

All Proposed 2024 Rabbit Creek Capital Projects

Last updated 06/15/2023

Priority 1

Old Seward Highway Upgrade - Rabbit Creek to Potter Valley Road

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: This project has been high on the RCCC CIP list for about 20 years. No shoulder or path exists now; the road needs full reconstruction, not repaving, to include safe non-motorized uses. HDP Policy 9D is to: 'Upgrade Old Seward Highway to a multi-modal facility while retaining its rural and recreational character.' A Context Sensitive Design should be developed to include purposes of traffic calming (e.g., reduce speed limit to 30 mph), protection of wildlife and habitat in the adjacent State Coastal Wildlife Refuge, and for safe non-motorized travel and recreation, consistent with existing growing uses of the refuge, recreation, parking, and viewing along this road.

Project Scope: Reconstruct Old Seward Highway between Rabbit Creek Road and Potter Valley Road to include a separated pedestrian/bike path and viewing spots.

Project Status: Old Seward Highway between Rabbit Creek Road and Potter Valley Road is in poor condition but is regularly used by pedestrians, cyclists, joggers, roller skiers (high school and university teams regularly train here before snowfall) in increasing numbers, along with bird watchers and photographers accessing the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge and State Critical Habitat Area just to the west. The area is also seeing increasing use with opening of the Bird Treatment and Learning Center on Old Seward Highway.

Priority 2

Hillside Fire Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Evacuation Routes - Low Cost Connections

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Many neighborhoods in the RCCC area have limited access, steep roads, and unpaved roads making access difficult for emergency vehicles or for residents to leave in an emergency. Residents and thus the overall community would benefit from more information on how to be prepared for wildfires, how to manage brush and plantings around their homes to minimize wildfire dangers, and other mitigation and avoidance measures. Preventive measures, as well as improved connections for both access and among community members, would also be of benefit to reduce impacts, including saving lives, from other potential disasters.

Project Scope: Initial scope is on Hillside areas with high risk for wildfires. Identify and establish low cost connections and secondary egress for fire and other evacuation routes in currently isolated and limited access Hillside neighborhoods. Assess areas with high fuel loads and potential choke points for egress and access to isolated neighborhoods. Use Firewise funds to assist with local home preparation and create shaded fuel breaks along key defense and access routes. Conduct annual assessments and plan and implement an evacuation drill in the Rabbit Creek community, and other areas of the Hillside. See the Fire Department Study and Hillside District Plan for further recommendations and needed connections. Develop and install safety and access signage. Focus on wildfire season but consider applicability for other disasters and emergencies.

Project Status: In 2019 Rabbit Creek Community Council formed a committee to create a local Firewise Community Site program to increase awareness, provide resources and information, and implement mitigation strategies responsive to the threat of wildfires. Now established as a broader and year round Resilience Committee, we work to strengthen the fabric of our community connections and ability to be safe, prepared, responsive, and resilient to future events that affect our community (Earthquakes, Fire, Wind, Power, Flood, Medical, Child Safety Alerts, criminal activity, COVID-19). The group meets monthly and has expanded to include participation from the Hillside Home and Landowners Organization (HALO) and other hillside community councils. Fire Department, University and Muni fire and other disaster experts attend Resilience Committee meetings and share information at our RCCC meetings. In 2019 RCCC received a small grant to provide coupons for members to make free drop offs at the Muni woodlot, encouraging them to clear debris around their homes. At a virtual Spring Wildlife Awareness program May 2, 2020, organized by our Resilience Committee and partners, information was shared on Ready, Set, Go and checklists for ensuring one's home is Firewise; woodlot coupons were also provided. In 2021, the Resilience Committee has continued to meet monthly, including an April 20th Hillside Wildfire Awareness and Community Outreach Prevention Effort Training involving our Muni and University partners. The Wildfire Evacuation Training and Table Top Drill - 4/28 and 4/30 was a multi-agency event in partnership with the Resilience Committee. Involving almost 50 participants from various MOA and State of AK agencies to review incident response procedures, the drill focused on a potential event in the Rabbit Creek green belt to the south of DeArmoun Road. The drill quickly highlighted the need for residents to be prepared to move quickly and prepare for possible APD traffic controls that would shut down DeArmoun Road and perhaps use Huffman or other roads in a "contraflow" pattern. Communication with the public was a critical issue that everyone recognized would be challenging in our current age of social media and a confusing number of places to try to find authoritative information. The drill had been a goal of the Rabbit Creek/HALO/Resilience project for a couple years, and we appreciated the opportunity to participate in the training and the drill. Additional information on Resilience Committee activities can be found here:

<http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/Neighborhood%20Resilience%20Committee.html>

Priority 3

Golden View Dr Pedestrian Pathway - Rabbit Creek Rd to Romania Dr

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$5,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$5,000,000.00

Need: Golden View Drive is one of the few, fairly flat roads in the Rabbit Creek community making it particularly attractive for biking, walking, and jogging in an area otherwise characterized by steep narrow roads with limited sight lines. Golden View is also the primary access for a middle school and one of only two parks with playgrounds in the community; it is also traveled by many other youth traveling to Rabbit Creek elementary school and South High School.

