

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

September 14, 2022
GBOS Special Meeting with DOT RE: Alyeska Highway Interchange
Minutes Final
7:00 p.m. Hybrid meeting via Teams

This meeting is taking place via Microsoft Teams and in-person in the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Rd.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

Call to Order 7:00 p.m. Mike Edgington, Co-Chair

Attending are Mike Edgington, Guy Wade, Briana Sullivan, Amanda Sassi, Jennifer Wingard

Disclosures: none

Agenda Revisions and Approval

Sept 14, 2022 GBOS Special Meeting with DOT RE: Alyeska Highway Interchange Agenda GW/BS Assent

Announcements:

- GVSA Non-profit Recreation Grant Presentations meeting will be held WED Oct 5 at 7PM.

Agenda:

1. Discuss interchange project with DOT and R&M, DOT Consultant on the project

R&M and DOT have presentation, included in meeting packet and available on YouTube channel: [MOA GIRDWOOD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS GIRDWOOD, ALASKA - YouTube](#)

Seward Highway safety improvements have included a variety of projects. Seward Highway safety corridor projects are priority of the DOT, study of improvement to intersection was requested by GBOS in 2018 resolution, when work on the section 90-105 was initiated. Funding through STIP is secured at \$30-\$35M. Soonest construction estimated for 2025. Construction of this design is possible without road closure of the current interchange.

When compared to other projects that were considered, this project is evaluated to have the best results with the least impact/footprint. Other projects presented earlier were presented as conceptual plans, actual footprint to build them as needed to handle the traffic is larger than appears on concept drawings.

DOT is required to maintain critical infrastructure and provide a long-term solutions to the conflicts at the intersection and provides for continuous flow of the Seward Highway and turnoff to Girdwood.

Current access/egress from the Girdwood Station Mall is not compatible with DOT requirements. Any change to highway or intersection will need to bring this up to compliance standards.

Impact on wetlands will be studied comprehensively and DOT will collaborate with Army Corps of Engineers to create the least impactful project possible. Wetland bank offsets would be secured as close as possible to the local watershed. Substantial environmental studies are next step.

GBOS Meeting Agendas and minutes are available on line: <http://www.muni.org/gbos>

Based on comment from the public and Fire Dept, access gate has been added to connection with Toadstool Road, so that road is not widely accessible but available for those with access granted.

2. Review community concerns on the project expressed to GBOS, Land Use Committee and Public Safety
 - Viewshed impact: This project, when compared to other options drawn to scale, appears to be less impactful to the overall view of the mouth of the valley.
 - Wetlands impact: Sandhill cranes stop in this location, the only place that they do so.
 - Geotech: This area sank 10' in the 1964 earthquake. Substantial study will be needed for stability. Other options for building on more stable surface are very limited and would change highway and townsite substantially.
 - Conservation/viewing area: This is not part of the scope of this project but could be added, perhaps as part of wetlands mitigation.
 - Sweep (Swoop) of Alyeska Pedestrian Safety Corridor (bike path) and Alyeska Highway – prior effort on sweeps in Girdwood has created dangerous situation with traffic and pedestrians. Engineer sweeps in these intersections differently.
 - Trails: Connector trail to connect Bird to Gird and Iditarod Trail is needed and would improve local support for the project.
 - GVSA prefers for highway and frontage road remain under DOT maintenance.
 - Continuous flow to Alyeska Highway: Continuous flow into Girdwood is not desired by Girdwood. Community is concerned about traffic calming on Alyeska Highway. Request for review of an alternative that slows/stops traffic coming into Girdwood. This may provide for a smaller footprint and more suitable option that upholds the community's concern about wetlands and viewshed.
A similar intersection existing interchange is at Tudor Rd and Seward Highway.

3. Review letter being prepared by Roads and Utilities and Public Safety supervisors. Letter likely needs to be redrafted with additional insight from this meeting. Letter will be discussed at the GBOS meeting on Sept 19 and can be approved at the October GBOS meeting. Project is to be on Planning and Zoning agenda in December.

4. Review letter being prepared by the Holtan Hills Housing Advisory Committee for HLB and CY Investments HHHAC has created solid list is requests for CY Investments and HLB, which they reviewed with GBOS last week. Sam Daniel and Emma Kramer, with Brooke Lavender selected as an alternate, plan to meet with HLB and CY Investments next week, currently scheduled for WED 9/21 at 4PM. As time is short between that meeting and the HLBAC meeting the following morning, Emma is expected to post update on how this discussion goes on social media. Sam and Emma are trying to push that meeting earlier in the week to alleviate this time crunch. HLBAC meeting is scheduled for THU 9/22; agenda includes vote on disposal of the project parcels. It has been understood that HLB Staff would recommend delay on the vote until October HLBAC meeting. Commissioners can determine if they will vote or not. Dave Hamre will attend that meeting on behalf of the HHHAC. Other public may sign up to participate/testify. Individuals must sign up by 5PM on 9/21 to testify at this meeting.

Change in leadership at MOA:

Adam Trombley has been tapped to serve as Mayors Chief of Staff.

Lance Wilbur has been tapped to serve as Director of Community & Economic Development, which oversees HLB. He has indicated that he wants Trombley to continue on Holtan Hills project.

Motion:

GBOS moves to approve the HHHAC letter draft 7 as presented.

Motion by Briana Sullivan, 2nd by Guy Wade

Motion carries 4-0 in roll call vote

(Amanda Sassi having technical issue attending via phone and unable to vote)

HHHAC requests affirmation from GBOS that the subcommittee is to continue moving forward in their purpose to engage with CY Investments and HLB to draft relevant documents (revision to Development Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, etc). GBOS affirms that HHHAC should continue their work.

Adjourn 9:15