



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**ASSEMBLY INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**  
No. AIM 37-2024

Meeting Date: March 5, 2024

1 **From: Assembly Member Cross**

2  
3 **Subject: BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN**  
4 **SUPPORT OF ROUTING THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL**  
5 **(AKLT) SUCH THAT HIKERS MAY EASILY ACCESS**  
6 **AND PATRONIZE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER**  
7 **BUSINESSES**

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9 Please see attached resolution from the Birchwood Community Council provided for  
10 your review and information:

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12 Prepared by: Jasmine Acres, Deputy Municipal Clerk

13 Approved by: Jamie Heinz, Municipal Clerk

14 Respectfully submitted: Kevin Cross, Assembly Member

## RESOLUTION #2024-02-01

### RESOLUTION OF THE BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF ROUTING THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL (AKLT) SUCH THAT HIKERS MAY EASILY ACCESS AND PATRONIZE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER BUSINESSES

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- 1    **WHEREAS** The currently proposed routing deters AKLT hikers from visiting Eagle River-Chugiak.
- 2    **WHEREAS** The currently proposed south to north routing between the Eagle River Nature  
3    Center and Eklutna Lake, connects a Ram Valley segment to the upper reaches of Peters Creek,  
4    descends a non-scenic section of that drainage on an existing trail to Four Mile Creek, and  
5    therefrom continues northerly to Eklutna Lake and beyond.
- 6    **WHEREAS** Without better access, AKLT Through and Section hikers will exclude visiting Eagle  
7    River-Chugiak while hike planning and will NOT visit those communities to re-supply, rest &  
8    relax, lodge, dine, bathe, wash laundry, complete shipping/receiving tasks, or otherwise  
9    patronize local businesses.
- 10   **WHEREAS** The vision statement on the AKLT webpage includes “...bolstering the Alaskan  
11   economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.”
- 12   **WHEREAS** The communities of Eagle River-Chugiak have much to offer to AKLT hikers and  
13   deserve an opportunity to benefit economically from the trail.
- 14   **WHEREAS** An alternate primary routing will encourage AKLT Through and Section hikers to  
15   patronize businesses in Eagle River-Chugiak.
- 16   **WHEREAS** A yet to be designed and constructed extension of the Ptarmigan Valley Trail (PVT)  
17   will facilitate such an alternate primary routing. It will extend northeasterly over a bridged  
18   Peters Creek and intersect with the Peters Creek Valley Trail (PCVT).
- 19   **WHEREAS** The creation of PVT extension to the PCVT would not only promote commerce in  
20   Birchwood, Chugiak, Peters Creek, it would also open more area of Chugach State Park for year  
21   round recreationist including snow machine riders, hunters, trappers, XC-skiers, BC-skiers,  
22   bikers, hikers, berry pickers, equestrians and others.
- 23   **WHEREAS** Increased use of PVT parking complex would help to lessen traffic to existing and  
24   conceptualized future parking at the PCVT thereby reducing hazards on winding mountain  
25   roads. Accelerated parking fee collection at that complex would be another benefit. Ease of

26 access to that location from the Old and “New” Glenn Highways make it an attractive  
27 alternative.

28 The Birchwood Community Council Resolves: To request Alaska Department of Natural  
29 Resources, Alaska Trails, Representative Jamie Allard, Senator Kelly Merrick, Representative  
30 Dan Saddler, Assemblyman Kevin Cross, and Assemblyman Scott Myers to act separately and  
31 collectively to holistically assess the routing of the AKLT in the Eagle River-Chugiak vicinity and  
32 effectuate a final routing decision that best benefits the community economically, in a manner  
33 that least disrupts residential neighborhood living, and to fund a 2024 design completion.

34 *Debbie Ossiander*

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35 Co-Chair Debbie Ossiander

