



Public Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: Spenard Road Reconstruction Open House Public Meeting
GROUP: General Public
DATE: November 17, 2005
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30pm.
LOCATION: Romig Middle School, 2500 Minnesota Drive

MEETING OUTREACH:

Postcards, Newspaper ads, PSA's

MEETING ATTENDANCE: 24

MEETING MATERIALS: 1) Handouts 2) Background Posters 3) Large corridor plots on aerial photos at each station 4) Plot of bicycle and pedestrian crashes at each table

STAFF PRESENT:

Anne Brooks, Public Involvement Coordinator, Brooks & Associates

Kathy Burgess, Brooks & Associates

Jim Sawhill, Lounsbury & Associates

Patrick Hoffman, Lounsbury & Associates

Scott Pulice, Lounsbury & Associates

John Smith, MOA PM&E

Rand Gaynor, MOA PM&E

Luanne Urfer, Tryck Nyman Hayes

Oona Martin, Tryck Nyman Hayes

Mike Travis, Travis Peterson Environmental Consulting Inc.

MEETING INFORMATION:

Attendees were greeted at the entrance, asked to sign in, given handouts and a brief orientation about room layout and meeting format. They were then able to visit the various areas of the room at their own pace.

Background information was printed on large posters at the edge of the room, and large tables were placed around the room with aerial photos of the project corridor. There were stations focusing on Intersection Safety, Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety, Parking and Transit Facilities, Neighborhood, Street and Sidewalk improvements, and Environment. Knowledgeable project team members available to discuss issues or answer questions staffed each station. Participants were encouraged to write comments directly on the drawings on the table, especially if they were location-specific. These comments have been transcribed from the drawings as follows:

Spenard Drawing Comments

Hillcrest to Minnesota on-ramp Section

Bridge

- Fishing on and adjacent to bridge
- Hazard snow on crosswalks
- Need better Pedestrian facilities on bridge
- Close off street just beyond bridge & re-design road (commenter suggested cul-de-sac just north of park entrance & return this section to 2-way, no longer Minnesota on-ramp)
- People leave park parking lot and go wrong way up 1-way street
- Look at improvement of intersection at park parking lot
- Consider Pedestrian bridge
- People fish off bridge

Curve of hill

- Pedestrian facilities needed
- Cars drive fast
- Better Pedestrian facilities
- People are too fast
- Guard rail to protect the pedestrians
- Problem light fixture shines into house—use full cutoff fixtures
- Wooded area W of street by lagoon is popular place for homeless
- Underground utilities near driveways between Hillcrest & 19th
- Narrow walkway
- 1-way signs
- Improve lighting for Pedestrians and autos
- Separate Pedestrians from auto traffic with guard rail
- Use cutoff lighting

19th Avenue Intersection

- Median
- Bigger curb—people cut the corner
- Need to fix intersection (porkchop median)
- Keep the curve steep
- Protect school—slow traffic
- Pets & Pedestrians cross at 19th
- 1-way signs
- Needs intersection channelization
- Add island to direct traffic the appropriate way
- 3rd lot S of 19th on E side has noise issues

Hillcrest Drive Intersection

- This intersection stinks when school or school events
- Make sure lights don't glare on housing
- People head south from 1st driveway exiting condos N on Hillcrest Drive
- Traffic flow backs up on Hillcrest Drive
- Consider straight lane (thru L instead of L only and thru R)

- At the corner of Hillcrest & Spenard sight distance issue on SE corner
- Small lights next to Pedestrian trail
- Better signage at intersection—sign closer to turn (directional arrows for turn lanes)
- Snow storage blocks sight distance
- People pull through parking lot of business on SE corner to access Anton Way
- People are not stopping at Hillcrest
- L turn lane not clear—overhead sign?
- Striping to indicate you can go L R and thru from E-bound L lane & dedicated R lane (Hillcrest at Spenard)
- Install caution light
- Parked trucks at end of Sunrise bakery block sight distance

26th Ave to Hillcrest Drive Section

Entire Section Comments:

- Restrict curb cuts at places like strip mall
- 3 lane bad idea
- Large trucks enter & leave Spenard traffic all along Sunrise Bakery including Hillcrest intersection
- Former Landscapers' lot has questionable soils & drainage
- Sidewalks too narrow
- Bakery trucks park on Anton Way behind landscaping property
- New owner at landscaping property
- Small 1-way street from Spenard to Anton way—change from N-bound to S-bound (Dahl Lane?)
- That street (Dahl Lane?) is an inebriate hangout

Fireweed Intersection

- Parking issues on NE corner
- No right turn on red from Fireweed to Spenard and Spenard to Fireweed
- Building due W of intersection has been hit by vehicles in the past

25th Intersection

- Need pedestrian crossing at night

26th Intersection

- All parking behind La Mex is undesignated Chilkoot Charlies parking
- Parking in front of La Mex is hazard to Pedestrians when exiting
- Area in front of buildings on W side is often used for parking & is hazardous to pedestrians & bikes
- Parking behind buildings between 26th & 27th major opportunity for shared parking for Bear Tooth Theatre. Can Municipality provide incentives for shared parking?
- Pedestrian crossing on Spenard needed between the offset 26th avenues with flashing pushbutton light like at Northstar Elementary (where Steller students cross)
- Meander sidewalk in front of La Mex to provide parallel parking
- Add angle parking on N side of La Mex
- Sidewalks too narrow by Chilkoot Charlies parking lots & nonexistent in winter
- Vehicles block sight distance in front of Bosco's

- Consider parallel parking in front of Mama O's
- Remove sign between Mama O's & Bosco's
- Consider parallel parking in front of Bosco's and on S side of 26th Ave
- Building N of La Mex to be torn down—new building to be built there

26th Avenue to 30th Avenue Section

27th Ave Intersection

- No left turn
- Review bus stop location on W side
- Need L turn lane for W bound traffic

34th Avenue to 30th Avenue Section

- Business on SW corner of 31st has limited parking in front of Pancho's Villa
- Limited open space on property S of Second Chance
- Median divider between 33rd and 31st Avenues for speed

30th Avenue Intersection

- Need light at intersection—traffic signal?

32nd Ave Intersection

- New Habitat for Humanity housing going up at NE corner

Northern Lights to Benson Section

- Synchronize lights
- Backed up traffic between these intersections
- Redesign of the whole area needed
- NE corner of Benson & Spenard—what is the purpose of triangular piece of land? (DOT property)
- Include pocket parks all along the corridor

Minnesota Drive to 34th Avenue Section

- Sloped sidewalk near building E of McCain Loop
- Consider pocket park between McCain Loop & Chugach Way
- New owner of property S of Spenard between McCain Loop & Chugach Way

Attachments (on file)

Postcard

Newspaper advertisement

Handouts (5 pages)

Sign-in list

Comment Sheets received at meeting