety in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also said that he has been busy with matters such as dealing with understanding the COVID- 19 employee training in the fish processing industry, comparing the Governor vetoes 2020 versus 2019. He also wrote a letter to the UA Board of Regents requesting they use a careful and deliberate approach to the potential elimination of several sports at UAA.
- d. State Representative Ivy Sponholz-** Ivy said as Chairperson of the Labor and Commerce Committee she has held

several hearings to ascertain the status of unemployment crisis in Alaska. She also highlighted the problem the Dunleavy administration created in the CARES Act small business loan/grant program by not initially using the Alaska Commerce and Economic Development Administration to get these funds out to small businesses. She also highlighted the Governors poor leadership and the lack of transparency in how it dealt with the State Attorney General Clarkson harassment scandal.

- e. **Assembly Chair Felix Rivera-** Felix reported the following items. He said the Anchorage Assembly Chamber will again be open to the public during their meetings, but at 50% capacity, with proper social distancing, mask required, and sign in sheets for contact tracing purposes. He described AO 2020-65 which would prohibit “Conversion Therapy” from being practiced by Alaska licensed medical practitioners. He also mentioned the AO 2020-79 which would create the Office of Equity and Justice. Implementation would reorganize the Office of Equal Opportunity to reflect this new emphasis.
- f. **Assembly Member Meg Zaletel-** Meg described how CARES Act funding would be distributed by the Municipality. She also discussed AO 2020-80 which would revise the Anchorage Police Department Use of Force policy.
- g. **Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar:-** Forrest reported the Assembly will hold alcohol tax budget work sessions to define how the funds will be spent on programs to deal with public safety, child/spousal/partner/sexual abuse problems, and homelessness and substance abuse treatment programs. He also responded to an Anchorage Daily News opinion piece from a former mayor by saying the Assembly/Administration looked into all anchorage properties potentially available and suitable for potential infrastructure to deal with the Anchorage homeless situation rather than only the 4 mentioned. He also noted that the Northway Mall was examined and was eliminated as it is much too large and has significant structural problems.
- h. **Assembly Member-Pete Peterson-** Pete reported on information on crime statistics presented in the recent Public Safety Committee meeting. The good news is that crime rates are generally trending downward. Pete said that the Assembly approved moving forward on the purchase of the 4 buildings to be used in the homeless program, but that due diligence will need to be done before actual purchase is made. Pete also said that the Municipal budget is stressed, as the Anchorage Bed Tax and Fuel Tax collections are down by \$17 million due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the good news is that property tax revenues are up \$3 million.
- i. **Margo Bellamy-Anchorage School Board-** Margo said that ASD will start August 20th via all virtual delivery mode. She indicated that ASD staff will start with some working from home while others will be in school. She said there will be a “virtual” School Board meeting on 9/8, with a 4 PM work session and 6 PM Board meeting. She said there is a looming budget shortfall next year, as student enrollment is falling, and the State reimbursement levels will

subsequently fall further as a result.

- j. **UAA Representative Ryan Buccholdt**- He said the fall session will primarily be a combination of face to face labs, and clinics, but will be virtual for large lectures. He also indicated that a steering committee has been formed to work this fall on a UAA 2025 Strategic Plan. He said that a request for proposal will be let to adapt the UAA Campus master plan to this strategic plan. Ryan indicated that he will make sure the UACC is involved with this effort. He also said the upcoming meeting of the UA Board of Regents would address the third and hopefully final year of significant cuts to the UAA budget. Ryan said that UAA needs to trim and additional \$7.2million, which requires significant reductions in some programs at the University. Of high profile is the proposed elimination of 4 sports teams at the University. While this is controversial Ryan noted that academic programs have already been significantly impacted, with 13 programs already eliminated.

B. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons.

- a. **Planning and Zoning Subcommittee- Krista Scott**-Krista reported on the UACC Executive Board response to the 42nd Avenue Upgrade (see attachment 3). She indicated there will be an open house to be held on October 14th to present the plan. Paul Stang noted that he has contacted the Municipality on the ASD Bus Barn relocation Air Quality study. He indicated he has not received a response and will follow up with Robin Ward for the current status.
- b. **Parks and Rec Subcommittee- Steve Callaghan, Chair**- Steve reported on UACC Executive Board response to the muni request for UACC comments on the University Lake parking lot improvement plan (see attached document). Barbara Garner reported on progress regarding Folker Park improvements. She noted that lights in the park are extremely bright and reflect into the upstairs windows of nearby homes. At her request the Executive Board will draft letter to the Municipality in response to this concern.
- c. **FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:-** Al Milspaugh reported the FCC did not meet.
- d. **Safety Committee-Al Milspaugh:-** Al discussed the COVID-19 related process that Alaskans will need to follow when transiting through Canada.

