



**AMATS Quarterly Project Update  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, FFY2024**

**Prepared by  
James Starzec, DOT&PF**

### **3rd Avenue Signals and Lighting Upgrade [E Street to Cordova Street]**

Project Manager: Julia Hanson, P.E.

Project Description: The purpose of the project is to replace traffic signals and lighting systems to meet current electrical safety standards and design criteria; sidewalks and pavement will be replaced as necessary to facilities electrical work and meet ADA requirements.

Current Phase: Design.

Status: Initial Design funding has been obligated. Work will be added to an existing contract to expedite design and reduce costs.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Signal & Lighting Upgrade**

Project Manager: Julia Hanson, P.E.

Project Description: This project will reconstruct the traffic signal and street lighting system on 4th Ave between A Street and Ingra Street. Work may include signing, Striping, ATRs, drainage, paving, pedestrian & ADA amenities, utility relocation, landscaping and roadside hardware.

Current Phase: Design. Expected to be completed Summer of 2024.

Estimated Construction Year: 2025

Status: Draft DSR and Concept Design are completed. Project team presented the project at the 1/29/2024 Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting and was approved as submitted. The historic architectural survey found several properties eligible for listing in the register. This process has delayed the environmental document approval.

### **88<sup>th</sup> Avenue: Lake Otis Parkway to Abbott Road Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Julia Hanson, P.E.

Project Description: Plan, design, and construct 88th Avenue, generally from Lake Otis Parkway to Abbott Road. Project will resurface and re-stripe the existing roadway, and upgrade curb ramps in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project may also include structural section improvements, minor upgrades to signal, lightning, and/or traffic recording equipment, utility relocations or adjustments.

Current Phase: Design. Expected to be completed Winter of 2024.

Estimated Construction Year: 2025

Status: A consultant is under contract and collecting field data including ADA curb ramps, sign inventory, and CCTVing the storm drain. The Categorical Exclusion (CE) was approved on 10/9/2023.

## **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**

Project Manager: Chelsea Ward-Waller, AMATS Transportation Planner

Project Description: The MTP is the primary tool used by AMATS to plan for long-range transportation needs and recommend solutions based on anticipated funding availability over a minimum 20-year horizon. The MTP includes the whole transportation system in the Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak-Eagle River: streets, sidewalks and pathways, trails, public transit, freeways, highways, and freight mobility.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: Plan finalized and approved by the Policy Committee. The 2050 MTP will be sent to Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for final approval.

## **Academy Drive/Vanguard Drive Area Improvements**

Project Manager: Julia Hanson, P.E.

Project Description: This reconstruction project will improve Academy Drive and Vanguard Drive. This reconstruction may include drainage improvements, right-of-way acquisitions, utilities, ADA improvements, roadside hardware, intersection improvements and realignments.

Current Phase: Design. Expected to be completed Fall of 2026.  
Estimated Construction Year: 2027

Status: A consultant is under contract. Current work in progress includes traffic analysis and preliminary geometric design.

## **Campbell Creek Trail Crossing at Lake Otis Parkway**

Project Manager: Alex Read, P.E.

Project Description: The project will construct a grade separated crossing connecting Campbell Creek Trail across Lake Otis Parkway. This reconstruction may include bridge work, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, ADA improvements, and utilities.

Current Phase: Design.

Status: Project scoping has been completed and Design phase funding has been obligated. Work towards completing the Environmental document is underway.

## **Chugach Foothills Connector, Phase II**

Project Manager: Ron Searcy, P.E.

Project Description: Project will construct a multi-use path on Tudor Road between Regal Mountain Drive and Campbell Airstrip Road. Work may include roadside hardware and drainage improvements.

Current Phase: Construction. Expected to be completed Summer 2023.

Status: Project's final inspection occurred on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Project is complete and will be removed from future updates.

## **Climate Action Plan**

Project Manager: Chelsea Ward-Waller, AMATS Transportation Planner

Project Description: This project will build on the Anchorage Climate Action Plan (adopted May 2019) by developing a climate action plan for the AMATS planning area. This data-based project will inventory current and past Anchorage/Chugiak-Eagle River transportation system greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (including carbon) in order to quantitatively evaluate strategies and actions to reduce future GHG emissions, including carbon reduction strategies, related to transportation. The project will focus on equity and include a strategic implementation plan.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: Request for Proposals (RFP) process initiated.

## **Complete Streets Plan**

Project Manager: Chelsea Ward-Waller, AMATS Transportation Planner

Project Description: This plan will build on the AMATS Complete Street policy to provide planning guidance for street types, sidewalks, roadways, intersections, curbsides and ADA accessibility as well as plan implementation. This plan will also develop multi-modal street typologies for the AMATS area and a corresponding street typology map. These typologies may include recommendations for development review, streetscape design, traffic signal upgrades, recommended road reclassifications, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities design.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: Request for Proposals (RFP) process nearing completion.

