

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 09/06/2023
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3034

A Resolution Asking the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to Make Immediate and Substantial Improvements to the Intersection of Egan Drive and Yandukin Drive in Juneau, Alaska (aka the Fred Meyer Intersection) to Prevent Further Serious Traffic Accidents.

WHEREAS, the intersection of Egan Drive and Yandukin Drive in Juneau, Alaska (known locally as the Fred Meyer intersection) is the scene of many traffic collisions; and

WHEREAS, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) statistics show that from 2013-2022, there were 13 collisions with suspected minor injuries and four with suspected serious injuries at that intersection; and

WHEREAS, a recent accident at the intersection resulted in one fatality and multiple other vehicle passengers being medevacked to Seattle with serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, the northbound section of Egan Drive leading up to the Fred Meyer intersection is a mile of straight highway and the highway design encourages motorists to exceed the speed limit; and

WHEREAS, the northbound lanes of Egan Drive lack horizontal or vertical curvature which may make it very difficult for southbound turning vehicles to judge depth perception and this may lead to an unnecessary number of accidents; and

WHEREAS, a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study examining potential safety improvements to this intersection was concluded in August of 2021; and

WHEREAS, the PEL study identified a partial access signalized intersection with a protected pedestrian crossing and Glacier Lemon Spur extension as the recommended alternative to improve transportation safety for all users; and

WHEREAS, because implementing any recommended alternative from the PEL could take several years, the project team identified an immediate need to improve safety as quickly as possible and developed a set of low-cost, effective treatments to improve safety that could be implemented through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP); and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF awarded an HSIP project to SECON in April 2023, with a completion date set for October 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, that project would decrease the Egan Drive speed limit to 45 miles per hour during the darkest months of the year and improve delineation at the intersection; and

WHEREAS, the recent accident occurred in broad daylight in the summer, which makes it clear that the HSIP project can only serve as a temporary fix; and

WHEREAS, implementation of these near-term improvements does not negate the need for substantial improvements to the intersection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Implementation of Immediate and Substantial Improvements to the Egan Drive and Yandukin Drive Intersection. The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly strongly encourages the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to identify project funding in the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan to design and construct safety improvements identified in the Planning and Environmental Linkages Study including a signalized intersection with a protected pedestrian crossing and Glacier Lemon Spur extension.

Section 2. This resolution shall be distributed to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Juneau State Legislative Delegation for the State of Alaska, and submitted as public comment on the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).


Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 6th day of September 2023.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk