

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2014-015

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DRAFT DESIGN STUDY REPORT RECOMMENDATION OF ALTERNATIVE B FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE CONNECTION OF ACADEMY DRIVE/VANGUARD DRIVE TO ABBOTT ROAD.

(Case 2014-043)

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage Project Management and Engineering Section is requesting Draft Design Study Report (DSR) approval of the alignment for the connection of Academy Drive/Vanguard Drive to Abbott Road; and

WHEREAS, a non-public hearing review was held on April 7, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission that:

A. The Commission makes the following findings of fact:

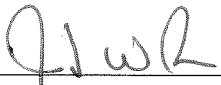
1. This project is being done in collaboration with the Alaska Department of Transportation's (ADOT) Seward Highway/92nd Avenue Grade Separation which is designed to help alleviate congestion in the Dimond Boulevard/Seward Highway area.
2. The ADOT 92nd Avenue project will construct an additional east-west route for vehicle trips to extend 92nd under the Seward Highway, and connect to Academy Drive.
3. The existing Academy Drive and Vanguard Drive roadways are not designed to handle the expected traffic volumes resulting from the future connection to 92nd Avenue. The project goal is to upgrade the Academy-Vanguard road connection to Abbott Road to Class II Minor Arterial standards.
4. Five alternative alignments, labeled A-E, were analyzed: Alignment E would require new on/off ramps to the detriment of established businesses and required more property acquisition than any other alternative; Alignment A would follow the existing road alignments requiring a stop sign at the Academy-Vanguard intersection, and the alignment would not function as a minor arterial to accommodate projected traffic demands; Alternative D would require the reconstruction of ±375 feet of the new roadway when the 92nd Avenue underpass was constructed to match the 9 foot grade difference between the existing ground and the new underpass; Alternatives B and C were both considered reasonable choices.

5. Alternative B was the recommended route for the following reasons: 1) provides queuing length to ensure that traffic does not block the Independence Drive intersection; 2) a public access easement on the east side of Abbott Road facilitates ingress and egress to businesses; 3) results in the fewest changes to business access on both the east and west sides of Abbott Road; 4) the estimated cost for Alternative B is less than Alternative C.
 6. The reasons for rejecting Alternatives A, D and E alignments are sound.
 7. Although the forecasting documentation was not included in the draft design plan, it appears that updated forecasts of traffic volumes would not differ to the extent that a four-lane, rather than the three-lane alignment, would be required.
 8. Remnant parcels that result from land acquisition that are not needed for construction of the road alignment should be sold and returned to the tax base. The citizens would be better served rather than committing the excess parcels to landscaping which would have a cost associated with maintenance of the landscaping.
 9. The project's stated purpose was to upgrade the road to minor arterial standards and to provide pedestrian and bicycle amenities and connectivity which the report has done. The alternatives evaluated and balanced the impacts on access to local businesses and neighborhoods.
 10. The proposed design does a good job of accommodating pedestrians and bicycles. As the area is identified as a town center, it is important to provide for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.
 11. The project is consistent with *Anchorage 2020*, the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan*, the *Official Streets & Highways Plan*, the *Pedestrian Plan*, and the *Areawide Trails Plan*.
- B. The Commission APPROVES the Draft Design Study Report recommendation of Alternative B for the alignment of the connection of Academy Drive/Vanguard Drive to Abbott Road subject to:
1. All construction and improvements related to this approval shall be substantially in compliance with the Draft Design Study Report of the alignment for the connection of Academy Drive/Vanguard

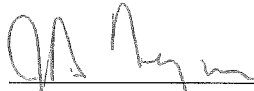
Drive to Abbott Road dated January 2014, MOA Project No. 09-004.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission on the 7th day of April, 2014.

ADOPTED by the Anchorage Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission this 5th day of May, 2014. This written decision/resolution of the Planning and Zoning Commission is final and any party may appeal it within twenty (20) days to the Board of Adjustment pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.30.030 or, if applicable, exercise their rights under Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.15.015H.



Jerry T. Weaver, Jr.
Secretary



J.A. Fergusson
Chair

(Case 2014-043)

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