

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations  
for the Municipality of Anchorage's  
2013 Capital Projects Needs List —  
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION  
Approved at the TCC meeting June 7, 2012**

- 1. Pt. Woronzof Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Park signage along the Coastal Trail and Pt. Woronzof Road identifying park boundaries, so the public knows it is parkland, not airport land. If this can be done through other means than the CIP process, please inform TCC how this can be accomplished.
- 2. Lyn Ary Park Property Acquisition (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Funding for acquisition of privately owned property at the northern end of Lyn Ary Park at the north end of ball field and where a portion of the Coastal Trail is located (parcel #999999999999). Parcel is currently owned by the Marston Foundation. This acquisition is identified in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan, which was approved in 2010.
- 3. Coastal Trail Buffer/Greenbelt Acquisition (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Funding for acquisition of undeveloped land and conservation easements on non-municipal properties west of Lyn Ary Park to Earthquake Park for protected Coastal Trail greenbelt designation. Because the city has constructed road access to this land, it is a high priority that the city identify and acquire any available land before it is cleared and developed for housing.
- 4. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Rehabilitation (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Rehabilitate, through bio-engineering improvements, to address erosion/drainage and deterioration along the trail.
- 5. Lyn Ary Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Leverage 2006 and 2008 State Legislative Grants. Projects that are contained in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan include: safety upgrades to trails, parking, site furniture (benches, litter bins, picnic tables), playground equipment and installation of dog refuse stations. Additional improvements called for in the Plan include: interpretation signage and park gateways, pathway upgrades, additional playground equipment, and bleacher and bench improvements.
- 6. Earthquake Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Install low-level parking lot lighting and security cameras, upgrade landscaping, repair/replace missing interpretive signing, and address other items identified and submitted to the Anchorage Park Foundation during their Report Card community input in 2011 by Turnagain Community Council members.
- 7. Lloyd Steel/Balto Seppala Parks (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Design and construction of a multi-use trail that would surround and connect both parks using the board walk that was constructed in 2010, as per the TCC-approved conceptual Master Plan for the parks. In addition, address items identified and submitted to the Anchorage Park Foundation during their Report Card community input in 2011 by Turnagain Community Council members.
- 8. Fish Creek Trail Upgrade – Barbara St. Park to Spenard Rd.** — Resurface trail segments that are worn or unsafe and replace bridges along the trail as needed.
- 9. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Fish Creek Trail Connection** — TCC supports this project, but emphasizes that any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts as well as impacts to creek and adjacent riparian habitat.

**10. Margaret Sullivan Park (Westchester Lagoon)** — Projects include safety upgrades to the Trail Watch Headquarters, trail safety improvements, parking, lighting and winter access improvements. TCC supports these projects, but desires no/minimal vegetation removal to ensure the aesthetic/habitat quality of the park are preserved.

**11. Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail** — Trail and signage improvements.

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations  
for the Municipality of Anchorage's  
2013 Capital Projects Needs List —  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING  
Approved at the TCC meeting June 7, 2012**

- 1. W. Northern Lights Blvd. Drainage Improvements under the Alaska Railroad Overpass —**  
There has been a long-term drainage problem during spring break up and at times of heavy rain under the railroad overpass on W. Northern Lights Blvd. This problem poses a safety hazard when vehicles spray water that obstructs adjacent passing vehicles' views. TCC requests funding to evaluate the problem, identify solution(s) and implement project.
- 2. 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and McRae St. Upgrade – Wisconsin St. to Spenard Rd. —** TCC supports additional funding for the project (partial funding approved in 2012 Anchorage Roads & Drainage Service Area Bond), so that entire project can be constructed, contingent upon final agreements in site design, traffic calming features, landscaping, and property acquisition between the Municipality and the affected property owners.
- 3. Turnagain Blvd . Upgrade – 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Spenard Rd. —** TCC supports construction funding once design recommendations using Context Sensitive Design are complete. Curbs, drainage, pedestrian facilities on east side of road to connect with trail through Fish Creek Park; if room, sidewalk on west side. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
- 4. Turnagain St. Upgrade – W. Northern Lights Blvd. to 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. —** TCC supports construction funding to upgrade, using Context Sensitive Design. Project should include curbs, drainage, pedestrian sidewalk on west side of road, and landscaping. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
- 5. Turnagain Area Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements (ADDITION TO LIST) —** TCC supports continued implementation of projects identified in the Traffic Calming Study completed in 2006, or additional projects identified by the Turnagain residents and approved by TCC, with specific design determined by TCC working with PM&E and consultants.
- 6. Fish Creek Improvements – Cook Inlet to Lake Otis —** TCC supports water quality and drainage capacity improvement projects for the entire stretch of Fish Creek, including day-lighting the creek wherever possible. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.
- 7. West High and Romig Middle Schools Access and Circulation —** Design and construct access and circulation improvements. The need description states that "this is a high priority for the Turnagain Community Council." Please note that TCC is ranking this 7<sup>th</sup>, with other projects ranked higher.
- 9. Milky Way Drive Surface Rehab – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin St. —** Rehabilitate existing pavement and repair deteriorating curbs. The need description states that "this is a high priority for the Turnagain Community Council." Please note that TCC is ranking this 8<sup>th</sup>, with other projects ranked higher.
- 10. Turnagain Parkway Surface Rehabilitation – Illiamna Ave. to Northern Lights Blvd. —** The existing road condition is fine; this is a low priority for TCC.

