

# 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 and Briana Sullivan, Co-Chairs  
Jennifer Wingard, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

## LETTER OF OBJECTION

November 28, 2022

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 and safety. There was also an interest in making access to Old Girdwood, the neighborhood behind the gas station, more accessible and safer.

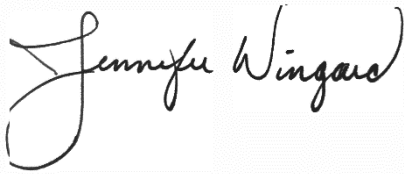
The previous concepts, as well the current situation, have Old Girdwood as a main corridor for access and egress. In addition to removing Old Girdwood from the general traffic flow in and out of Girdwood, this plan would replace the road and pedestrian bridges over the railroad tracks, which the community appreciates. Another positive in the plan is creating connectivity to the Lower Iditarod Trail a safe distance from the railroad tracks.

The public and GBOS have several concerns related to the design that is now considered the Recommended Alternative:

- Size and scope of the project are excessive: the project seems to overcorrect for existing, as well as future safety concerns in the area, and is inconsistent with the small-town nature of the Girdwood community
- Negative impact to wetlands and viewscape
- Concern over impacts to businesses in the gas station mall area due to decreased access
- Emergency egress both North and South bound from Toadstool Road and Main Street

The proposal presented was not one of the options being entertained at the 2018 request, so community concerns about this design were not part of the comments and responses. Please reconsider this plan as it is not what Girdwood wants or needs, and the community will not support the large “trumpet” loop extending into the wetlands and viewscape. We request keeping the Toadstool Road emergency access, downsizing the project to not have circular on and off ramps, and adding a secondary access on the east side of the Glacier Creek for a future emergency access road.

At the November 28, 2022 GBOS LUC Joint Meeting the GBOS voted 3-0 to provide this Letter of Objection to the project as presented.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Wingard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

Jennifer Wingard  
GBOS Roads and Utilities Supervisor