### **Downtown Streets Engineering Study**

Project Manager: Daniel Mckenna-Foster, MOA Long Range Planning

Project Description: A project to look at the existing limitations and opportunities for public rights of way in the Downtown area.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: The Downtown Streets Engineering Study is underway with our consultant Kinney Engineering. We are currently finalizing the project schedule and will begin the background and research work by the end of this month. The project page, which will be updated as things move forward, can be found here: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/Pages/DowntownStreetsEngineeringStudy.aspx>.

### **Downtown Trail Connection**

Project Manager: Kristina Busch, P.E.

Project Website: <https://www.connectcoastaltoship.com/>

Project Description: Project will construct a connection between the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to the Ship Creek Trail in downtown Anchorage. Major Project Elements include Bridge Work (Pedestrian), Roadside Hardware, Drainage Improvements, Intersection Improvements and ADA Improvements.

Current Phase: Design. A combined Plans-in-Hand (PIH) and (95%) PS&E Review is expected to be completed late Summer 2024. Estimated Project Advertising in Winter 2024  
Estimated Construction Year: 2025, following the construction of the Alaska Railroad's bridge project.

Status: The project's Environmental Document has been delayed until this Spring, 2024. A site survey following the winter snow melt is needed to finalize the document. The preferred alternative (60% design) will be present at the Anchorage Transportation Fair, scheduled for March 28, 2024 at the Alaska Airlines Center. The timing of the Alaska Railroad's bridge project may impact the construction schedule of this project, coordination is ongoing.

### **Eagle River Loop Road- Eagle River Road to Old Glenn Highway Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Julia Hanson, P.E.

Project Description: Pavement preservation, which may include improvements to roadside hardware, drainage, intersections, automated traffic recorders, pedestrian facilities, striping, signs, and utilities.

Current Phase: Construction.  
Estimated Construction Year: 2024

Status: Project will be advertised in a combined contract with another pavement preservation project. The two projects are on track to advertise in March 2024.

### **Fireweed Lane Rehabilitation**

Project Manager: Alex Read, P.E.

Project Website: Anticipated in February 2024

Project Description: This project would rehabilitate Fireweed Lane from Spenard Road to the Seward Highway and include a road diet, changing Fireweed from 4 lanes to a maximum of 3 lanes (2 with a center turn lane). This project would also include non-motorized improvements.

Current Phase: Design. Design through Environmental expected to be completed by spring 2025.

Estimated Construction Year: 2028

Status: The design contract has been awarded, and the preliminary design and work towards completing the Environmental document is underway.

### **Fish Creek Trail Rehabilitation**

Project Manager: Noah King, P.E.

Project Website: <https://fishcreektrail.com/>

Project Description: This project will construct a multi-use path between Northern Lights Boulevard and the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail in the vicinity of Fish Creek. Work may include roadside hardware, ADA improvements, utilities, lighting, bridge work, and drainage improvements.

Current Phase: Design. Expected to be completed by Summer 2025.

Estimated Construction Year: 2026

Status: Project's Environmental Document is nearly complete, awaiting cultural resource and marine mammal consultation. Preliminary design of alignment parallel to railroad tracks in ARRC ROW is being refined, attempting to minimize conflicts with Marathon Petroleum pipeline. Surveying and Geotechnical field work complete.

### **Hiland Road- MP 0 to MP 3.2 Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Jason Lamoreaux, P.E.

Project Description: Resurface Hiland Road, including milling, paving, minor subgrade rehabilitation, drainage improvements, updating guardrail and sign posts to meet current safety standards, replacing striping and select signage, curb and gutter, lighting, and roadside signal and or traffic data hardware.

Current Phase: Construction

Estimated Construction Year: 2023/24

Status: Essentially all construction is complete except for final striping and final stabilization. In spring of 2024, as soon as weather permits, the Contractor will complete the final striping (only temporary striping was installed in fall of 2023 due to weather) and any final stabilization required for final acceptance. Final completion is anticipated in mid-summer 2024.

### **Hillside Drive – DeArmoun Road to Abbott Road Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Steve Rzepka, P.E.

Project Description: This is a pavement preservation project for Hillside Drive from DeArmoun Road to Abbott Road. This project includes roadway resurfacing, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, ADA improvements, utilities and other work as necessary.

Current Phase: Design.

Estimated Construction Year: 2027

Status: Project scoping and the development of the environmental document is currently underway. This project was recently taken in as an in-house design project instead of a consultant project, thereby saving the time it takes to solicit proposals.

### **Ingra Gambell Couplet Extension Reconnaissance Study**

Project Manager: Galen Jones, P.E.

Project Description: Project will develop a Reconnaissance Level Planning Study to review and analyze potential extension of Ingra and Gambell Streets to Ship Creek Avenue, Whitney Road, and Port of Alaska access. The project will study the project area emphasizing implementation actions related to access, circulation, and freight mobility.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: HDR has been chosen to complete this study since they're already investigating Port connection alternatives for the Seward to Glenn (S-G) Connection Planning Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study's alternatives analysis and public outreach process. Preliminary alternatives for port connections via an Ingra-Gambell Couplet extension are being presented at the S-G PEL public open house on February 7.

### **L & I Streets- 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Christina Huber, P.E.

Project Description: Pavement preservation, which may include improvements to roadside hardware, drainage, intersections, automated traffic recorders, pedestrian facilities, striping, signs, and utilities.

