

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

December 9, 2025

Minutes Draft

This meeting will be held via Teams with in-person attendance at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Dr.

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 Public Safety Advisory Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

7PM Call to order, Luke Niedringhaus

Roll call, attending are Tim Astle, Deb Croghan, Luke Niedringhaus

Mike Opalka is excused.

Quorum confirmed

GBOS Member Kellie Okonek, Police, Roads and Utilities Chair attending

Agenda approval for Dec 9 meeting

Croghan/Niedringhaus

Minutes approval from Aug 12 and May 13 meetings

Croghan/Niedringhaus

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

GBOS Committees will hold elections to fill executive leadership roles at their first meeting in the new year.

Old Business:

- 1) Status of 2 year Public Safety Contract with Whittier

Contract expires 12/31/25. Changes to the dispatch service cost necessitated a new contract rather than renewal of the old one. This is in process with both the Anchorage Assembly and Whittier Town Council and should be signed and complete by both bodies TUE Dec 16.

- 2) Status of PSAC request for GBOS Resolution of support for Traffic and Traffic control study of Hightower Road.

GBOS resolution has been forwarded to SOA and MOA. Staff will follow up to make sure it's set for both to accomplish in 2026.

- 3) Public Safety Contract after 2027

Ideas to be considered in next contract cycle (starting Jan 1 2028)

Potential for enforcement of Municipal code

PSAC will start to work on this in 2026. Interest in pursuing WPD for enforcement of municipal code such as fires, camping.

New Business:

- 4) Wildland Urban Interface – Community Action Committee (WUI-CAT) (Briana Sullivan)

Deb Croghan expresses interest in volunteering on this committee. She will provide letter for GBOS to consider. Item will be new business at DEC GBOS, actionable in January unless it is moved to Old Business for immediate action.

- 5) Discuss any new and ongoing Girdwood public safety concerns (see meeting packet)

Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor:

SOA Funding secured for:

Re-painting stenciling on pathway

Inlay and repainting of pathway lines where the sweeps are crossed by roads. This will help the paint last longer

Replace bollards that block pathway from vehicle access at intersections

Alyeska Highway Speed study completed in summer 2025.

Report did not find speed violations that warrant significant change to speed limit. Changes to speed limit would require re-engineering of the road.

Recommendations from the report are:

- Install Speed Feedback signs (ie You are Speeding flashing signs). This will involve design and installation fees as well as acquisition of the signs. These would be effective in locations where they can be connected to a power source.

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee is a sub-committee to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors

- Move/extend the 30 MPH zone so that it begins before the Alyeska Highway curves.
- Repairs to pathway that are damaged by frost heaves at culverts.

Public comments:

- physical speed study took place midday, midweek and don't represent rush-hours.
- Study also included multi-day placement of strips to document speed and traffic volume. This information is not included in the current report.
- Suggestion to remove passing zone in the 45MPH zone. With driveways on both sides, crossing of Lower INHT, and busy bike path adjacent to the road, removing passing zone would promote safety through the corridor.

Staff and PSAC supervisor will bring study to GBOS at their December Meeting. Study will be posted on the website and social media/post at GW posting sites to make public aware of the study and its recommendations. Public can make suggestions to DOT directly and can comment to GBOS.

Speed Enforcement:

Public requests that Whittier focus on speed enforcement on Alyeska Highway during rush hours (roughly 9-10AM and 4-5PM and busy days at Alyeska Resort (weekends/snowy days).

Parking:

Holiday season brings house parties and more traffic generally.

WPD non-emergency number is 907-783-3223; in an emergency call 911.

Parking around Town Square (IE camping) has been enforced by WPD with success.

Parking on Olympic Mtn Loop that was impacting emergency access has been effectively enforced by WPD.

6) PSAC election of officers for 2026. Roles are 2 co-chairs

Officer election will be at the March PSAC meeting. Luke indicates he is interested in continuing as a co-chair.

Reports/Ongoing items:

7) Review recent/upcoming community events (see meeting packet)

October: Community helper Month at the Girdwood k-8 school.

October 25: Kids and Cops at the Ice Cream Shop 11A-2P

November 22: Coffee with a Cop at the Grind 10A-1P

8) Other Community relations opportunities:

PSAC member ride along with WPD

Outreach via community resources: Newspaper; Newsletters; Clinic; Other

Chair requests that staff post the Alyeska Highway traffic study and encourage public input/comments

Attendance at Whittier town council with contract extension?

9) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board: None

10) Consider next meeting dates

Motion:

PSAC moves to accept these dates for quarterly meetings in 2026:

March 10, 2026; June 9, 2026; Sept 15, 2026 Dec 15, 2026 at 7PM

Motion by Niedringhaus/Astel

Motion carries by Assent

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – review most recent stats

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – request written report

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Kellie Okonek)

Public Comment:

Thea Ritter provided public comment via email:

- Request speed humps on Alyeska Highway and Hightower Road.

Staff provides update on speed hump design that is now allowed in MOA as it has been determined not to interfere with emergency vehicle access. However, there are concerns that the new design impact snow removal and consequences of that are being considered, as is the effectiveness of the newly designed speed humps, which are

spaced apart to allow emergency vehicles to avoid them.

A traffic study on Hightower/town center area has been requested for 2026, to consider traffic flow throughout the area.

Staff will bring up consideration of speed humps with State of Alaska for Alyeska Highway. Alyeska Highway is a state road, not part of GVSA. We have just received results and recommendations from a State traffic study of Alyeska Highway from the Seward Highway to Crow Creek Road. This study is available here:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/operations/streets/Service/GBOS/Alyeska%20Hwy%20Speed%20Study%202025.pdf>

- Request increased enforcement on Alyeska Highway, Timberline and side roads by WPD

Chief acknowledges this request.

- Suggest that future paving proposals on Timberline include use of speed humps, as paving will increase speeds on the road.

Paving bond proposed in the spring 2025 election was passed by Girdwood voters by about 65%. It failed because the city-wide vote overall rejected the bond proposition.

Since the idea was favored by Girdwood population, the GVSA is seeking other methods of funding this work. This item is on GBOS agendas currently and projected for work in 2027.

- Stop bar missing at Davos Road and Alyeska Highway.

This item was noted this fall and brought to MOA traffic to complete, however painting had been wrapped up for the year by then, and it was too late in the season to be effective.

It is on the list for painting this spring.

Adjourn 7:50PM