5. New Business and Public Comment

A. Outdoor Fire Prevention on Private and Public Property in Anchorage – Brian Dean, Anchorage Fire Department Marshall

Brian started by noting that the Spruce Bark Beetle (SBB) infestation has created a significant fire hazard problem in south central Alaska, including the Anchorage Bowl. He said the highest hazard is within the Wildland Urban interface, where MOA parkland comes into contact with residences with the Anchorage Hillside and Eagle River areas. To mitigate this problem, AFD has initiated a fire wise program. The ASD can send out a fire specialist to evaluate ones property and

create a hazard mitigation plan. The primary recommendations for “fire wising” your property are to remove all conifers within 15 feet of structures, get rid of ladder fuels (below an 8 foot level) to prevent fire from getting into crowns of trees, maintaining green grass or other non-combustible vegetation as a ground cover to prevent the spread of fire, removing stored fire wood stored next to homes, and provide fire clearings of 15 feet around outdoor fire rings. Brian noted that a \$400 FEMA grant to homeowners may be available to implement these plans.

Brian also said that the AFD is partnering the MOA Parks and Recreation Department to complete a Wildland fire assessment. The focus will be on the wildland urban interface wildfire mitigation efforts. Unlike last year, this summer’s weather has not created extreme conditions, but the need is still there. Michael Braniff said there have been remedial efforts to deal with SBB infestations in 2018, 2019, and 2020, but that there still needs to be much to be done to further mitigate the hazard. He indicated that nearly all mature spruce trees in University Lake Park and other park areas will die due to the current SBB infestation and that CARES Act funding will be used to fund future remediation efforts.

B. Invasive Species in Anchorage: Preventing, Controlling and Eradicating – Tim Stallard, Chair, Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Area and Gino Graziano, Invasive Plants Specialist, UAF Cooperative Extension Service

Gino discussed what makes a plant species invasive. He indicated that the non-native plant is introduced and spreads into wild lands and creates a negative change to the ecosystem. He said that Alaska, compared to the lower 48 states, has a very low number of these invasives. To better understand what is an invasive is, Gino used the example of Bird Cherry. He said that this nonnative plant has negative impacts to the environment, which include that it out competes other plants in riparian stream zones and negatively impacts the food web that supports juvenile salmon, that its leaves contain cyanide which may poison moose calves, and that it also out completes native plants so it reduces available moose browse.

Gino described a variety of websites where one can obtain information on invasive plants. Primary is the Alaska Exotic Plant Clearing house site at:

<https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/invasive-species/non-native-plants/>

He indicated that one can find much information about invasive plants here including which plants are invasive, the rank order of how invasive they are, and some recommended control methods. He also indicated there is website to report invasive species:

<https://apps.bugwood.org/apps/alaska/>

Gino indicated that the Alaska Department of Agriculture has the authority to regulate the weeds. They maintain a list of noxious weeds but that the list needs an update.

After Gino's presentation, Susan Share had a question about what to do with weeds that have been dug up. Gino replied that it depends on the species/life stage of the plant. He used a couple of examples. First is chickweed which can be pulled but should be put in the trash rather than composted. By contrast hemp nettle can be pulled and put into compost as long as it is not in flower. Generally, Gino indicated that if the invasive is in flower it should be bagged and sent to the landfill.

There was also considerable discussion on how to control purple vetch. It creates problem from outcompeting other plants and its ability to "climb" onto other plants. Gino indicated that it will be hard to eliminate or even control since it is so common now in the environment. But in grassy areas one might be able to control its spread through several mowing's or pulling's (3 or more per season) to favor the grass. Gino's document The Control of Bird Vetch is available from the Cooperative Extension Service at cespubs.uaf.edu/ces, and goes into considerable detail about the life history and control of this plant species.

The use of herbicides for control of invasive plants was also discussed. Gino made the point that one needs to use the right herbicide for the right species at the right time to be effective. Gino indicated more specific information about herbicide applications can be found at the Alaska Cooperative Extension website.

C. Public Comments/Open Dialog

Barbara Garner had a question about the status of the University Lake Drive extension, since she had heard that the road construction was supposed to start this year. In response Steve Callaghan indicated that the project was still in the planning phase for building the first quarter mile of the road. He said he will make inquiry about the status of the start of construction.