Project Scope: The project will develop a grade separated pedestrian/bike path along Golden View Drive from Rabbit Creek Road, south to Romania, providing bike and pedestrian access to Golden View Middle School and Moen Park.

Project Status: The project has not started. The scope of the project will be included in the Golden View Drive upgrade project. However, since funding is dependent on state grants for either project, a pathway may be a lower cost alternative, which may be more easily attainable.

Priority 4

Left Turn Lane from Rabbit Creek Rd to Old Seward Hwy

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$1,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$1,000,000.00

Need: Vehicles making the left-hand turn at this intersection must yield to oncoming traffic and therefore often come to a complete stop. Due to the slope and winter conditions, stopping can be a challenge for the traffic headed west on Rabbit Creek Road when a vehicle is waiting to make the left-hand turn.

Project Scope: The project will construct a left turn lane on Rabbit Creek Road at the Old Seward Highway intersection.

Project Status: The project has not started. Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway are state-owned roads. As such, evaluation and prioritization of the project will be made by the State of Alaska DOT.

Priority 5

Kincaid to Potter Trail

Agency:

Cost: \$100.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$100.00

Need: This project could be funded through wetland banks in Alaska, justified because increased (or mitigation) wetlands in Anchorage flyway benefit all migratory birds traveling north to and through Alaska.

Project Scope: Located offshore, at mean low water line, create another freshwater marsh that would be a world class wetland and bird sanctuary.

Project Status: Unknown.

Priority 6

Chugach State Park Access Improvements

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$10,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$10,000,000.00

Need: The population growth of Anchorage and the increased popularity of Chugach State Park have created safety concerns. The high volume of vehicles driving to and parking near existing park access points has overwhelmed the existing facilities. Users typically park in the roadway or on private property near the access points.

Project Scope: The project will design and construct access improvements as identified in the Chugach State Park Alternate Access study.

Project Status: Construct recommendations from a study. State grant funding is proposed.

Priority 7

Recreational corridors: along Rabbit Creek Road, and from Old Seward to the Potter Creek Trailhead

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required:

Need:

Project Scope: Develop a recreational corridor along Rabbit Creek Road. Also develop a recreational corridor to connect the south end of Old Seward Highway to the Potter Creek Trailhead. This could become part of the Alaska Long Trail being promoted by Alaska Trails (<https://www.alaska-trails.org/the-alaska-long-trail>).

Project Status:

Priority 8

Golden View Road at Rabbit Creek Road - Intersection Safety Improvements

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: This is the most trafficked intersection in the RCCC area and also one of the more dangerous as cars coming uphill and downhill converge with the shoulder used by pedestrians and cyclists, and many cars are turning onto or off of Golden View, particularly during the busy middle school drop off and pick up hours. This project was previously identified as a top priority for the area, including as the #1 priority by DOT's Hillside Intersection Study.

Project Scope: Repair and improve intersection at Golden View Road and Rabbit Creek Road, ideally in conjunction with upgrade of Rabbit Creek Road (unfortunately, that upgrade is already completed?).

Project Status: While Rabbit Creek Road was repaved and upgraded in the past year or two, nothing was done to address the traffic and safety issues at the Golden View Road and Rabbit Creek Road intersection.

Priority 9

Identify, Survey, Platt, and add Signage for existing but undeveloped pedestrian easements

Agency:

Cost: \$100,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$100,000.00

Need: Funding is needed to identify and develop publicly accessible walking routes in the Rabbit Creek and adjacent areas where there are many tracts of open space but access is limited. Increasing public outdoor opportunities is even more critical in this time of COVID-19 where people have been sheltering in place and opportunities to gather, with safe social distancing, outdoors are ever more important for the mental and physical health of all our residents. This project was added and identified as #1 of 14 projects in the Parks & Rec category considered by RCCC. This included the 11 projects on CIP list plus 3 additional projects (14 total) ranked for this category.

Project Scope: Identify, survey, platt, and add signage for existing but undeveloped pedestrian easements in the Rabbit Creek and adjacent areas. This would be similar to what was done at Campbell Lake where an existing but undeveloped public easement was identified and signed to allow public access.

Project Status: Request that this project be added to the Parks & Rec list.

