

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2015-041**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DRAFT DESIGN STUDY REPORT, REVIEWED THROUGH THE CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS PROCESS, FOR THE NORTHERN ACCESS TO THE UNIVERSITY AND MEDICAL DISTRICT, CONNECTING BRAGAW STREET TO ELMORE ROAD, IN ANCHORAGE.

(Case 2015-0057)

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WHEREAS, a request was received from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for draft design study report approval for the Northern Access to the University and Medical District, connecting Bragaw Street to Elmore Road, in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, public hearing notices were published, and a public hearing was held on October 5, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission that:

- A. The Commission makes the following findings of fact:
1. The road extension is necessary and it is in the public's best interest, although compromises were made that may not serve the trails and some of the other community interests.
  2. The U-MED District Plan draft is in process, but these plans are in support of the road. There was also supporting testimony that if there was to be a road, this was the best alternative.
  3. This is an important road if for no other reason than the need to have redundancy for an evacuation route.
  4. Public testimony was heard that this new access is going to decrease travel time to the hospital and is very critical lifesaving time. The need for this access will fill an important missing link and correct a longtime need of current misdirected traffic in the U-Med District.
  5. The intersection of Northern Lights Boulevard and Bragaw Street is a well used pedestrian crossing with a history of pedestrian-vehicular accidents. An enhanced crosswalk treatment needs to be incorporated in the design of the new four-way intersection in order to accommodate this pedestrian traffic.
  6. Sidewalks and multi-use paths along the northern access facility needs to be separated by a minimum of 7 feet as recommended in the adopted *Anchorage Pedestrian Plan*.

7. The pedestrian bridge at the south end of the project at Providence Drive is very important to ensure an adequate connection between the Consortium Library and APU.
  8. The drainage impacts of the project are a concern with respect to the water level and flow of nearby Chester Creek.
  9. Some members expressed concern regarding the impact of the project on the APU ski trail system, especially with the elimination of the middle pedestrian bridge.
- B. The Commission approves the draft design study report, subject to the following amendments:
1. Whether or not is it currently included in the project, the south pedestrian bridge, connecting APU to the Consortium Library, must be a part of this project.
  2. Have a separated sidewalk on one side, and a separated trail on the other side. The AMATS Trails Committee should be consulted as to the final determination whether the sidewalk is placed on the west or east side.
  3. With regard to the hydrology, this impacts the Chester Creek Watershed. To the greatest extent possible, any fee in lieu of mitigation should be applied to maintenance and/or enhancement of the Chester Creek Watershed.
  4. The speed limit should be maintained at 30mph to prevent, as much as possible, negative impacts with wildlife as they cross the road.
  5. Serious consideration should be given to an enhanced crosswalk at Northern Lights Boulevard and Bragaw Street. The least impactful methodology would be what is referred to as a "pork chop."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission  
the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015.

ADOPTED by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of  
November, 2015. This written decision/resolution of the Planning and Zoning  
Commission is final and any party may appeal it within 20 days to the Board of  
Adjustment pursuant to the Anchorage Municipal Code 21.03.050, or, if applicable,  
exercise their rights under Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.03.190B.6.



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Hal H. Hart, AICP  
Secretary



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Tyler P. Robinson  
Chair

(Case 2015-0057)

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