

Rogers Park Community Council CIP Priority List

Rogers Park Community Council recently completed our annual survey. The list of priorities for capital improvement projects is below. Justification and elaboration about some of the projects follow the list. Participants were able to list any additional projects or areas of concern which are included.

Funding may have been allocated for some of the projects. However, the Board opted to leave the projects on the list presented to members until project are actually *completed*.

1	Pedestrian safety measures along Lake Otis from Northern Lights to DeBarr (East and West sides)
2	Effective traffic calming measures
3	ADA compliant curb upgrades
4	Sound Barrier along Northern Lights from Lake Otis to LaTouche
5	Overpass upgrades for bicycles and wheelchairs over Northern Lights to Rogers Park Elementary School
6	Maplewood sidewalk from Bannister to Chester Creek trailhead
7	Overpass upgrades for bicycles and wheelchairs over Lake Otis to Lake Otis Elementary School
8	Fireweed and LaTouche upgrades
9	Rogers Park Elementary School traffic safety measures
10	Trail upgrades and resurfacing on the spur trail from lighted Chester Creek trail to Lake Otis (next to Chester Creek and Southwest of Davenport fields)
11	Juneau Street trail lighting and upgrades
12	Juneau Street permanent drainage improvements
13	East Chester Park playground equipment upgrades and picnic shelters
14	Jacobson Park Trail
15	Sound barrier along Lake Otis from Northern Lights to DeBarr
16	Bridge over Chester Creek from Maplewood connecting north to Sitka Park
17	Lake Otis and 20th intersection roundabout

1. This section of Lake Otis provides most direct North-South route for walkers and bikers from the Seward Highway (Ingra) and Bragaw. During all seasons, it is heavily used by residents of the council area and other Anchorage residents of all ages, not only for residential use, but non-automobile *transportation* to and from work and school.

This sidewalk is very dangerous for pedestrians and bikers. There is very little shoulder on the road, no set back (grass) and a narrow sidewalk, at times

blocked on one side by fences. Cars and trucks travel at 35 miles per hour within inches of pedestrian traffic. If two parties intersect, it is impassable unless someone steps to the side. If a person was to lose their balance, the result could be *fatal*. Therefore, the Rogers Park Community Council has placed this issue at the top of its priority list.

The possible solutions to address these concerns range widely. For example, if the encroaching grass were removed from the sidewalk it would add a few inches to the existing sidewalk. Also, snow removal on this narrow sidewalk would help. A more complex measure would be to make the existing sidewalk a buffer of grass and move the sidewalk a few feet away from the road. The area is narrow due to houses and property set close to the road. An expensive and complex solution would be to relocate these homes and upgrade Lake Otis Blvd. This is not the extent of all possible solutions, but just some ideas.

2. Effective traffic calming measures. Target areas listed by respondents:

- Slow traffic on Lake Otis between Northern Lights and E 20th
- Traffic speed and volume control in the alley running east/west just north of College Village from Lake Otis to Northwestern behind Don Jose's, Kinko's, etc. The traffic moves way too fast and raises incredible dust levels.
- Minimize and slow traffic coming down Zarvis.
- Put up a "dead end" sign at the corner of Redwood and Zarvis.
- Complete the sidewalk on the north side of Zarvis to Redwood St
- Speeders on Bannister between Redwood & Cottonwood have potential for colliding with "yielders" at Sprucewood. Need a speed bump on Bannister between Redwood and Sprucewood and between Sprucewood and Cottonwood.
- Enforce red-light running at Northern Lights and Maplewood, especially during morning rush hour.

5 and 7. Overpass upgrades may be costly. If walking and biking to the elementary schools and between the neighborhoods separated by large roads becomes more feasible, it could reduce car traffic at the schools and promote more active lifestyles for all Anchorage residents.

Additional issues listed by RPCC survey respondents:

- Improve safety turning onto Lake Otis Pkwy from College Village streets and from Wendler/Lake Otis.
- Pedestrian crossing at Lake Otis and Northern Lights.

- Improve walking from Anchor Park to Wendler/Lake Otis Elementary/KCC/UAA at Lovejoy.
- Median landscaping, specifically on Northern Lights between Lake Otis and UAA drive.
- Ensure the Northern Lights Sound Barrier is aesthetic, safe, and effective, while minimizing damage to existing trees.
- Enforcement of loud vehicles.
- The recently installed speed bumps in Rogers Park cause flooding particularly in winter and during breakup; and make simply walking around the neighborhood impossible and the streets impassable except by car.
- The driveway coming out of Rogers Park School onto Northern Lights is not safe
- Better pedestrian crossings of Seward Hwy from 36th to Fireweed.
- Sound Barrier along 36th between Lake Otis and LaTouche.
- Sidewalk all along Bannister
- Chester Creek access from Anchor Park if Lake Otis is not improved.
- Something has got to be done about the illegal drinking camps. They are a threat to public safety. And we are losing these precious woods (they act as sound absorbers in our very noisy city) to the vagrants. If you enter a camp, you will find alcohol, pornography, sometimes evidence of illegal drugs, sometimes firearms, and human waste in addition to general litter.
- Over the last few years, gaping cracks have formed in the recently-repaved Chester Creek trail. Also, large heaves have developed at many of the culverts installed (or re-installed) during the recent paving. Those cracks and heaves are hazards to trail users.
- Opening the neighborhood school grounds and facilities to the public after hours and on weekends would markedly increase physical activity in the area.
- More direct access from 27th to the pedestrian overpass at Northern Lights.
- Improved pedestrian access from KCC to UAA, to connect existing trails and make it possible to walk from neighborhoods to campus.
- The Muni should cease placing drains in wetland area excessively. The drainage ditch out of Otis Lake should have a weir installed to hydrate the bog better.