6. Adjournment: Al Milspaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Zemke seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 8:30 pm.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

Attachment 1- September 2, 2020 Attendance Log

Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	UACC Vice President
Steve Zemke	UACC Secretary/Treasurer
Paul Stang	UACC President
Steve Callaghan	UACC P&R Subcommittee Chair
Krista Scott	UACC P&Z Subcommittee Chair
Joanie Nardini	UACC Executive Board Member at Large
Jacob Tatum	UACC Visitor
Ryan Buccholdt	UACC Member
Mary Lu Harle	UACC Member
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	UACC Visitor
Barbara Garner	UACC Member
Keith Bauguess	UACC Visitor
Bill Wielechowski	UACC Member
Nancy King	UACC Visitor
Felix Rivera	UACC Visitor
Andy Josephson	UACC Member
Meg Zaletel	UACC Visitor
Dale Grey	UACC Visitor
Ivy Sponholz	UACC Visitor
Forrest Dunbar	UACC Visitor
Marguerite Iverson	UACC Member
Susan Share	UACC Member
Susan Klein	UACC Member
Margo Bell	UACC Visitor
Miles ?	UACC Visitor

Attachment 2- Elvi Gray-Jackson UACC September Report

“Special Session?”

- On August 19th, Representative Geran Tarr and I called on Governor Dunleavy to convene a Special Session to correct the CARES Act funding relating to small business grants.
- The Governor revised the RPLs (Revised Program Legislative) to relieve some of the restrictions on the Small Business Grants and forwarded his document to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (LB&A) for approval. On August 27th, the LB&A Committee met and voted to give more Alaskans access to the Federal pandemic relief money made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The vote amends the eligibility requirements of the small business relief program originally approved on May 11th.
- I am relieved that this money will now bring relief to small businesses in need and to the Alaskans who are hurting financially.

Unemployment

The Federal Government has approved a grant to the State of Alaska to expand weekly unemployment benefits by \$300 a week. (*\$19.9 million*)

- Payments are expected to start in about six weeks.
- Payments will be retroactive to July 25th.
- The additional Federal unemployment benefit will be paid for about six weeks.
- Currently, the maximum unemployment payment in Alaska is \$370 per week.

Those receiving help through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program will not receive the additional federal unemployment payments.

- The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program is for the self-employed and those in the gig economy.

Alaskans can now file unemployment benefit claims on a weekly basis rather than the normal every two weeks.

- File online through the my.alaska.gov portal.
- For questions contact the nearest unemployment claim center.
 - Anchorage: (907) 269-4700.

Census

The U.S. Census Bureau will end door knocking efforts on **September 30** due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- The original end date was July 31st.
- The end date was subsequently extended to October 31st.
- Online self-response closes on September 30th.
- The U.S. Census must be completed by December 31sts.

Respond to the 2020 online at **2020census.gov**.

- File online at my2020census.gov
- File via the telephone by calling 1-844-330-2020.

New COVID-19 Testing Sites in Anchorage

Five new COVID-19 testing sites are up and running in parking lots in Anchorage. (*Free tests*)

- ChangePoint Church, 6689 ChangePoint Drive
- Fairview Community Recreation Center, 1121 East 10th Avenue
- Anchorage Church of Christ, 2700 Debarr Road
- Muldoon Community Assembly, 7041 Debarr Road
- Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street

The new testing sites are open three days a week through October 20th.

- Monday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday - 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The tests are free to the public.

- Referrals are not required.
- People do not have to be showing symptoms to get tested.

N o.	Reviewer	Com. No.	Comment	Response
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19	University Area Community Council	1	<p>1: From Lake Otis-Piper reduce width from 66 to 60 ft. Piper-Dale is a 60' width segment. The municipality offered to return 3 ft on either side of 42nd Ave decades ago. College Place Condos, had 3 ft. included when they bought two acre homestead early 1980s - now landscaped w/ trees across front. Another resident at the time planted a group of Colorado spruces (now 50ft?) that will be impacted. Residents semi-use the 3 ft strip. 2019 CRW Survey has a large red paint circle on a landscape shrub here.2: Folker Park S paved trail & board 'fence' is within the 66' footage. That strip Includes a SE corner specimen white spruce that was sprayed 2018 to protect from bark beetle attack. Park SW entrance design was not completed last summer. Current flower bed is temporary, waiting for the 42nd update & waterline</p>	<p>1. We do not have any documentation about the MOA returning 3 feet on either side decades ago. Please provide documentation if you have it available. The large red paint circle was likely a utility locate paint mark and has nothing to do with the ROW. 66' is the existing ROW width, not a proposed width. The current 66' ROW width along 42nd from Lake Otis to Piper is</p>
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			<p>project completion.3: 66' width is not used for parallel street parking from Lake Otis-Piper. All have off-street parking. While one single residence property west of the Country Woods condos (Piper-42nd) is often diagonal parking four vehicles next to the fence. An extended single lane driveway is available. Otherwise no 'street parking needed'.</p>	<p>utilized for the roadway, snow storage, utilities, etc. 2. Coordination is on-going with Parks & Recreation Department (Maeve Nevins-Lavtar) to ensure a cohesive park design. The project will do everything it can to protect the existing white spruce in place. 3. Our analysis also shows that no on-street parking is utilized from Lake Otis to Piper. The proposed alternatives do</p>
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				not include on-street parking.
20	University Area Community Council	2	Please make a clarification to the 2/5/20 UACC resolution was to prioritize the 42nd Ave AWWU waterline replacement in that area, because of the flooding that has been due to breakages in the waterline.	Will do.

