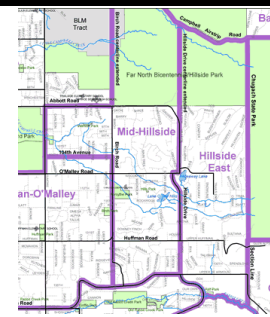


MID-HILLSIDE & HILLSIDE EAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

May 2005



LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Planning how we get from one place to another is complicated and emotional. The whole topic is a minefield of real rules, rules from habits, huge money and inconsistent desires that the lightly educated should probably avoid. But the road planners keep asking for our input. We give it then we learn that rules don't allow what we want! It'll drive you crazy, but we all need to get out of the house once in a while so we should keep trying to nudge the plans a bit.

There's a hierarchy for ranking road capacity: Freeways are the fastest and biggest, heading down the list we get Expressways, Major Arterials, Minor Arterials, Collectors and then Local Roads. Relevant to our area are Minor Arterials for 10,000 to 20,000 average daily trips and Collectors for 2,000 to 10,000 ADT.

The Design Study Report for DeArmoun from Sept. 2003 says it's an urban collector. Proposals so far leave it at two lanes. The LRTP lists project #204 DeArmoun Phase II as a major arterial with three lanes. This is an important change. If people thought the proposals were overbuilt before, this new categorization could open the door for even more!

Board member **Shirley McGrath** represented the MHCC at a meeting with Rabbit Creek and Huffman O'Malley council members to discuss the LRTP and its impact on the Hillside. At this month's meeting we may consider some resolutions drafted at that meeting.

IF THE FIRE IS COMING, WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GO? Our APD liaison, Cindi Stanton will provide some info on a fire evacuation plan. The fire outside Homer a few weeks ago should be a warning that we can't ignore the threat!

WHERE'S THE BIG WIRE GOING? Chugach Electric will send **Del LaRue** and **Dora Gropp** to present the routing selection for the new University to South Anchorage Substations 138 kV Transmission Line. MHCC Board member **Tom O'Grady** was our rep. on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the route selection. He has not

spilled the beans so you can be among the first to know.

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE: TAXES DROP OR REMAIN FLAT FOR MOST HOMEOWNERS. The average Anchorage homeowner will see a modest reduction this year in property taxes required for general government operations, from police and fire to road maintenance.

For an average resident living in a \$221,800 home, property taxes for city operations will drop \$16, even with an average 11 percent increase in property assessments between 2004 and 2005. The other portion of city tax bills is for the Anchorage School District, which will increase about \$97, or 4.5 percent this year. Overall tax bills, including for general government operations and schools, will increase about \$81 for the average resident.

SOME NEIGHBORS NOT BEING TREATED WELL BY THE RCA! There is grumbling in the area by folks who share wells. Apparently some time in 2004 the Regulatory Commission of Alaska adopted new regulations for small water and sewer utilities. Surprisingly, systems with 15 or more "service connections" are considered water utilities! We have a few in the area that may have to cope with a new level of paperwork and added fees.

If you do not share a well, you might write this off as unrelated to you. Imagine that this might be a trend and the informal road group you might be a member of were faced with a similar situation.

Board member **Shirley McGrath** will draft a resolution regarding this issue.

Agenda

O'Malley Elementary School
Thursday, May 19, 2005

- 7:00 pm Introductions and approval of previous minutes
- 7:05 Presidents' & FCC reports
- 7:10 Assembly report
- 7:20 Old & New Business
- 7:30 Chugach Electric Transmission Line Route 8:00
- 8:00 Fire Evacuation Route
- 8:20CIP List
- 8:45 Small Water Utilities
- 9:00 Adjourn

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Our next meeting is Thursday, May 19.

We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at O'Malley Elementary School on Rockridge off O'Malley. For more info see www.communitycouncils.org