Priority 10

Rabbit Creek Gateway

Agency:

Cost: \$20,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$20,000.00

Need: This project was ranked #3 of 14 projects in Parks & Rec category considered by RCCC. This included the 11 projects on CIP list plus 3 additional projects (14 total) ranked for this category. Currently there is no recognizable entrance or gateway to the Rabbit Creek community. Nor are there any recognizable community gathering places, and our municipal parks are very limited (Moen Park and Storck park are the only Muni areas with playground equipment and park benches in our community). RCCC is interested in assisting the Muni with an application under 43 CFR 2740 to pursue this significant opportunity for our neighborhood which has limited parks and no current gateway. Our long-term intent is for this community gateway to be used for a variety of community purposes and cared for by RCCC as an "Adopt-A-Gateway/Park parcel." Our initial vision is to provide a gateway to our community by establishing a welcome sign with architectural elements and plantings, possibly designed through a competition, potentially through local schools or with local artists and engineers. RCCC will be the community lead for this "Adopt-a-Gateway/Park" parcel. Upon subsequent approval from the Muni and BLM, future uses could include: 1. Parking and staging for trails in the area, with eventual pedestrian connections to Bird TLC and their events, Potter Marsh, and the hoped-for Old Seward Highway greenway trail. 2. Pop-up events like a candidate cook-off, a feed/water station for a community bike or running race, a charity drive. 3. Seasonal events, to build neighborhood traditions such as a spring clean-up staging area, creek cleanup staging, a gardeners' plant exchange, solstice tree lighting, etc. 4. In the long run, the adjoining orchard could become a conservation parcel and subsequently incorporated into the Gateway, similar to Government Hill's community orchard. It may not be a large parcel, but we can still dream big! 5. A small community garden or possibly a covered pavilion (note, any structures would become the property of BLM) could be included (Challenge Grants from Anchorage Park Foundation could provide matching funds; neighborhood volunteers have gardening and building skills and materials).

Project Scope: In response to a request from the RCCC, the Municipality requested that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) transfer the approximately 1-acre lot at the SE corner of Rabbit Creek Road and Old Seward Highway, to the Municipality through a long-term lease of the parcel under the 1926 Recreation & Public Purposes Act (43 USC 869) for public purposes. The site could serve as a community gateway used for a variety of community purposes and cared for by RCCC as an "Adopt-A-Gateway/Park parcel." Our initial vision is to establish a welcome sign with architectural elements and plantings (e.g., similar to the neighborhood welcome sign for Rogers Park), possibly designed through a competition involving local schools, or by local artists. RCCC would be the community lead for this "Adopt-a-Gateway/Park" parcel. The Municipality has approved this concept, and RCCC is looking for local artists and engineers to assist (volunteer) with the design of the Gateway sign, in order to provide the specifications required by BLM to finalize the lease with the Muni.

Project Status: RCCC has submitted written requests over a number of years and met with both BLM and the Muni about our request for transfer of the BLM parcel to the Muni and use of it as a Rabbit Creek community Gateway. The Municipality submitted an application to the BLM, May 2, 2019, with the request that the Muni 'lease this lot to be used as a 'gateway' property to place a welcome sign with architectural elements and plantings." In response the BLM has requested detailed plans for the exact placement and dimensions of the sign. The RCCC continues to work on those details.

Priority 11

Abbott Rd/Hillside Dr Trail - Rabbit Creek Rd to Seward Hwy

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$40,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$40,000,000.00

Need: The trail is not fully constructed between Rabbit Creek Road and the Seward Highway.

Project Scope: The project will construct missing trail links and reconstruct those in poor condition.

Project Status: No work is underway. This trail has been added to the Capital Project Needs List for evaluation and future funding consideration. Both Abbott Road and Hillside Drive are state owned facilities and funding would be from state or federal sources.

Priority 12

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Erosion

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$3,500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$400,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,100,000.00

Need: To protect the shoreline and trail corridor from shoreline erosion threatening the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.

Project Scope: Design, permit, and construct a solution to protect against shoreline erosion along the land-water interface near the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Project Status: Recent and ongoing bank armoring has provided protection for a 5-10 year period. Additional funding is needed for a more long-term sustainable solution.

Priority 13

Areawide Trail Safety Upgrades

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$3,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,000,000.00

Need: Safety upgrades are needed along major greenbelt trails to support trail use in all seasons. This includes lighting missing links and spur trails, wayfinding with emergency locators, bridge upgrades as needed.

Project Scope: Add LED lighting to spur trails and missing greenbelt trail links. Upgrade/replace aging bridges. Add systemwide wayfinding.

Project Status: Park maintenance performs monthly safety inspections and repairs the park assets as necessary. Emergency locators and mile markers have been installed on greenbelt multi-use trails.

Priority 14

Potter Valley Road Surface Rehabilitation - Old Seward Highway to Greece Drive

Agency:

Cost: \$32.00

Funds on Hand: \$300,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$29.00

Need: Pavement is deteriorating and pavement rehabilitation will be required. The 2019 PCI survey determined the road was in Fair condition.

Project Scope: The project will overlay or replace pavement on this collector street.

Project Status: Project has been on hold pending further funding (\$300 K of total \$3.2 million needed is available) through state grants or local bonds. Fortunately the road has been standing up better than expected.

Priority 15

Community Garden Site Selection and Design and Management Standards.

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$50,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$50,000.00

Need: The public demand for plots in MOA Community Gardens far exceeds the current availability. New community gardens have been identified in a number of newly completed park master plans. Funding will be used to develop new community gardens.