## **TCC is not ranking the following PM&E projects:**

**West Northern Lights Blvd. Pedestrian Connection – Lois Dr. west to Captain Cook Estates Cir. —** Funding (\$920,000) for this project was approved this year in the Legislative Capital Projects budget. TCC is working with Municipality on design of this important pedestrian safety project and hopes to see construction no later than 2013.

**Lakeshore Dr. Extension/Upgrade – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin —** Aero Ave. currently does not extend down to Lakeshore Dr. and the Corps of Engineers denied a wetland permit to extend this road, so TCC feels this project is questionable. Also, the western portion of Lakeshore Dr. has been a parcel identified during the West Anchorage District Plan public process as a potential land acquisition by Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. TCC requests more information on this proposal and also how this CIP project would integrate with that potential airport acquisition.

**Westchester Lagoon/Chester Creek Flooding —** we need more information on this proposal, as it was our understanding that the Fish Passage Improvement Project completed in 2009 was going to address flooding issues.

**Greenbelt Trails —** TCC supports repair of trails in Turnagain. But without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

**Multi-use Athletic Field Rehabilitation —** TCC supports rehabilitation of athletic fields in Turnagain. But without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

**ARDSA Residential Pavement Rehabilitation – Senate District M Area —** Without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

**ARDSA Residential Pavement Rehabilitation – Senate District N Area —** Without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

**ARDSA Storm Drain System Rehabilitation —** Without site-specific projects, TCC is not ranking this item. Site-specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

## **TCC Again Requests that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List :**

### **Northern Lights Boulevard Upgrade Phase IV – Postmark Drive to Nathaniel Court**

TCC has consistently requested the deletion of this project from the CIP list and we will continue to oppose any design upgrades to this section of W. Northern Lights. Specifically, we oppose: 1) widening of existing lanes or shoulders or lane additions; 3) clearing of existing vegetation or filling of wetlands; and 4) upgrades to accommodate airport-generated traffic from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport North Airpark and West Airpark onto WNL, which negatively impacts the Turnagain residential neighborhood. At the request of TCC, pedestrian amenities along the road (sidewalk on one side, new bike path on the other) were deleted from the project description by the AMATS Policy Committee in the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Project in May, as the public is well served by the existing Earthquake Park Trail and Coastal Trail. Also deleted in the description were turnouts.

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations  
for the Municipality of Anchorage's  
2013 Capital Projects Needs List —  
STATE OF ALASKA**

**Approved at the TCC meeting June 7, 2012**

**1. W. Northern Lights Blvd. Rut Repair — Minnesota Dr. to Wisconsin St. —** Overlay or resurface the existing roadway.

**TCC Requests that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List:**

**Minnesota Dr. Northbound Expansion – 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.** — TCC continues to oppose this project and submitted comments September 26, 2005, during, the Long-Range Transportation Plan comment period. Following is a summary of those comments:

Even though this proposed road project is not located within Turnagain Community Council boundaries, Turnagain residents use this road as their major thoroughfare to downtown from our neighborhood — impacts associated with this proposal would far outweigh any benefit.

There is no demonstrated need for this additional lane; traffic flows relatively smoothly along this stretch of Minnesota, even during rush hour, except when road conditions during bad weather deteriorate, then it slows down. It seems that's a good thing; bad road conditions should warrant a slow down, especially in that curved area at Westchester Lagoon.

There is no readily available land to add a third lane from 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., so drastic, costly, and parkland-degrading measures would need to be taken to accommodate any widening of the road — let alone the addition of a sidewalk and pathway, as would likely be included in the project description.

This proposal runs contrary to goals in the Long-Range Transportation Plan: "Develop an attractive and efficient transportation network that takes into account the cost of building, operating, and maintaining a system that considers the equity of all users, and the secondary costs associated with all other community values." And, "Balance the project purpose with landscaping and other aesthetic considerations." There's already important buffering between a busy road and residential areas that would have to be removed to make room for another lane along this stretch of Minnesota Dr., and removal of naturally vegetated parkland and filling of a portion of the lagoon would certainly degrade the aesthetics of the area.