

DRAFT 2/26/24

Turnagain Community Council
c/o Federation of Community Councils
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

TO: Brooke R. Blessing, Project Administrator
Project Management & Engineering
Municipality of Anchorage
FROM: Turnagain Community Council
DATE: March 8, 2024
RE: **Comments on DSM Review/Forest Park Drive Surface Rehab
PM&E Project No 23-07**

Sent via Email

brooke.blessing@anchorageak.gov

Ms. Blessing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the Preliminary Design Review for the Forest Park Drive Surface Rehab, PM&E Project No 23-07.

This project has been strongly supported by the Turnagain Community Council (TCC) since it was first proposed by TCC's Safe Routes to School Committee in 2015 and more recently as TCC's number 1 priority in TCC's 2023 CIP project list. The HDL PM&E 2307 Design Memorandum correctly notes the Forest Park Drive (FPD) "corridor is currently a common route for residential housing, business access, Romig Middle School and West High School". In addition, FPD is a popular route for non-motorized users transiting to and from downtown Anchorage and Turnagain neighborhoods. The report correctly notes traffic lane pavement and shoulder deterioration throughout the project; MOA Street Maintenance has advised surfacing for FPD is considerably overdue.

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Proposed Infrastructure Improvements

In addition to the surface rehab, the HDL February 5 Design Study Memorandum includes several proposed recommendations for overall improvements which the TCC is grateful to see and fully supports. These include:

- Replacing the existing curb ramp at La Honda and Northern Lights to meet current ADA design standards
- Replacing the existing damaged and non-compliant guardrails at the east end of FPD
- Correcting inadequate drainage and failed sub-surface storm drain pipes

Discussion of Preferred Alternative Number 3

The TCC supports Alternative #3, the preferred alternative as identified in the HDL Design Study. It meets all the required elements for improving space for non-motorized users as well as addressing pavement/shoulder deterioration and safety issues. Alternative #3 reflects the elements of a neighborhood petition, circulated to FPD homeowners and those with property adjacent to FPD in September 2022 and which received overwhelming support.

TCC would like to add several comments to enhance the proposed Alternative #3, as follows:

- It should be noted there are no existing sidewalks in the project area and none are contemplated for the project; reference to them in the second bullet of Section 2.0 Project Scope on page 2 should be deleted.
- The project scope should identify all existing road signs to be returned or replaced to original location after completion of the resurfacing. These include all No Parking signs at the east end of FPD between Arlington Drive and Northern Lights (4 signs); replace the No Truck traffic sign per AMC 9.46.410; replace the 25 mph speed limit sign.

The TCC would like the project to add texture to the shoulder lane line to define the delineation of the new traffic lane lines with the shoulders on both sides of the street. In addition, TCC requests consideration of placing painted bike symbols in the new wider shoulders to help identify it as a non-motorized use area.

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on PM&E Project 23-07, Surface Rehabilitation of Forest Park Drive from Hillcrest Drive to Northern Lights Boulevard. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. TCC representatives would be happy to meet with you to discuss any of the above further.

Sincerely,

Cathy Gleason, President
Turnagain Community Council

cc. Melinda Kohlhaas, PE PM&E Project manager
Assemblymember Anna B. Brawley
Assemblymember Kameron Perez-Verdia
Spennard Community Council