

Whittier Police Department – Girdwood Substation improvements

- Separation of Office and living quarters.
- Secure door upstairs that limits non-police personnel from having access to restricted areas without police presence
- Install Secure Storage in the entry area for police equipment.
- Window screens
- Utility sink with a larger countertop to replace the current sink/vanity in the bathroom.

Estimated cost: \$15,000.00

Thea,

Thank you for writing, sharing your concerns, and sharing possible solutions to what can be done.

Alyeska Highway is owned and managed by the State of Alaska, so any changes to speed, signage, speed humps, and homemade signs must be approved by the Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT). I recommend contacting Scott Thomas (AKDOT traffic engineer); his contact information is below.

Scott Thomas, P.E., CR Traffic-Safety Engineer
Alaska DOT&PF, Central Region Traffic, Safety, and Utilities Section
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Girdwood as a community has tried to have some of your suggestions done in the past, and due to the roadway being classified as a Highway, they couldn't apply them to the road. Successes we had with AKDOT was installing the Pedestrian flasher system at the Alyeska & Hightower/Egloff intersection crosswalk, which significantly improved safety for those crossing. The rebuild of the bike/walk pathway along Alyeska from a 6' wide crumbling path to a 10' wide path to improve spacing for the multiple types of non-motorized users.

I've included Chief Achee from the Whittier Police Department on this email. They do regular speed patrols of Alyeska Highway, but it's limited since they provide police service for two communities, and response to public assistance calls takes priority. I put in a request to Chief Achee to be more active with speed patrols when staffing allows. They have several roads in Girdwood where they try to do speed patrols.

Let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Kyle

I am writing to you because my family and I are very concerned about speeding along the Alyeska highway. I go on the bike path nearly every day with my child and dog and witness far too many speeders along the highway each time. There was a recent accident in which a speeding truck lost control and flipped across the bike path, hitting a tree and knocking the power out! Just imagine if someone had been on the bike path at that time.

The bike path is used by all walks of life. We chose to live in Girdwood so our child can bike to school and bike/walk to friends' homes. The speeding is very concerning to us. Something needs to be done.

I have been brainstorming a lot about what can be done. I think some good options are:

-Decrease the speed to 30 mph at the National Park Ranger station near the start of the highway. This would give the impression that going fast in Girdwood is not OK and not tolerated. 45 mph is too fast on any part of the highway given the proximity of the bike path and increased homes being built along the road.

-Add speeding signs with radar detectors in them that flashes the sign and possibly has a smiley/frown face displayed (like in Hope).

- Increase police presence to control speeders.
- Speed humps (not bumps which are very difficult for plows to go over) along the highway.
- Handmade signs by the Girdwood elementary school discouraging speeding along the highway done by class. (These could "disappear" though).

I would be happy to discuss other options with you or my concern about this if you would like.

Thank you.

All the best,
Thea