



Item Overview

Item Number: 5B

Date: 6 August 2026

To: AMATS Technical Advisory Committee

From: Emily Weiser, AMATS Non-Motorized Coordinator

Subject: Letter of support for U.S. Bicycle Route realignment

Action Requested

AMATS staff recommends that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend to the Policy Committee approval of the letter of support for the proposed realignment of U.S. Bicycle Route 97 through the AMATS area.

Background

The U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS) is managed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and published by the Adventure Cycling Association. The routes are intended as suggestions for long-distance bicyclists, helping to inform them of which options are most suitable for biking through an area. [Guidelines](#) for the routes include going around (not through) population centers, using dedicated bicycle facilities (such as pathways) or very low-volume (<1000 AADT) roads, and adding scenic value to the journey. Maps and turn-by-turn directions for the routes are publicly available on the Ride With GPS website. Some localities have installed wayfinding signs specifically for the USBRS, but this is optional.

USBR 97 passes through the AMATS area, and currently follows the Seward and Glenn highways directly through Anchorage and Eagle River/Chugiak. This is not the most bike-friendly option and does not align with the above guidelines. DOT&PF's Active Transportation Planner and Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, Julius Adolfsson, is preparing an application to AASHTO to realign the route, and has worked with MOA and AMATS staff to fine-tune the proposed realignment. The new route would use the Coastal Trail and Ship Creek Trail around the Anchorage bowl and the pathway along the Old Glenn Highway in Eagle River and Chugiak. Snapshots of the current and proposed routes are attached, and interactive versions can be accessed by clicking here for the [current route](#) and [proposed route](#).

DOT&PF is seeking a letter of support from AMATS for the proposed realignment. This item will also come before the AMATS Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee at their meeting on September 14th. The application is due October 1st.

Attached

Current U.S. Bicycle Route 97 through the AMATS area

Proposed U.S. Bicycle Route 97 through the AMATS area

Letter of Support