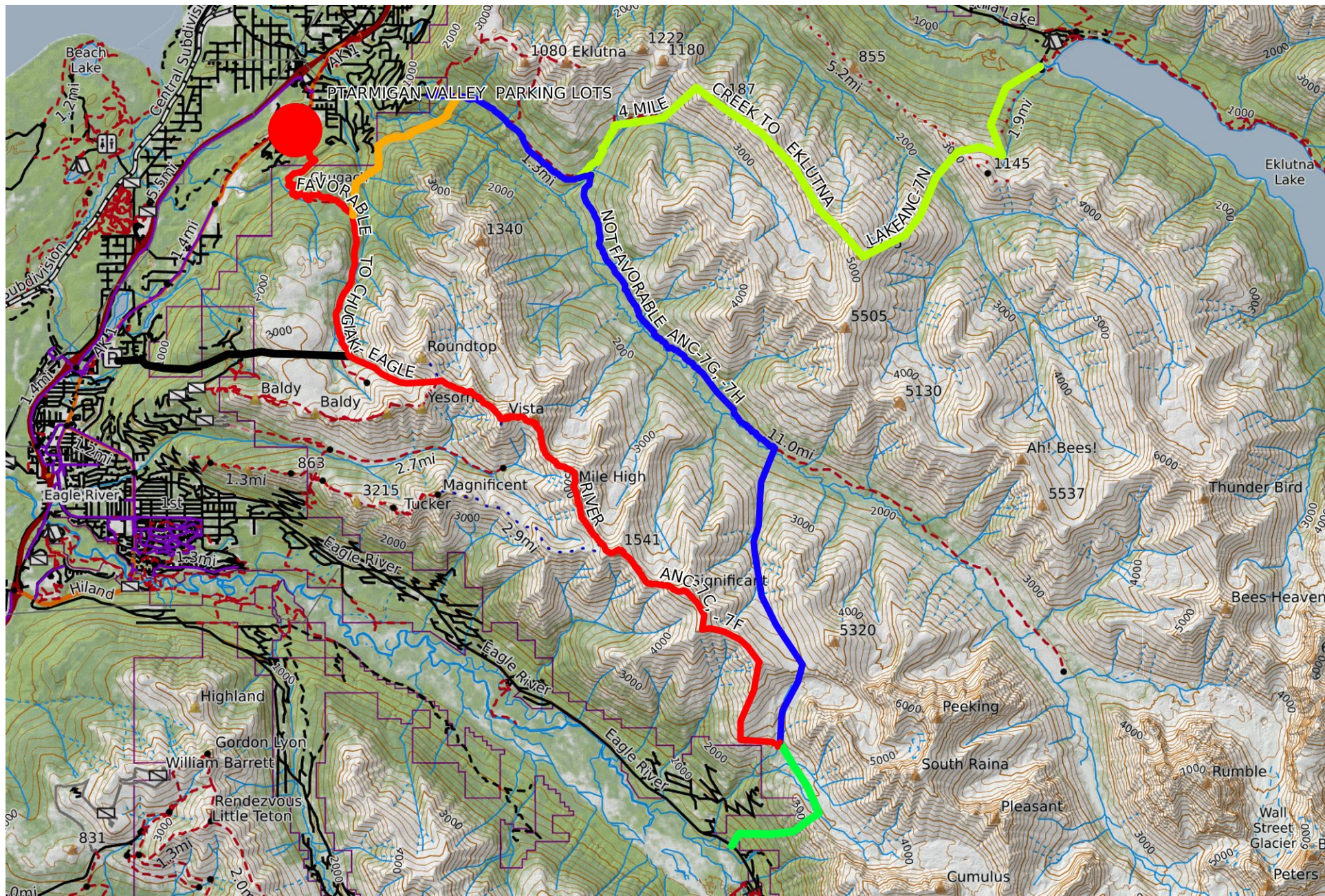
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37 *Matt Cruickshank*

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38 Co-Chair Matt Cruickshank

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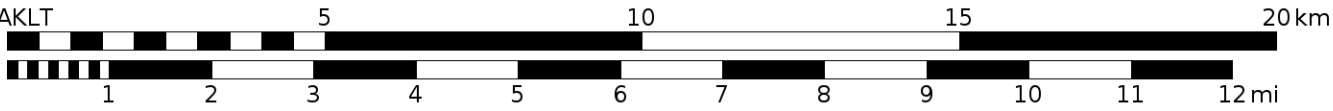