21	University Area Community Council	3	<p>We recommend consideration of lighting and other communication technologies along this section of 42nd, where infrastructure could be negotiated from the provider in return for eased permitting? See examples of similar negotiations in other States at the following link. https://www.americacityandcounty.com/2019/07/10/small-cells-big-uncertainties/</p>	<p>Coordination with utility companies has been on-going during the design study phase and will continue through design, however, improvements by utilities are dependent upon the utility.</p>
22	University Area Community Council	4	<p>We would like a request to be made by the MOA to ML&P to provide an estimate of when the utility infrastructure would be slated for maintenance or conversation to UG, and please provide answer to UACC?</p>	<p>Underground of electric facilities along 42nd Avenue is not currently in ML&Ps 5-year plan (2018-2022). However, some sections of overhead lines on 42nd Ave are</p>

				included in their list of "requested projects that are not currently included in the underground plan but will remain on ML&P's list for re-evaluation each year".
23	University Area Community Council	5	Same comment as #4 for ACS?	Per MOA/ACS policy, ACS follows the electric utility and will underground when ML&P undergrounds. They have no formal plan in place for undergroundin g.

24	University Area Community Council	6	<p>It would be nice to see more pedestrian oriented amenities as part of the road section design. Elements would be bollard lighting, paths that are farther from the edge of travel way, chokers at intersections, and raised crosswalks to control speed. It is tough to acquire additional ROW or easements on private property to accommodate these pedestrian oriented improvements. The road sections in the DSR are not much different from what has been used elsewhere in Anchorage.</p>	<p>Additional pedestrian amenities will be included when feasible, but ROW, utility, terrain, and budget constraints can limit additional improvements. Please refer to page 45 of the Draft DSR and Figure 8 for Conceptual Traffic Calming features which include raised intersections, neckdowns and a striped crosswalk. The road sections in the DSR are based upon guidelines provided in the MOA design</p>
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				criteria manual.
25	University Area Community Council	7	In Segment B: In 2016 the 2 vacant parcels were rezoned to Business and the UACC was not in favor of this. The parcels remain vacant, Questions regarding that lot have risen with medical businesses changing format, some moving to South Anchorage. Will its plans for added medical facilities in this residential neighborhood meld with continuing changes in Anchorage's economic and medical scene?	This is outside of the scope of this DSR. This question would be addressed in an area specific planning document.

26	University Area Community Council	8	<p>Segment A - Lake Otis-Laurel there is a corner pharmacy, medical offices, all with significant parking off 42nd. Speed 25 mph. Why 66' street width for other than the mixed zoning status? Snow storage, by midwinter, would still be pushed beyond the shoulder footage onto private property. Happens here beyond the extra 3+ feet that some residents maintain along 42nd. Snow always pushed by city plows further and higher into the 20' setback.</p>	<p>66' is the existing, available ROW for this segment of roadway. Proposed improvements are included within this area. New roadway infrastructure does not extend the full 66-foot width, however utility relocations may be necessary within the 66' width.</p>
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27	University Area Community Council	9	<p>Segment B:</p> <p>a.) On north side from Laurel to Folker , there is one smaller medical office, plus the large Providence Horizon House (on a hill) which extends to Folker St. The south side of Laurel-Folker St is primarily residential: one large apartment complex, two smaller apartment structures, one smaller apartment related to ‘rehabilitation’, an empty lot owned by condo assoc. Thus, large majority of land in this block is residential. Why 66’ street width?</p> <p>b.) From Folker-Piper is the park, two fourplexes, College Place and Country Woods condos, singles and duplexes. All have off street parking. 66’ street width?</p>	66' is the existing, available ROW for this segment of roadway. Proposed improvements are included within this area. New roadway infrastructure does not extend the full 66-foot width, however utility relocations may be necessary within the 66' width.
28	University Area Community Council	10	Segment C: Piper-Dale are singles, duplexes, one triplex. Some vehicles do use 42nd for parking. Design has 60’ street width. Why is this segment 60’ and others 66’?	This segment only has 60' of existing ROW available for improvements. The 60' versus

