

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 112500
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99811-2500
Main: 907-465-3900
TTY: 711 or 1-800-770-8973
dot.alaska.gov

December 29, 2025

Municipality of Anchorage
Planning Department
4700 Elmore Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Re: Seward Highway MP 98.5–112 (Bird Flats to McHugh Creek) Reconstruction
“Safer Seward Highway Project”
State Project Number: Z566310000
Federal Project Number: 0A31034
MOA Case Number: 2025-0087 (PH)

To the Planning & Zoning Commission:

As part of the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process, the Safer Seward Highway Project (Project) team presented the Project Design Report (DSR) to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission on September 8th. The P&Z Commission voted to return the DSR to the Project team for additional work and to address comments. This review completes the second step in the CSS Process required by the MOA. The vote to return the DSR for additional work does not prohibit the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) from completing the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and reaching a final agency decision under NEPA on whether the project will advance to the final design phase.

We have included all the comments received on the CSS DSR in the Draft EA. The Draft EA and Draft Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation is now available for public review, starting December 29, 2025, at www.safersewardhighway.com/draft-ea/. Paper copies will be available at the Anchorage Loussac and Girdwood Libraries.

There will be three public hearings to learn about the proposed action and anticipated impacts and to provide public testimony. Individual testimony will be limited to 3 minutes, and group or agency testimony will be limited to 5 minutes to ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak. A court reporter will be available to record comments.

Public Hearings

Time: 5:00–7:30 p.m. (Presentation at 5:45 p.m.; Testimonies at 6:15 p.m.)

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – Girdwood Library, 250 Egloff Drive, Girdwood, AK 99587

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 – Anchorage Loussac Library, 4th floor Learning Commons, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK 99503

Thursday, January 15, 2026 – Valley Bible Chalet, 29135 Seward Highway, Indian, AK 99540

Online Open House

January 13 – February 12, 2026

Copies of the meeting materials will be available online.

Comment Period

December 29, 2025 – February 12, 2026

Submit comments online at www.safersewardhighway.com; by phone at 907-802-3656; by email to info@safersewardhighway.com; or by mail to Safer Seward Highway, c/o HDR, 582 E 36th Ave. Suite 500, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Once the project's NEPA review is complete – if the proposed action is selected to move forward – DOT&PF intends to phase the design and construction of the project. Each project phase will be required to complete the third and final step in the CSS Process (Alternatives Screening, Evaluation & Selection), including using the P&Z Commission comments to inform the Plans in Hand (PIH) design (per MOA Title 21 Land Use Planning, section 21.03.190, subsection B Street Review, subpart 6 Conformance with Recommendations). Feedback the DOT&PF received during the Draft EA comment period will also inform any future PIH design.

Regards,
The Safer Seward Highway Project Team

Chris Hughes, HDR, Project Liaison
Sean Holland, DOT&PF, Central Region Director