Chugiak - Eagle River AKLT

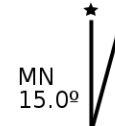
WGS84

UTM Zone 6V

CALTOPO



Scale 1:119041 1 inch = 1.9 miles

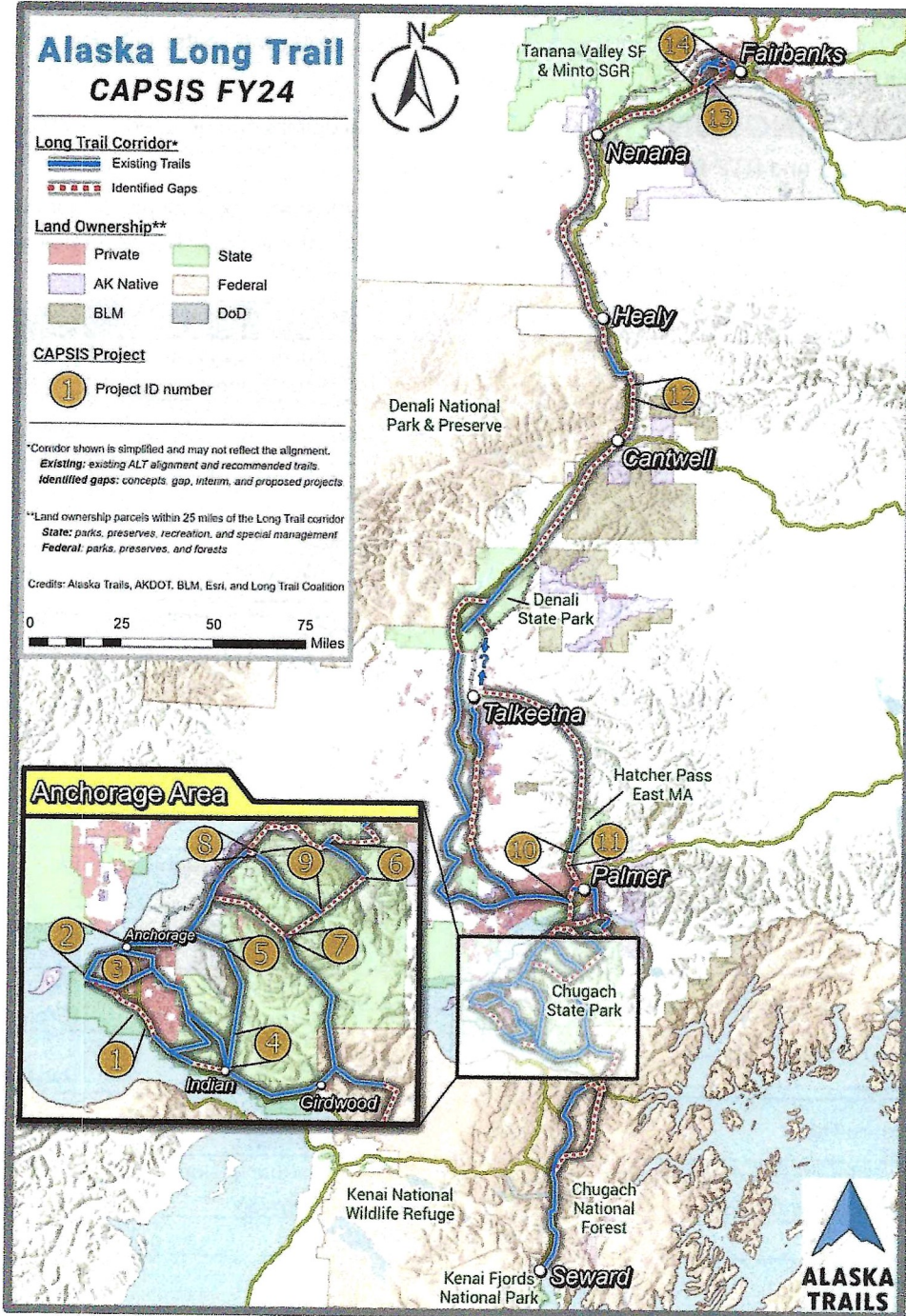


### **Advantages of Using Ptarmigan Valley Trailhead rather than Malcom Drive Trailhead and Vicinity**

- Two Existing parking lots with immediate access from State of Alaska (SOA) Roadway, The Old Glenn Highway.
- Off-street, overflow, day parking directly across the street.
- Expands backcountry access for biking, hiking, hunting, trapping, X-Cc skiing, backcountry skiing, snowmobiling.
- Reduces traffic volume in residential neighborhoods and thusly reduces probability of mishaps.
- Easy access from Glen Highway for non-locals.
- **Promotes commerce in Chugiak.**
- All goods and services needed by Alaska Long Trail through and section Hikers within close proximity. Safe walking to the purveyors of goods and services on paved walk/cycle ways.
- Reduces demand for on-street parking at the current trail head location.
- **Reduces size requirements for any future parking lot(s) created in closer proximity to existing Peters Creek Valley trailhead.**
- Reduces infringement on the rights of residential property owners in close proximity to the existing trailhead as well as those along the narrow, winding road to that trailhead.
- Advances the collection of parking fees at the Ptarmigan Valley Trailhead.
- Avoids conflicts with local zoning restrictions and subdivision covenants, codes and restrictions.
- Eliminates expenses of road improvements to present trailhead.
- Respects rights of residential property owners. "Respect invites respect."

