

Rabbit Creek Community Council
CIP list priorities, 2014
Submitted to OMB May 31, 2014

Note: we have added a category of projects that our council does not support. We ask that those projects be deleted from the CIP. We have also indicated phasing and scoping concerns for several other projects.

Highest Priority

#1 Golden View Dr. Intersection and Safety Upgrades

Safety hazards include: steep grades in three directions at the intersection; the peak hour traffic created by the middle school; high volumes of pedestrian, bike and vehicle traffic attracted to the school for community events; no safe pedestrian crossings. The intersection has had numerous accidents.

2 Goldenview Drive from Rabbit Creek to Romania. Traffic volumes and speeds continue to increase all along the road. Goldenview is the only road access for several thousand acres north and west up the Hillside (there are a couple of minor connections that are so steep and narrow that they become seasonally impassable.) Drainage from peat soils causes large glaciations along Goldenview Drive, costing thousands of taxpayer dollars in thawing.

#3 Potter Valley Rd Surface Rehab-Old Seward Hwy to Greece Dr.

There has been an abrupt degradation in the pavement in the last year. Potter Valley Road will bear a near-term surge in heavy vehicle traffic because of the recent platting of a new subdivision and the planned paving of an upper section of Potter Valley Road. This will further hasten the crumbling and cracking of the road. Glaciation from seeps and streams impeded the traffic lanes several times in the winter of 2012-13. Rehabilitating this road also offers community-wide health and economic payback by serving current recreation use as well as and future access to Chugach State Park.

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

Old Seward Highway behind Potter Marsh is the only section of the original highway from Anchorage to Seward that hasn't been upgraded in 60 years. It is a potentially deadly situation with literally NO shoulders in most places, poor sight lines, and very steep embankments. Non-motorized users are at the mercy of drivers to skirt around them because there is no shoulder. The pavement heaves and crumbles regularly because of a poor road base. A half-mile of this road is flood prone much of the year because of poor drainage. Upgrading this road can not only save lives but can, and should, be a model scenic and recreation-access corridor because it threads through Potter Marsh and adjoining open spaces.

Highest priority project managed by State of Alaska DOTPF

#1 Rabbit Creek Road - Goldenview Drive to Seward Hwy. This is a blatantly dangerous road and the highest safety concern in the Community Council area (The Council would rank it first if state and MOA projects were scored together). There have been several fatal vehicle crashes. Rabbit Creek Road has high and increasing volumes of traffic, excessive speeds, direct access driveways, and poor sight lines. Turning maneuvers are increasingly difficult at peak hours, not only at intersections but at numerous driveways. The shoulders are unsuitable for many non-motorized users (especially children) because of the vehicle speeds as well as the grades. Rabbit Creek Road's traffic hazards will increase, because it is the main access for dozens of neighborhoods, and more large tracts of land are in the pipeline for development.

Moderate Priority

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

Add 164th Ave chip-sealing to this project: it is currently a stand-alone project.

These roads either carry school-related traffic or are direct routes, and wear out faster than most neighborhood roads in the council area.

Birchtree/ Elmore LRSA Road, Drainage, and Traffic Calming

Public safety concern, especially from cut-through traffic related to South High School. Severe grade of intersection with 142nd Ave is a risk. Traffic speed must be controlled. LRSA needs increased funding.

Hillside LRSA traffic calming

Public safety concern. There is increasing collision risk from cut-through traffic on rural roads and strip paved roads with many driveways and lack of sidewalks. Control of traffic speeds is a low-cost solution for quality of life as well as safety.

Bluebell Dr. at Golden View dr. Intersection Safety Improvements

Public safety concern: severe grade creates winter hazard. **Recommend 3-way stop**

Mountain Air Dr. /Hillside Dr. Extension

Funding was deleted in the last Legislative session. RCCC has supported this project in the past. RCCC has advocated that this road be designed and built as a true collector/connector to serve the public purposes of diverting traffic from Goldenview Drive and providing efficient ingress and egress, while minimizing impacts to the wetlands, creek, and school setting.

Elmore Rd. at Rabbit Creek Rd Intersection Safety Improvements

The council supports this project, with an important caveat to the scope of work: a sub-area traffic study is the first step. This is a dangerous intersection within a specified traffic study area in the Hillside District Plan. Piecemeal approach is not appropriate: any change in traffic flow will have spillover effects. A study must occur before improvements are implemented.

Lower Priority

Hillside Drainage Improvements

Hillside LRSA Road and Drainage System rehab

Abbott Road Hillside Drive Trail – Rabbit Creek Community Council supports non-motorized facilities which are almost entirely lacking in our area. the location of this project is unclear. There is a high safety need for non-motorized pathway or trail along Rabbit Creek Road, as well as safe crossing points. High traffic speeds and poor sight lines make it extremely dangerous and unpleasant for most non-motorized users.

145 Ave/Metz Ct. Area Drainage

Little Rabbit Creek Flooding and Glaciation Improv Golden View Dr. Old Seward Hwy Rut Repair-Potter Valley Rd to Rabbit Creek Rd

Upgrade of OSH is higher priority than resurfacing: annual patching is a drain of public funds. Any repairs should include safety improvements: e.g. speed limit postings and postings for yielding to nonmotorized users who are forced to use the traffic lanes because of lack of shoulders.

Connection from West- Romania Dr to Potter Valley Rd.

This is a low priority at present because construction would create spillover effects onto other road segments that should be upgraded first. It is part of a specified study area in the Hillside District Plan. It should be phased in coordination with improvements to Potter Valley Road and Seward Highway intersection.

Lower Hillside Area Storm Drainage study

DeArmoun Rd Upgrade Ph II, 140th Ave to Hillside Dr.

The Council requests a meeting with DOT about future plans before a design is considered.

Deletions

Rabbit Creek Community Council opposes the following projects and recommends their deletion from the CIP at this time.

Delete 164th Ave Surface rehabilitation as a stand-alone project.

This is a worthy project but should be added to other roads slated for chip sealing.

Delete 164th Ave/Betty St Area Drainage Improvements

RCCC has raised considerable opposition to this project. Drainage affects a few homeowners but the costs of a proposed drainage system would be pushed onto the surrounding neighborhood. Buyout of the houses erroneously built in the natural drainage reservoir has been suggested as a cheaper solution for taxpayers.

Delete Rabbit Creek Rd/Southbound off-ramp signal. Peak traffic at this intersection is very short in duration: there is less need than for improvements to other intersections in our area.

Questions:

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

We need more clarification of this trail. The location is unclear.

Parks and Recreation:

Rabbit Creek Community Council supports all of the following, listed with highest priority first.

#1 priority: Section 36 Park Improvements

This long-delayed park offers high benefits because of its proximity to schools, especially Bear Valley and Goldenview Middle School; and has high winter recreation advantages because of its elevation. It offers high return on investment because existing adjacent parking can be used.

Multi-use Athletic Field Rehabilitation – focus the effort on the quality of the playing fields: don't spend money on the deluxe package of paving and bleachers and flush toilets.

Campbell Creek Greenbelt

Storm Damage Clean-up: Forest Health and Park Safety