

Email dated 1/3/2021 from UACC to MOA regarding bus barn study dated March 2020

Included and attached to this email are the University Area Community Council's Jan 1, 2021 comments on the Muni's subject draft study (also attached).

In a nutshell, the UACC finds this draft study wholly unacceptable because it does not address a key element repeatedly requested by the UACC and promised by the Muni - an assessment, quantification and analysis of the ongoing carbon monoxide and other emissions from the Anchorage School District Student Transportation and Maintenance Facility (aka Bus Barn) during and immediately after bus start-up and warm-up on cold winter days during atmospheric inversions that occur frequently in that area.

Due to the cold morning air coming down the Chester Creek area from the Chugach Mountains, these emissions can not dissipate into higher elevations because they are held down and trapped by atmospheric inversions as they slowly drift north and west into residential areas and Providence Hospital buildings causing damage to the health of the residents and workers in the nearby areas. This problem has been going on unabated since at least the 1990s.

Furthermore, this study does not meet the Muni's own study objective, "The objective of this air quality analysis was to demonstrate a worst-case scenario for carbon monoxide (CO) at the proposed Bus Barn site," because it took no CO measurements during early morning atmospheric inversions in the bus barn area, or anywhere else for that matter, during bus start-up and warm-up.

The proposed Tudor Town Center, which we understand is now on hold due to budget restraints, includes a short-distance move of the Bus Barn site from the west to east side of Elmore Rd, south of Tudor Rd. We believe this new location would not significantly affect the above described movement or concentration of emissions into residential/Providence Hospital areas. As such, this study is inadequate for either site. In the meantime, Bus Barn emissions continue to adversely affect UACC areas during its operations. [The best long term solution is to use non-hydrocarbon buses.]

We request that the Muni reprogram funds and conduct a new Bus Barn study as soon as possible, thoroughly addressing the levels of CO and other emissions during atmospheric inversions. The well-being of those living and working in our area is of prime concern to the UACC. We request the Muni to reply to this email and indicate that it will conduct our repeatedly-requested study promptly.

Thank you.

Paul R Stang,
President, UACC