Project Scope: Identify appropriate parks in the Anchorage Bowl where community garden development is appropriate. Create design and management guidelines to assist the department in building and maintaining community gardens.

Project Status: The department manages five community gardens with 230 garden plots available for the general public to rent. Locations include the Brag raw Gardens, C Street Gardens, Fairview Gardens, McPhee Gardens, and Cheshunt Muldoon Park. In 2017, the department collaborated with the University of Alaska Anchorage to survey Anchorage residents and to better understand the need for additional community garden plots in Anchorage. Since then, the department has increased garden plots by 25%, adding two new food forest, expanding existing gardens, adding new amenities, and developing a new garden at Cheshunt Muldoon Park

Priority 16

Section 36 Park Improvements

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$400,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$400,000.00

Need: Section 36 is located in the Bear Valley community and is approximately 640 acres of mostly undeveloped land. Improvements will provide residents with access to close-to-home recreational opportunities in a unique natural environment.

Project Scope: Funds will be used to begin trail development and access improvements.

Project Status: Section 36 uplands are in the process of being transferred to P&R management and will be formally dedicated. A master plan for Section 36 Master Plan was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Priority 17

Systemwide Trail Wayfinding

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$2,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$800,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$1,200,000.00

Need: Trail signage and wayfinding is currently inconsistent throughout Anchorage's park and trail system. Adding signage and wayfinding will help residents and visitors navigate our parks and trails, reduce barriers to access for underserved neighborhoods, and create a safer and more enjoyable experience on Anchorage trails.

Project Scope: Design, development and implementation of wayfinding for Anchorage's paved & soft surface trails.

Project Status: Anchorage has over 250 miles of trails. Implementation of a comprehensive suite of signage and wayfinding throughout the trail system will help address safety concerns as well as improve neighborhood access and navigation to destinations.

Priority 18

Golden View Dr Connection (West) - Romania Dr to Potter Valley Rd

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$20,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$20,000,000.00

Need: This connection will be a vital link in south Anchorage that will enhance traffic circulation in the area and promote safety. This collector connection is in the Official Streets and Highway Plan. This connection is vital for safety reasons because Golden View Drive to the north provides the only collector street egress from this large area of south Anchorage. It is a high priority for emergency services (police, fire, medical) and the Rabbit Creek Community Council.

Project Scope: The project will construct a collector route between Romania Drive and Potter Valley Road. The exact route and scope will be determined in the design process which includes public involvement. Improvements are expected to include pavement, drainage, pedestrian facilities, lighting, traffic calming, and landscaping.

Project Status: The project area is included in the Hillside District Plan as a special study area. This study will occur before the project advances.

Priority 19

Bluebell Drive and Golden View Drive Improvements

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Bluebell is very steep and has limited sight lines at its intersection with Golden View Drive, resulting in particularly hazardous conditions in the winter. Engineering to ameliorate the situation has been completed but funds to construct the improvements have been lacking.

Project Scope: Design and engineering has been completed to improve the dangerous intersection at Bluebell and Golden View Drive. Funds are now needed to construct the project.

Project Status: Need funds to implement construction and remedy the existing dangerous situation at Bluebell and Golden View.

Priority 20

Old Seward Highway Rut Repair - Rabbit Creek Road to Potter Valley Road

Agency:

Cost: \$36.00

Funds on Hand: \$3.00

Additional Funds Required:

Need: The road has become quite bumpy and rutted and is particularly dangerous for motorcycles and bikers, with numerous potholes, cracks in the roadway, sloughing at the edges, and bumps.

Project Scope: Repair ruts, cracks, and sloughing in roadway along Old Seward Highway between Rabbit Creek Road and Potter Valley Road. (Note, this is a smaller version of our #2 ranked State project to reconstruct the roadway and include safe, non-motorized uses, ideally, a bike/pedestrian pathway.

Project Status: None

Priority 21

Little Rabbit Creek Flooding and Glaciation Improvements

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$0.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$0.00

Need: Due to development in the area, portions of Little Rabbit Creek are running steeper than before leading to erosion that is threatening structures. The project need was identified by the Rabbit Creek Community Council.

Project Scope: The project will construct stream bank and channelization improvements to reduce flooding and glaciation and improve fish habitat.

Project Status: No work is currently scheduled in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program. Project will remain on the Capital Project Needs List for future funding consideration.

Priority 22

Dog Park Site Selection and Design and Management Standards.

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$75,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$75,000.00

Need: Anchorage has an estimated 65,000 dogs. By nature, dogs need safe spaces for exercise and socialization. Designated off-leash areas provide spaces for residents to recreate with their dogs and help to minimize conflicts with other park activities. Upgrades to existing as well as new off-leash areas are needed to serve the community along with design and management standards to ensure that off-leash areas are maintainable and safe.

Project Scope: Identify appropriate parks in the Anchorage Bowl where dog park development is appropriate. Create design and management guidelines to assist the department in building and maintaining dog parks.

