



March 3, 2020

AMATS, Municipality of Anchorage Planning Department  
4700 Elmore Road, PO Box 196650, Anchorage AK 99519  
Craig Lyon, AMATS Coordinator  
Wolfgang Junge, Chair  
Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Vice Chair

By Electronic Mail: [amatsinfo@ci.anchorage.ak.us](mailto:amatsinfo@ci.anchorage.ak.us)

Re: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2040 Update for Anchorage and Chugiak Eagle River  
**Support for Short-Term Project No. 409 - Campbell Creek Trail Overcrossing at Lake Otis**

Dear Chair Junge, Mayor Berkowitz and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft MTP 2040 Update.

The Anchorage Trails Initiative is a community coalition that empowers citizens to speak up for walkable, bikeable and rollable transportation strategies and investments to increase connectivity and improve health. Anchorage Trails started in 2011 in partnership with the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's Live.Work.Play. grassroots initiative to attract and retain top talent and investment to Anchorage.

How we grow matters. Developing a safe and efficient *active transportation* network is critical to Anchorage's future. Legislation has been introduced at the federal level to prioritize active transportation networks, recognizing that non-motorized investments at the federal, state and local level need to be linked together.

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) recognizes this, and passed a resolution at its February 11, 2020 meeting in support of more federal funding, and asking the federal government to authorize more funding for the Recreational Trails Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and to authorize new funding for Active Transportation Networks.

The MOA also recognizes that traffic fatalities and serious injuries are preventable and unacceptable, and have partnered with state agencies and community organizations on a "Vision Zero" campaign to make Anchorage roadways safer for everyone – pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists - through a data-driven approach involving road design, education, community engagement and enforcement.

Anchorage Trails shares this priority, and for more than a decade we have focused on trail safety.

Foremost in our priorities continues to be the Campbell Creek Trail connection over Lake Otis Boulevard (south of the intersection with Tudor Road), identified in your plan as **Short-Term Project No. 409**. This connection is a critical gap in the connectivity of Anchorage's entire trail system. The 8-mile multi-use trail links neighborhoods, parks and schools, and provides connectivity to other trails - the Chester Creek, Coastal and Ship Creek Trails for a 33-mile loop in and through Anchorage.

The Campbell Park Community Council recognizes this safety priority and passed a resolution in favor of prioritizing the Campbell Creek Trail connection at Lake Otis at their December 2019 meeting. We appreciate that AMATS has also identified this safety crossing as a priority in the first (draft) Non-Motorized Transportation Plan which we also expect to be approved in 2020.

The Connections Committee of our Trails Initiative has investigated crossing locations at Lake Otis Parkway and the Campbell Creek Trail, and has determined that it would be possible to locate a non-motorized overpass that would span from Campbell Creek Park to a location that requires acquisition of only one easement/right-of-way. While this grade separated crossing would be expensive, it is critical that we make this connection to avoid at-grade crossing of this arterial roadway by children and families and trail users. This is, in fact, the last major impediment to a safe Chester/Campbell Creek circuit around the Anchorage bowl. Let's fund this critical link now before we are driven by tragedy.

We recognize that all federal funds for transportation projects require a local match. We encourage the MOA to use all potential funding sources, including a project on the 2021 road bond, to secure the right-of-way as the local match. This safety project needs to be shovel-ready for any and all funding sources.

Thank you again for your support for **Short-Term Project No. 409**.

Sincerely,



Stewart Osgood, Co-Chair  
Anchorage Trails Initiative



Beth Nordlund, Co-Chair  
Anchorage Trails Initiative

Enc     Municipality of Anchorage Resolution No. 2020-42 – A Resolution of the Anchorage Assembly urging Congress to increase investment in active transportation

Municipal Clerk's Office  
**Approved**  
Date: February 11, 2020

Submitted by: Assembly Chair Dunbar, Assembly Vice-Chair Weddleton, Assembly Members Constant, Dyson, Kennedy, LaFrance, Perez-Verdia, Petersen, Quinn-Davidson, Rivera and Zaletel  
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel  
For reading: February 11, 2020

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AR No. 2020-42**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY URGING CONGRESS TO**  
2 **INCREASE INVESTMENT IN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION.**  
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5 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage recognizes that traffic fatalities and  
6 serious injuries are preventable and therefore unacceptable, and have partnered  
7 with state agencies and community organizations on a “Vision Zero” campaign to  
8 make roadways safer for everyone – pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists - through  
9 a data-driven approach involving road design, education, community engagement  
10 and enforcement; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, we cannot build our way out of road congestion, other strategies must  
13 be used such as decreasing the number of trips by motorized vehicles; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the health of the Municipality’s residents begins where we live, work,  
16 learn and play. Connecting networks for walking and biking, ensuring inclusivity and  
17 accessibility, with everyday destinations like schools, workplaces, stores and  
18 playgrounds improves our ability to be physically active every day. Regular physical  
19 activity protects us from the most common and costly diseases such as type 2  
20 diabetes, heart disease, obesity and many cancers; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, *active transportation*—human powered mobility—increases physical  
23 activity, improves public health, provides balanced transportation choices and  
24 fosters vibrant neighborhoods with a high quality of life; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage Bike and Pedestrian Plans, the 2040  
27 Land Use Plan, and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan identify public safety  
28 improvements for non-motorized accessibility for users of our existing trail  
29 infrastructure investments – a network that links the Coastal Trail to the Campbell  
30 Creek Trail to the Chester Creek Trail to the Ship Creek Trail to the Fish Creek Trail  
31 and other associated greenway-supported development; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, to qualify for federal transportation funds, Anchorage follows national  
34 standards and best practices for managing transportation as required by the Federal  
35 Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Anchorage does this  
36 through the Metropolitan Planning Organization, AMATS; and

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**WHEREAS**, the main federal transportation law—the FAST Act—governing funding of America’s surface transportation programs, including trails and active transportation infrastructure, is set to expire in September 2020 and Congress is currently considering funding priorities; now, therefore

**THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES** that the Municipality of Anchorage supports increased investment in active transportation networks to link trails, sidewalks, bicycle facilities and other associated greenway-supported development into a seamless system for community mobility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipality of Anchorage encourages Congress to increase investment in a robust, modern transportation system that is designed to create and maintain connected active transportation networks by:

- 1. Increasing funds for the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program;
- 2. Increasing funds for the Federal Recreation Trails Program;
- 3. Authorizing New Funding for Active Transportation Networks

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 11th day of February, 2020.

  
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Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Municipal Clerk