

Municipality of Anchorage



*P.O Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>*

David Bronson, Mayor

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mike Edgington & Briana Sullivan, Co-Chairs
Jennifer Wingard, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

February 23, 2023

RE: Seward Highway and Alyeska Highway Intersection Improvements Recommended Alternative "Trumpet" Interchange

By request of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) in 2018, the Alaska Department of Transportation studied and presented options for improving the interchange between Seward and Alyeska Highways to improve traffic flow, safety, and access to Old Girdwood. The community appreciates the improved road and pedestrian bridges over the railroad tracks in the resultant plan, as well as the creation of connectivity to the Lower Iditarod Trail. Girdwood also appreciates the meetings and open communication with R&M Consultants, Christina Huber, and other DOT personnel.

However, the public and GBOS have several concerns related to the current recommended design, and are opposed to the overall scope and environmental impact of the project as proposed. As noted during the January 9th, 2023 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, there is a need for additional process and information for Girdwood to ensure that the ultimate decision is a democratic collaboration between the community and DOT&PF. According to the commission, there is a need for "a more detailed or an annotated alternatives evaluation matrix providing information about the environmental impacts, safety, cost, and access". In light of those needs, the substantial cost of the project, and also the consistent community opposition to the current project design, GBOS requests that an independent 3rd party evaluation of the Alyeska Highway Interchange selection be commissioned by DOT, and then shared with the community and GBOS.

We appreciate your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Wingard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Wingard
GBOS Roads & Utilities Supervisor