# ALASKA LONG TRAIL - CAPSIS FY2024

Alaska Trails, working closely with partners, identified 14 high-priority shovel-ready and planning-ready projects along the length of the [Alaska Long Trail](#) proposed route. These projects have been submitted to legislature for the FY2024 state capital budget. The table on the following page provides the summary of the projects, including TPS#s, and their location is shown on the map below. "Multi-use" refers to both motorized and non-motorized uses.



## CONTACTS

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[www.alaska-trails.org/the-alaska-long-trail](http://www.alaska-trails.org/the-alaska-long-trail)

## ALASKA LONG TRAIL - CAPSIS FY2024 PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Building new non-motorized trails (#1, 4, 11, 14)
- Existing multi-use<sup>1</sup> trail improvements (#6, 8, 9, 13)
- Planning studies to identify links between segments (#7, 10)
- Improving trail access and parking (#4, 5, 7, 8, 14)
- Wayfinding and cultural heritage (#2, 3)
- Separated highway paths for safe non-motorized travel (#12)

**WHO IS MAKING IT HAPPEN?** [Alaska Trails](#), a statewide non-profit, is coordinating this ambitious project, working with the Long Trail Coalition (representatives from each region along the route) bringing in local trail users, landowners, and communities.

**LEVERAGE & MATCHING FUNDS:** Requested state capital dollars can be used to leverage additional, larger sums of federal LWCF, FLAP, and RTP funds.

**FY2023 state capital budget:** State legislature included 15 Alaska Long Trail projects in the [FY2023 budget last year](#) – THANK YOU! However, only seven of the projects were funded after the vetoes. The table below shows the new set of ALT projects for FY2024, including a few that didn't make it last year<sup>2</sup>.

	TPS #	Project	Use	Amount	Recipient	Location
1	66547	Connect Oceanview Bluff Park to Potter Marsh	non-motorized	\$1,000,000	Anchorage Park Foundation	Anchorage
2	66459	Connect Ship to Coastal Through Indigenous Place Name Plaza	non-motorized	\$600,000	Anchorage Park Foundation	Anchorage
3	66548	Wayfinding in Anchorage & Chugiak-Eagle River	non-motorized	\$300,000	Anchorage Park Foundation	Anchorage
4	67940	Indian Valley Trail Reroute	non-motorized	\$1,500,000	Alaska Trails	Indian / Chugach State Park
5	67994	Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion	non-motorized	\$175,000	DPOR	Arctic Valley / Chugach State Park
6	67954	Eklutna Lakeside Trail Improvements	multi-use	\$234,000	Alaska Trails	Eklutna / Chugach State Park
7	67910	Ram Valley Re-establishing Access	non-motorized	\$100,000	Alaska Trails	Eagle River / Chugach State Park
8	68009	Peters Creek Trailhead Parking Survey and Design	multi-use	\$75,000	DPOR	Peters Creek / Chugach State Park
9	68011	Peters Creek Trails Assessment and Design Prescription	multi-use	\$60,000	Chugach Mountain Bikers	Peters Creek / Chugach State Park
10	67978	Core Mat-Su Corridor Planning	non-motorized	\$100,000	Alaska Trails	Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Greater Palmer)
11	66755	GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop	non-motorized	\$1,900,000	Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation	Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Greater Palmer)
12	66753	Carlo Creek to Crabbies Crossing Separated Path	non-motorized	\$1,000,000	Denali Borough	Denali Borough
13	66749	Isberg 4-Season Trail	multi-use	\$990,000	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Fairbanks North Star Borough
14	66751	Equinox Marathon Trail -- Parks Highway to Fairbanks via Ester Dome	multi-use	\$1,450,000	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Fairbanks North Star Borough
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$9,484,000</b>		

<sup>1</sup> "Multi-use" refers to both motorized and non-motorized uses.

<sup>2</sup> Projects that were included in the FY2023 capital budget last year but didn't make it through the vetoes are shaded in yellow.