Project Status: Currently, Anchorage has designated 9 off-leash dog park areas. Three off which have been added in the past 5 years. Valley of the Moon in 2018, Whisper Faith Kovach In 2019, and Cheshunt Muldoon Park in fall 2021.

Priority 23

Campbell Creek Trail - Separated Grade Crossing @ Lake Otis

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$12,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$50,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$11,950,000.00

Need: The Campbell Creek Trail consists of an east and west trail which is separated by Lake Otis Blvd. Pedestrians and cyclists are required to travel a half mile to the south to access a tunnel under Lake Otis Blvd. An overpass would provide for a more direct connection and eliminate safety concerns associated with trail users cutting directly across traffic.

Project Scope: Design and construct an elevated bike/pedestrian bridge over Lake Otis Blvd to connect the east and west portions of the Campbell Creek Trail.

Project Status: A design alternatives study was completed in 2019 to evaluate potential options and rough order of magnitude costs estimates. This project was recently nominated as an AMATS non-motorized project. Preliminary design will begin in 2023.

Priority 24

Mountain Air Drive Extension/Connection

Agency:

Cost: \$100,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$1,000,002,020.00

Additional Funds Required: \$211.00

Need: This connector has been a community development priority for years and will provide much needed secondary and emergency access for this area of the community. This extension will increase safety for the south Anchorage hillside area and is a high priority for emergency services, including police, fire, and medical.

Project Scope: This project will initiate a new collector connection south of Rabbit Creek Road and east of Golden View Drive by completing an extension/connection of Mountain Air Drive from current terminus to connect with Rabbit Creek Rd near Fire Station 10/Bear Valley Elementary School. Eventual improvements may include pavement, street lighting, drainage, and pedestrian facilities.

Project Status: Voters approved a bond providing \$100,000 for initial project design in the April 2020 Muni election.

Priority 25

156th Ave Access

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: With development of several new subdivisions (Spruce Terraces, Taras/Irene, Shangri La East, Jaamly) along the right-of-way for 156th Avenue, it is urgently needed to further develop 156th to handle the increased traffic, fire, and public safety risks. Past area developments have routed all traffic to 162nd Ave to reach GoldenView Drive, with not other access to major roads out of these subdivisions. Current approvals have allowed for widening Far View, Song and other secondary roads feeding into 162nd. Currently the only access to and from these new subdivisions is to 162nd exiting onto Golden View which makes 162nd more dangerous for walking and worsens an already overloaded 162nd traffic situation. Wildfires are a tremendous threat on the Hillside, and additional egress options are sorely needed (see our #2 priority project for "Hillside Fire Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Evacuation Routes." 156th could be one such critical route out of these neighborhoods in case of a fire or other emergency. At a minimum, a trail could serve as an emergency route.

Project Scope: Several new subdivisions have been platted in the vicinity of the 156th Avenue easement in SE Anchorage, e.g., Spruce Terraces, River Hills Tract A (Taras); with others likely in the next few years (e.g., Mountain Air Estates). Part of the 156th Ave. easement has been previously vacated. The Muni should work with area developers to provide the needed connections for secondary access in this area - ideally, complete 156th Avenue, connecting it to Goldenview, it is already connected to one of the new subdivisions (Taras) and could easily be connected to Spruce Terraces; options for then connecting to Golden View would need to be determined.

Project Status: No funding and no planning has been completed.

Priority 26

Forest Health and Park Safety

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$1,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$800,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$200,000.00

Need: The recent infestation of spruce bark beetle in southcentral Alaska will result in significant loss of spruce trees and will require mitigation to reduce fire danger and ensure public health and safety. Also, invasive species along greenbelts are impacting native vegetation and riparian/stream health.

Project Scope: Funds will be used to address various issues impacting forest health on parkland. This includes the mitigation of spruce bark beetle kill, the removal of hazard trees from the 2012 windstorm, and the management of invasive species.

Project Status: The Department has received several federal grants to remove beetle-kill trees. P&R crews and contractors completed thousands of hours of work in 2022 to remove beetle-kill spruce along trail corridors and adjacent to develop facilities such as playgrounds and picnic shelters. Park maintenance and horticulture crews continually assess parks and trails and address issues as they come up to ensure that park assets are safe for Anchorage citizens.

No Assigned Priority

Golden View Dr/Buffalo St/Elmore Rd/145th Ave Area Chip Seal Surfacing

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$500,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$500,000.00

Need: These gravel roads frequently have pot holes and contribute to Anchorage's air quality concerns. The 2020 GASB survey rated Golden View Drive (north of Rabbit Creek Road) and Buffalo Street in failing condition.

Project Scope: The project will resurface these roads with chip seal.

Project Status: The project has not started. The project will remain on the needs list for future funding consideration.

No Assigned Priority

Golden View Pedestrian/Bike Path

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Golden View Road is one of the few, fairly flat roads in the Rabbit Creek community making it particularly attractive for biking, walking, and jogging in an area otherwise characterized by steep narrow roads with limited sight lines. Golden View is also the primary access for a middle school and one of only two parks with playgrounds in our community; it is also traveled by many other youth traveling to Rabbit Creek elementary school and South High School. The fact that no bike/pedestrian path exists here is unconscionable.

