

Complete Streets / Major Infrastructure (Corridor)

Submitted By: Anonymous user

Submitted Time: February 14, 2022 2:19 PM

Date

February 14, 2022

Time

09:48

Project Information

Project Name

Left Turn Pocket on Rabbit Creek Road at Old Seward Highway

Name of Person Submitting the Nomination

Ann Rappoport, Co-chair

Affiliation

Rabbit Creek Community Council

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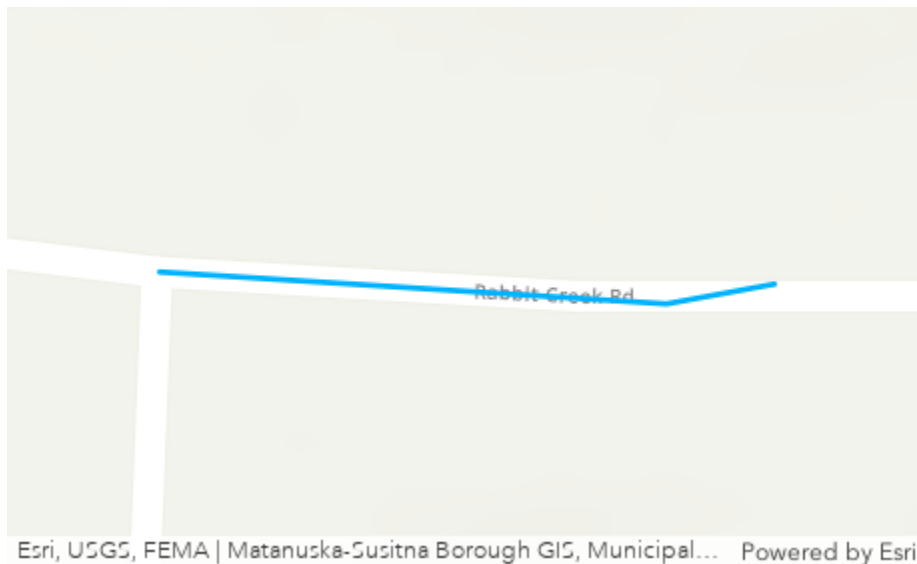
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Description of Project or Program

In your own words, briefly describe the proposed purpose of the project.

Create a left turn pocket on Rabbit Creek Road at Old Seward Highway via scoping, planning, design, a survey of road right-of-way and adjacent land, and minor acquisition where needed. Left-hand turns (to the south) onto Old Seward Highway by westbound vehicles on Rabbit Creek Road create an extreme traffic hazard. This intersection has slopes, a curve, reverse banking, and heavy volumes of high-speed traffic (50 mph and faster), particularly as people rush to work and/or after dropping kids at schools uphill. The project is located on a corridor with a high crash rate and several fatalities. Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway are state-owned roads. The proposed left-turn pocket project lies within the scope of a larger, 2-mile long, unfunded project, Number 127 in the AMATS MTP 2040. The left-turn pocket is an immediate need. It can be designed as a permanent element and first phase of Project 127, greatly improving safety conditions for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Draw a line to represent the general path of your project.



CRITERIA: Safety

Are there any truck (freight) related safety concerns in or near the project location?

Yes

What are the truck (freight) related safety concerns?

Delivery trucks driving up and down Rabbit Creek Road are even more challenged at this turn as it may take them longer to make the turn, thus holding up traffic longer and creating even more of a hazardous condition for drivers behind them. Delivery trucks arriving behind a stopped vehicle are heavier and need even longer to slow down or stop; again, this is even more treacherous in winter conditions.

Are there any bicycle related safety concerns in or near the project location?

Yes

What are the bicycle related safety concerns?

A bicyclist heading east, uphill on Rabbit Creek Road is at risk from traffic hurrying to turn left onto Old Seward and not having a safe turning pocket in which to wait. Additionally, bicyclists heading west, downhill, on Rabbit Creek are at risk from vehicles pulling out onto the shoulder to pass the turning or stopped car. This project is located on a corridor with a high crash rate and several fatalities; should bicyclists be in the area when one occurs the outcome would likely be even more tragic.

Are there any pedestrian related safety concerns in or near the project location?

Yes

What are the pedestrian related safety concerns?

Similar to bicyclists, a pedestrian crossing Old Seward Highway at the Rabbit Creek Road intersection means a turning vehicle has to wait longer to turn, resulting in more vehicles backing up behind them, creating additional hazards. A pedestrian heading down or uphill along the north side of Rabbit Creek Road is at risk from vehicles pulling out onto the shoulder to pass the turning or stopped car. This project is located on a corridor with a high crash rate and several fatalities.

