

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this Traffic and Safety Analysis is to evaluate the current collision patterns along Spenard Road and identify safety improvement alternatives to the roadway from Fireweed Lane to 36th Avenue. This study will also evaluate existing pedestrian/bicycle and transit facilities along the corridor and make recommendations that can be incorporated into the traffic and safety improvements. The corridor experienced 392 recorded collisions specific to Spenard Road and cross streets between 1996 and 1998 and has been identified as a highway safety project.

This report is the formal documentation of the traffic and safety study effort portion of the Engineering Analysis Report. This document was prepared to record the evaluations and recommendations of the analysis and provide a reference for the Engineering Analysis Report and subsequent design tasks.

2.0 Background

Spenard Road from Fireweed Lane to 36th Avenue is a four lane undivided two-way minor arterial as classified in the Official Streets and Highways Plan (1). Reference Figure 2.1 for the project location. Spenard Road between Fireweed Lane and 36th Avenue consists of a 48 foot wide roadway (face-of-curb to face-of-curb). There are 20 intersections with cross streets from Fireweed Lane to 36th Avenue. Four of these intersections are signalized: Fireweed Lane, Northern Lights Blvd., Benson Blvd. and 36th Avenue. Many of the minor side street intersections are offset 50-100 ft. In addition to the cross streets, numerous driveways of varying width serving adjoining business front Spenard Road.

Right-of-way (ROW) width ranges from 60 feet (ft.) to 120 ft. Figure 2.2 shows the existing roadway configuration and ROW widths. Right-of-way information is based on Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) grid maps.

Spenard Road from Minnesota Drive to Hillcrest Drive is owned by the MOA. The roadway has a posted speed limit of 35 mph. Spenard Road serves numerous abutting businesses and surrounding neighborhoods. Land use along Spenard Road is commercial, zoned B-3, General Business District.