Project Scope: Develop a grade separated pedestrian/bike path along Golden View Drive from Rabbit Creek Road, south to Romania, providing bike and pedestrian access to Golden View Middle School and Moen Park.

Project Status: no funds available?

No Assigned Priority

Mountain Air Dr Extension (20-19)

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$12,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$110,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$11,890,000.00

Need: The Hillside District Plan (HDP), adopted in April 2010 as a component of Anchorage's Comprehensive Plan, established the long-term vision for development on the hillside. One of the primary goals in the HDP is to improve the roadway system (with an emphasis on providing better emergency access and connectivity) to reduce congestion and increase safety, and to support projected growth while maintaining the area's character. The Mountain Air Drive Extension (shown in the figure on the following page) helps achieve all of those goals. It provides a secondary access directly from Fire Station 10 into the residential neighborhood and an alternative north-south corridor adjacent to Golden View Drive, potentially reducing congestion at the intersection of Rabbit Creek Road.

Project Scope: The project will construct a collector connecting the northern and southern ends of Mountain Air Drive.

Project Status: 2020 areawide bonds provided a local match for the design work for this TIP funded project. DOT&PF managing design and construction. DSR and environmental documentation underway.

No Assigned Priority

Hillside Intersections: Development Capacity, Safety

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: The Rabbit Creek Road and Golden View Drive intersection has long been considered the #1 intersection for needed improvement, however speed and steepness here have complicated potential solutions. The intersection receives particularly heavy use, with very large amounts of youth in the area and in cars, at the start and end of the Golden View Middle School day. Other intersections of particular concern are Rabbit Creek and Old Seward Highway (partially addressed in the recommended State project for a left turn pocket from Rabbit Ck Road to Old Seward Highway) and Potter Valley/Old Seward Highway at New Seward Highway intersections.

Project Scope: An AK Department of Transportation study of Hillside intersections has apparently been undertaken. Coordination is needed between the Muni and the State around priorities for major Hillside intersections. A process to prioritize upgrades to major intersections with a history of capacity and safety problems needs to be developed before additional local roads and subdivision development is approved in order to insure the resulting additional load on major intersections will be addressed before current problems are worsened. Specific intersections of concern are Rabbit Creek Road at Goldenvue and at Old Seward Highway, and Potter Valley/Old Seward Highway at New Seward Highway.

Project Status: The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) initiated a study of South Anchorage Hillside intersections in 2014 with a "Reconnaissance Engineering Study" of nine intersections on the Hillside, in Anchorage, including the one at Rabbit Creek and Golden View. The project website is no longer active and we cannot find the final study.

No Assigned Priority

Mountain Bike Trails

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: A city the size of Anchorage could easily support, and definitely needs, more mountain bike trails!

Project Scope: Develop more mountain bike trails

Project Status: Unknown.

No Assigned Priority

Old Seward Hwy Rut Repair - Potter Valley Rd to Rabbit Creek Rd

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$3,600,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$3,600,000.00

Need: Pavement is deteriorating due to extensive frost heaving.

Project Scope: The project will overlay or replacement the pavement on the collector.

Project Status: The Alaska Department of Transportation has begun design on this AMATS funded project.

No Assigned Priority

Rabbit Creek Rd/New Seward Highway Southbound ramp -

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Would improve traffic flow at this intersection.

Project Scope: Rabbit Creek Rd at New Seward Highway Southbound ramp - separate out eastbound Rabbit Creek traffic to allow ramp left turns.

Project Status: Unknown

No Assigned Priority

De Armoun Rd Upgrade Ph II - 140th Ave to Hillside Dr

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$28,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$28,000,000.00

Need: Drainage, pavement condition, lighting, and safety issues have been identified.

Project Scope: The Alaska Department of Transportation is designing a pavement rehab project for the road.

Project Status: Environmental and design work was completed by the State of Alaska. However, the project is being re-evaluated in light of public comment and future funding is uncertain. This is a state owned facility.

No Assigned Priority

162nd Ave/Sandpiper/Mountain Air Traffic Calming

Agency: Project Management and Engineering

Cost: \$1,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$1,000,000.00

Need: The project need was identified by the Rabbit Creek Community Council.

Project Scope: The project will evaluate the need for traffic calming in this corridor, design recommended alternatives, and construct.

Project Status: The project has not started. It will remain on the Needs List for future funding consideration.

No Assigned Priority

Campbell Creek Greenbelt

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$2,800,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$1,000,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$1,800,000.00

Need: Anchorage has over 250 miles of paved trails. Current infrastructure is outdated, unsafe and in need of repair. Trail use, both summer and winter, will continue to increase and safety and quality condition of trail infrastructure and amenities needs to be a priority.

