

Municipality of Anchorage

*P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>*

Suzanne LaFrance Mayor



*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Briana Sullivan & Mike Edgington, Co-Chairs
Jennifer Wingard, Brian Burnett, Kellie Okonek*

Resolution 2025-03 Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors **Support speed limit reduction on Alyeska Highway**

WHEREAS, Regulation 13 AAC 02.280 allows establishing speed zones where regulatory maximums do not fit specific road or traffic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the current speed limit on Alyeska Highway is 45 mph from MP 0-1.8 and 30 mph from MP 1.8 to the end of the road; and

WHEREAS, the speed limit was set many years ago, prior to significant increases in the area's residential and commercial development, construction and other heavy equipment use, and traffic to recreational facilities and attractions; and

WHEREAS, MP 0 - 1.8 of Alyeska Highway incorporates numerous unique circumstances and hazards, including:

- 60+ public/private driveways intersecting both sides of Alyeska Highway;
- Physical topography creating steep driveway and road entrances that are even more precarious in the winter;
- Sightlines hampered by snow storage berms from both the highway and the Alyeska Highway Pedestrian Safety Corridor (bike path);
- Bus stops for Anchorage School District and local shuttle use without designated crosswalks or lighting;
- Throughout this area there is a multi-use path running 2 miles along the west side of Alyeska Highway without designated crosswalks for access by those who reside on the east side of the highway, nor is there designated crossing of Alyeska Highway to access the Girdwood Iditarod National Historic Trail;
- The lack of an adequate shoulder between the bike path and the highway at collector road intersections, effectively forcing pathway users to the edge of active traffic lanes;
- Passing lanes in areas already complicated by sight line issues, multiple entrance/exit points, narrow shoulders, and school bus stops;
- Increasing health and environmental concerns related to dust particles, airborne pollutants, noise and exhaust, particularly from large commercial vehicles;

- Expected dramatic increases in traffic from current and planned residential and commercial development combined with increased recreational opportunities through trail and resort development in the Girdwood valley;

WHEREAS, a reduced speed limit to 30-mph along the length of Alyeska Highway would greatly improve health and safety for residents and visitors and would reinforce the existing speed limit beyond Mile 1.8 and on intersecting roads like Crow Creek Road; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with AS 19.10.072 (b) the community council (GBOS), the Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee, and the Girdwood Land Use Committee all support this resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) requests that AKDOT conducts a study to examine speed limit reduction to 30 - 35 mph MP 0- 1.8 of Alyeska Highway and address safety concerns raised by the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the GBOS continues to support DOT traffic calming and hazard reducing measures for Alyeska Highway, and specifically requests:

- Inlaid paint striping for bike path intersections with Alyeska Highway
- Radar speed signs
- Signage for the prohibition of jake brake usage

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 4 to 0 this 27th day of January 2025.

Kellie Okonek

Kellie Okonek
GBOS Roads Supervisor

Margaret Tyler

Margaret Tyler
Attest

Attachments:

2019 Letter to DOT Wolfgang Junge
2019 letter to DOT Scott Thomas
2019 Crow Creek Road Speed limit