				66' is not the width of proposed improvements, but rather the width of available, existing ROW.
29	University Area Community Council	11	The 42nd plan from Lake Otis to Piper is 66' street width, bike path, sidewalk, rare mailboxes. 7' required for N&S shoulders from Lake Otis-Piper. Rare mailboxes currently. Clustered boxes are appropriate, similar to condos. Four mailboxes are gathered together for separate addresses. All apartments have mail delivered inside or to entrances.	Thank you for the comment.

30	University Area Community Council	12	<p>Is 66' a requirement in mixed zoning despite 25 mph street? In Piper-Dale segment wide shoulders are NOT in design. It has 60' street width, bike path, sidewalk, space for individual street mailboxes. Is plowed snow to be pushed onto the trail, sidewalk and private setback? It seems so. Please clarify.</p>	<p>60' is the minimum ROW required. 42nd Avenue currently has 66' of available ROW from Lake Otis to Piper for roadway improvements, pedestrian improvements, lighting, utilities, snow storage, etc. Snow storage normally occurs in the roadway shoulders and buffers between pedestrian facilities and back of curb, but can be stored behind the sidewalk in</p>
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				the available ROW.
31	University Area Community Council	13	42nd was never designed, a neglected, unzoned hodge-podge neighborhood where the boundary of the City and the Anchorage Borough met (40th Avenue divided) Both ignored the strip north side of Tudor. Was still ignored after Municipality was created except to use 42nd as a bypass three years beginning 1975 while Tudor Road became 4 lanes with a median for turning. Cars, huge trucks were lined along this dirt street. Muni made temporary improvements, constant potholes. then poured asphalt with minimal sub-prep. Pot	Attached are similar street width examples.

			<p>holes continue.</p> <p>We request the MOA to identify similar streets where we can view what they envision for the two street widths. A 25 mph street with significant off-street parking does not require a wide street design. A wider street invites increased speeds.</p>	
32	University Area Community Council	14	<p>Despite this being an old neighborhood, the need for residential structures in the UMed District is valued.</p>	<p>This project does not hinder development of residential structures.</p>
33	University Area Community Council	15	<p>It appears to UACC that we have a situation where some neighbors have purchased a 3-ft ROW and some declined the offer years back. Yet we infer from the DSR that the MOA must intend to purchase back the ROW from some neighbors. Please explain more how that would work. Would it be eminent domain or some other process?</p>	<p>ROW Acquisition, where required, would be negotiated between the MOA and the individual owner of each impacted parcel.</p>

34	University Area Community Council	16	We remain concerned with how the street design can we integrate the business zoned properties with the established residential properties to have a cohesive feel. With the current economy and medical industry these lots may not end up being used for medical facilities.	The proposed street improvements take into account the adjacent zoning, use, and potential development.
35	University Area Community Council	17	We remain concerned with how the street design can we integrate the business zoned properties with the established residential properties to have a cohesive feel. With the current economy and medical industry these lots may not end up being used for medical facilities.	Repeated comment; see response above.
36	University Area Community Council	18	Can you provide an example of an existing road in Anchorage for each design segment?	Attached are similar street width examples.

McRae Road Example
Turnagain Blvd to Spenard Road
31' Back of Curb to Back of Curb
Identical to 42nd Ave Alt 1, Segments A-D

Differences: No striping proposed on 42nd Avenue.
Two pedestrian facilities proposed on 42nd Avenue.



Turnagain Blvd Example
Portions of sections between Spenard Road & 35th Avenue
31' Back of Curb to Back of Curb
Identical to 42nd Ave Alt 1, Segments A-D

Differences: No striping proposed on 42nd Avenue.



64th Avenue Example
Laurel Street to Norm Drive
31' Back of Curb to Back of Curb
Identical to 42nd Ave Alt 1,
Segments A-D



Duben Avenue Example
Muldoon Road to Patterson Street
31' Back of Curb to Back of Curb
Identical to 42nd Ave Alt 1,
Segments A-D