Project Scope: Asphalt repair, lighting assessment and improvements, bridge repair/replacement, signage improvements

Project Status: Continuation of multi-year, multi-phase trail rehabilitation project including pavement resurfacing, drainage improvements, wayfinding, streambank restoration, and bridge replacement along the Campbell Creek Trail. Previously completed bond funded phases have rehabilitated trail from Dimond Blvd to Fairbanks Street. Future phases will continue east along the trail to Elmore Rd.

No Assigned Priority

E. 142nd Grade

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Road has many issues that need to be ameliorated.

Project Scope: Road has many issues that need to be ameliorated.

Project Status: Unknown

No Assigned Priority

Develop accessible cross-country ski trails

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required:

Need:

Project Scope: Develop readily accessible cross-country ski trails for users with limited proficiency (elderly, young families, disabilities, etc.). Connect a gas line type trail from Hilltop to Service. Provide similar low slope trail at Kincaid.

Project Status: This was a proposal from a RCCC area resident in response to the 2022 Survey; it was not included in the Survey provided to RCCC members in 2023. It was listed on this year's survey but received no votes.

No Assigned Priority

DeArmoun Road Walkway - 140th to Crestview

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required:

Need:

Project Scope: Extend a walkway along DeArmoun Road from 140th to Crestview.

Project Status:

No Assigned Priority

162nd to Mountain Air Drive: Traffic Calming

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Traffic calming is needed along 162nd to Mountain Air Drive to address increased traffic along streets that were not constructed or upgraded to support the new development to the east and the lack of second connections that were originally intended to be built to support new subdivisions that remain isolated with no secondary access or egress routes.

Project Scope: 162nd to Mountain Air Drive assessment and traffic calming. This could also look ahead to the eventual connection of Mountain Air Drive north and east to connect to Rabbit Creek Road and Bear Valley.

Project Status:

No Assigned Priority

Athletic Field Safety Improvements

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$1,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$400,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$600,000.00

Need: Anchorage's athletic fields are well used during the short summer season. Funding will be used to improve athletic fields and supporting facilities in coordination with user groups.

Project Scope: Improvements to athletic fields throughout the Anchorage Bowl to improve play for youth and adult sports. Improvements include turf rehabilitation, fence repair, irrigation systems repairs, amenities, and general facility improvements.

Project Status: Parks and Recreation is working with local user groups to identify and provide needed improvements to athletic fields and sports complexes in Anchorage.

No Assigned Priority

Elmore Rd at Rabbit Creek Rd Intersection Safety Improvements

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$0.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$0.00

Need: Safety concerns have been raised about this intersection.

Project Scope: The project will construct safety improvements once clarified.

Project Status: A study is underway that will recommend specific improvements for the Hillside intersections.

No Assigned Priority

Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$15,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$250,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$14,750,000.00

Need: Non Motorized transportation that connects Spenard, Midtown, Turnagain, West Anchorage and Downtown

Project Scope: Connect the Fish Creek Trail at Northern Lights Blvd to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Project Status: Project was nominated for AMATS funding in 2018. The project is now in the preliminary design and engineering phase. Local match is 9.03% of the total project costs. Construction is anticipated for 2025-26

No Assigned Priority

Old Seward Hwy Upgrade - Rabbit Creek Rd to Potter Valley Rd

Agency: State of Alaska

Cost: \$30,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$30,000,000.00

Need: The road has never been constructed to urban collector standards. There are safety issues with this section of the Old Seward Highway as there is strong recreational use but a narrow road with no shoulders and no pedestrian facilities. This improvement was identified by the Rabbit Creek Community Council.

Project Scope: While the scope has not been set, urban collector standards typically include a new road base, curbs, pavement, pedestrian facilities, storm drains, and street lighting.

Project Status: No work is underway or scheduled in the six-year Capital Improvement Program. This is a state-owned facility and evaluation and funding would be by the State of Alaska. The route is identified as a minor arterial in the Official Streets and Highways Plan.

No Assigned Priority

Ship Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Agency: Parks and Recreation

Cost: \$12,000,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$180,000.00

Additional Funds Required: \$11,820,000.00

Need: Non Motorized transportation that connects two major multi-use trails providing non-motorized connections to West Anchorage, Downtown, and Mt. View.

Project Scope: Connect the Ship Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

Project Status: Project was nominated for AMATS funding in 2018. The project is now in the preliminary design and engineering phase. Local match is 9.03% of the total project costs. Construction is anticipated for 2024-25

No Assigned Priority

Recreational Corridor Along Old Seward Highway, Rabbit Creek south to New Seward Highway

Agency:

Cost: \$20,000.00

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required: \$52,000.00

Need: See above Scope for further details.