Are there any vehicular related safety concerns in or near the project location?

Yes

What are the vehicular related safety concerns?

The intersection has slopes, a curve, reverse banking, and heavy volumes of high-speed traffic (50 mph and faster), particularly as people rush to work and/or after dropping kids at Bear Valley Elementary or Golden View Middle Schools uphill. Vehicles making the left-hand turn at this intersection often come to a complete stop in the travel lane as they must yield to oncoming traffic. Due to the slope and high speeds, drivers arriving behind the stopped vehicle(s) often have to brake sharply behind cars waiting to turn; this is especially hazardous in winter conditions. Through-drivers often pass illegally on the shoulder, obscuring oncoming cars on the curve and prolonging the turning maneuver. Residents have noted an instance of passing up the middle of the road, in the path of the turning vehicle, nearly causing a high-speed crash. This project is located on a corridor with high crash rate and several fatalities.

Are there any safety concerns related to emergency response in or near the project location?

Yes

What are the emergency response related safety concerns?

As above, emergency vehicles are faced with the same hazards as passenger vehicles and trucks, and may be in an even more hazardous position when they are traveling at a high speed, and particularly in the winter. Large fire trucks will have the same additional hazards of trucks making turns or approaching behind stopped vehicles. This would be particularly dangerous during if there is a community disaster (e.g., wildfire) and Rabbit Creek Road is used as a major escape route or avenue for rescue vehicles entering the area.

CRITERIA: Mobility

Is the project expected to reduce vehicular congestion?

Yes

How is the project expected to reduce vehicular congestion?

The left-turn pocket will prevent the pile-up and slow down of vehicles stopping behind a vehicle turning left onto Old Seward Highway.

Is the project expected to improve truck (freight) movement?

No

How is the project expected to improve truck (freight) movement?

Is the project expected to improve the bicycle network?

No

How is the project expected to improve the bicycle network?

Is the project expected to improve the pedestrian network and ADA accessibility?

No

How is the project expected to improve the pedestrian network and ADA accessibility?

Is the project expected to reduce transit vehicle delay?

Yes

How is the project expected to reduce transit vehicle delay?

School buses use both Old Seward Highway and Rabbit Creek Road so they would receive the same safety and efficient vehicle movement improvements that other vehicles do with construction of the left-turn pocket here.

Why is the project NOT expected to reduce transit vehicle delay?

CRITERIA: Economic

Is the project expected to improve access to or within a growth supporting feature of the 2040 Land Use Plan?

No

How is the project expected to improve access to or within a growth supporting feature of the 2040 Land Use Plan?

Is the project located in the Chugiak - Eagle River Area?

No

Please identify the Land Uses associated with this project.

The project area is surrounded by large-lot residential neighborhoods. Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway are major corridors for residents in these and many adjacent neighborhoods in traveling to work, school, business, recreation, etc. throughout the Municipality. The left turn pocket would also provide access to a non-profit facility on Old Seward Highway, immediately south of the turn. Old Seward Highway in this area is a major corridor for non-motorized users and access to the south end of Potter Marsh where parking improvements will be constructed in 2022. Rabbit Creek and Old Seward connect with Alaska's major federal highways, the Seward Highway that leads to the Kenai Peninsula to the south and Glenn and Parks highways to the north.

Is the project expected to promote or include transit improvements?

No

How is the project expected to promote or include transit improvements?

CRITERIA: Environment

Is the project expected to improve air quality?

Yes

How is the project expected to improve air quality?

Minor improvement in preventing cars from sudden stops and the need to stop and idle while waiting for other cars to turn left onto Old Seward Highway.

Why is the project NOT expected to improve air quality?

Is the project expected to improve systemwide Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)?

No

How is the project expected to improve systemwide VMT?

Why is the project NOT expected to improve systemwide VMT?

This project is primarily a safety improvement at a dangerous intersection. It will not result in fewer vehicles on the road.

Is the project expected to help implement the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Climate Action Plan?

Yes

How is the project expected to help implement the MOA Climate Action Plan?

As above in response to air quality, there will be a minor improvement in preventing cars from sudden stops and the need to stop and idle while waiting for other cars to turn left onto Old Seward Highway.

CRITERIA: Preservation

Is the project expected to improve roadway pavement conditions?

No

How is the project expected to improve roadway pavement conditions?

Is the project expected to improve sidewalk or off-street facilities?

No

How is the project expected to improve sidewalk or off-street facilities?

Is the project expected to implement natural based solutions?

No

Which nature based solutions is the project expected to implement?

Is the project expected to improve transit stops?

No

How is the project expected to improve transit stops?