

Spenard Community Council Resolution

2023-07

A Resolution on the Minnesota Drive wall

WHEREAS, the Spenard Community Council (“SCC”) is an organization representing the interests of the residents of the Spenard area of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of community councils is to provide a direct and continuing means of participation in local government and local affairs; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Drive, Benson Boulevard, and Northern Lights Boulevard are within Spenard and are on the municipality’s “high injury network,” meaning a high number of people have been killed and severely injured in traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, the Spenard Corridor Plan (2020) vision includes Spenard being a “model for the region for its contribution to the citywide and regional transportation system and its network of urban active transportation facilities” and a “branded district;” and

WHEREAS, the Spenard Corridor Plan also includes goals to “create great public streets,” to “create a safe pedestrian and bike network,” to “accommodate safe and balanced roadway access,” and to “design for Anchorage;” and

WHEREAS, the Alaska DOT&PF’s Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is intended to identify and fund highway safety projects that maximize lives saved and injuries eliminated per dollar spent; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) constructed two projects on Minnesota Drive at Benson and Northern Lights Boulevards, including the “Minnesota Drive: Tudor to 15th Avenue Pavement Preservation” and the “HSIP: Anchorage Pedestrian Lighting, Phase II;” and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Spenard Community Council rejects the construction of the Minnesota Wall fence, which does not meet the vision for the neighborhood and does not address the pedestrian dangers at the Minnesota, Benson, and Northern Lights intersections; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Spenard Community Council requests the following remedies for this project:

- Remove the center wall structure along Minnesota Dr. between Benson and Northern Lights Boulevard ASAP; and
- Work with community stakeholders and the public to design pedestrian improvements to add crosswalks to the “missing” sections (the fourth legs) at Minnesota Drive at both Benson and Northern Lights Boulevards; and
- Construct the pedestrian improvements ASAP.

Resolved, this 1st day of November 2023.

meg mielke
Spenard Community Council President

11/2/2023
Date

Vote: 14 in favor, and 4 opposed.