Project Scope: Old Seward Highway heading south from Rabbit Creek Road to the New Seward Highway at Potter Valley Road is a popular road used by up to hundreds (?) of residents for walking, biking, and jogging, as well as more sedentary pursuits such as wildlife viewing and photography of the diverse and prolific wildlife in the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge and State Critical Habitat Area managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. While traffic is more limited, especially on the southern half (fewer than 2,000 cars/day use this road south of South Park Bluff), the road lacks shoulders and has hills that reduce visibility. These factors combine to create a tremendous safety hazard as traffic is known to flow at high speeds along Old Seward Highway here. Because of the low traffic volumes, the RCCC recommends that signage be added to designate lower speed limits (no more than 30 mph) and sharing of the road with non-motorized users. This would promote safety and recreation. Establishing the area as a recreation corridor would also be particularly useful for Anchorage residents anxious for outdoor, social distancing, opportunities during this time of COVID-19 and beyond.

Project Status: New proposal to the Muni.

No Assigned Priority

Repave on-ramp from Old Seward Highway, westbound, onto New Seward Highway, northbound.

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand: \$0.00

Additional Funds Required:

Need: This short section of pavement is between newer pavement on the start (south end) of the on-ramp, and the main section of on-ramp (north of it), which is also newer. Both the newer sections of pavement are in good condition. But the short older section between them gets multiple potholes every year – often 4 in deep with vertical edges, i.e., dangerous. The State patches the potholes after complaints, but now, after years of patching, much of the pavement is actually overlapping patches.

Project Scope: Repave on-ramp from Old Seward Highway, westbound, onto New Seward Highway, northbound. Repave the 60-foot section near the south end, which is mostly pothole patches.

Project Status:

No Assigned Priority

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need:

Project Scope:

Project Status:

No Assigned Priority

Trails - Abbott Road/Hillside, Rabbit Creek Road to Seward Highway

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Existing segments of this trail and pedestrian/bike path are popular and important in South Anchorage and the Hillside where parks are limited. Connecting missing trail links would greatly enhance use, provide safer, connected routes for area users, and greatly add to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of Anchorage residents in being able to safely walk, bike, job, etc. near their homes.

Project Scope: Construct missing trail links and reconstruct those in poor condition from Abbot Road and Hillside Drive to Rabbit Creek Road and the Seward Highway.

Project Status: No work is underway. This trail is not fully constructed from Abbot/Hillside to Rabbit Creek Road and then the Seward Highway. Both Abbott Road and Hillside Drive are state owned facilities and funding would be from state or federal sources.

No Assigned Priority

Schools on Trails

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: Currently Bear Valley Elementary School is one of only two schools in Anchorage with no safe walking paths to it. Similarly, walking opportunities to Goldenview Middle School are limited. The Physical Education Department head and a coach at Goldenview have endorsed the proposed trail concept as it would provide opportunities for their physical education classes and cross-country teams.

Project Scope: RCCC has initiated scoping and planning for a 'Schools on Trails' project with the goal of connecting Goldenview Middle School with Bear Valley Elementary School and Section 36 Park. The intent is to develop a rural, unpaved path; some sections could include more developed pathways as may be undertaken in proposals to upgrade Rabbit Creek Road and provide a pedestrian/bike path along Golden View.

Project Status: A Schools on Trails team has been reaching out to area residents about this proposal. A Focus Group is planned for later this summer to consider various trail segment options.

No Assigned Priority

Rabbit Creek Road Upgrade, including a non-motorized, separated path, Left turn pocket at Old Seward, and safety/intersection improvements at Golden View and Elmore

Agency:

Cost:

Funds on Hand:

Additional Funds Required:

Need: There are several dangerous intersections along Rabbit Creek Road (e.g., Old Seward Highway, Elmore, and Golden View) due to steep hills, curves, and reduced sightlines. While the road is used by numerous bicyclists, there is no separated pathway and again, the hills, curves, and reduced sightlines make this very dangerous. Numerous residents have advocated for a safe, separated non-motorized corridor along the road which would provide an important walking and transit corridor for area residents. Additionally, it could be part of a 'Safe Route to School' for students at both Bear Valley Elementary School (one of only two schools in Anchorage with NO safe walking routes) and Goldenview Middle School. An additional benefit is that walking and biking save car trips and reduce carbon, thereby reducing climate change.

Project Scope: The Rabbit Creek Road Rehabilitation project has been initiated by ADOT. As envisioned by RCCC this project should encompass a number of other projects that have been proposed over the years, a couple of these were ranked separately in this survey (e.g., Left turn pocket at Old Seward Highway, Golden View Road at Rabbit Creek Road, and Elmore Road at Rabbit Creek Road). Additionally, several comments were made by RCCC requesting a separated, non-motorized corridor along Rabbit Creek Road, including that it should extend uphill to Storck Park. The current ADOT project is only considering Rabbit Creek Road uphill to Golden View. It makes sense to continue planning and studies for this project all the way from the Seward Highway on/off ramps to Storck Park, recognizing that it might be completed in stages.

Project Status: 2024 Survey: this project ranked #7 out of 26 projects receiving more than one vote; it was ranked 3rd out of 8 State projects with two people ranking it as one of their top three priorities - one as #1 and another as #2. In comments on our survey, the need for a non-motorized path along Rabbit Creek Road was repeatedly noted.