Current Phase: Design

Status: Project team is developing a cost estimate that includes significant non-motorized facility improvements to inform AMATS decision making process. Alignments have been developed and work continues on developing the basemap. Surveying and storm drain condition review is scheduled for this spring.

### **Lois Drive & 32nd Ave Upgrade [Benson Blvd to Minnesota Drive]**

Project Manager: Travis Holmes, P.E.

Project Description: Upgrade W. 32nd Avenue from Lois Drive to Minnesota Drive to make non-motorized and storm drain improvements. Additionally, the intersection of W. 32nd Avenue and Lois Drive will be reconstructed. The scope also includes lighting, markings, signage and other roadside hardware improvements.

Current Phase: Design.

Status: Project is just getting underway, no substantial work has been completed. Design work is currently on hold due to an issue with the match amount from the MOA. Once we have the full match, we will start on developing the RFP to get a consultant under contract. Project name will be updated to "W. 32nd Avenue Upgrades" once TIP Amendment #2 is finalized.

### **Minnesota Drive and I/L Street Corridor Plan [International Airport Road to 3rd Ave]**

Project Manager: James Starzec

Project Description: Project would provide a comprehensive analysis of the Minnesota Drive and I/L Street corridor's current conditions, anticipated growth patterns and their impacts, likely outcomes and reasonable mitigation alternatives. It would include recommended improvements based on identified needs and community input, and a timeline for implementation. Project would include modeling analysis and engineering work as needed. The project should be evaluated for rehabilitation as a Complete Street, adhering to the AMATS Complete Streets policy.

Current Phase: Planning. Expected to be completed Winter 2025.

Status: Contract is being ratified and should be finalized shortly.

### **Minnesota Drive Sidewalk Repairs**

Project Manager: Sean Baski

Project Description: This project will perform repairs to the sidewalks and pathways along Minnesota Drive, generally between Tudor Road and Hillcrest Drive. The project will also complete ADA Improvements, where needed.

Current Phase: Design.

Status: Project scoping and the development of the environmental document is currently underway. RFP for consultant design work is being drafted and is expected to be advertised in early 2024. This project has also taken on the efforts to do a study of the potential to add crosswalks to the inner legs of the Benson and Northern Lights couplet signalized intersections.



### **Mountain Air Drive Extension**

Project Manager: Alex Read, P.E.

Project Website: <https://mountainairdrive.com/>

Project Description: This reconstruction project will extend Mountain Air Drive from Rabbit Creek Road to 162nd Avenue. The reconstruction may include drainage improvements, right-of-way acquisitions, utilities, a water crossing at Little Rabbit Creek with possible bridge work, ADA improvements, roadside hardware, and intersection improvements at Rabbit Creek Road.

Current Phase: Design.

Estimated Construction Year: 2027

Status: The environmental document has been completed and the second Design funding obligation has occurred. Project team is continuing to design the project, no major issues have developed.

### **Northern Lights Boulevard Sidewalk Repairs**

Project Manager: Christina Huber, P.E.

Project Description: This project will perform spot repairs to the North and South sidewalks of Northern Lights Boulevard between the Seward Highway and Minnesota Drive to restore damaged and deteriorating sections of sidewalk, and to complete ADA improvements where needed.

Current Phase: Right of Way

Estimated Construction Year: 2026

Status: Project's is working toward Certification Package. ROW acquisition is being added to the consultant's scope of work due to unavailability of in-house staff. ROW acquisition is the critical path due to large number of TCE's and also some fee acquisitions required. Notice to Proceed to the consultant is anticipated by February 1.

### **O'Malley Road Reconstruction: New Seward Highway to Hillside Drive**

Project manager: Ron Searcy, P.E.

Project Description: Reconstruct the O'Malley Road from the New Seward Highway to Hillside Drive to improve safety and capacity at intersections and provide the safety, capacity & pedestrian needs.

Current Phase: Construction. Expected to be completed 2024

Status: Cleanup work is continuing and the noise wall is being installed. Utility work is ongoing. Modification of the settling pond at the golf course entry will be necessary.

### **Old Seward Highway Spur: Old Seward Highway to Potter Valley Road Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Christina Huber: P.E.

Project Description: This project will repave Old Seward Highway Spur from Old Seward Highway to Potter Valley Road. Work may include pavement replacement, reconstruction/dig-out sections, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, and utilities.

Current Phase: Design. Expected to be completed Spring 2024.

Estimated Construction Year: 2025

Status: Environmental Class of Action has been determined to be a Categorical Exclusion. Plans In Hand are currently being developed. Survey, ROW basemap, draft recommendations for digout locations, culvert condition survey and draft speed study are complete.

### **Potter Drive Rehabilitation**

Project Manager: Steven Rzepka, P.E.

Project Description: Rehabilitation of Potter Drive from Arctic Boulevard to Dowling Road. This project will include: non-motorized improvements, ADA improvements (such as sidewalks and curb ramps), roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, and utilities.

Current Phase: Environmental Document and Preliminary Design. Expected to be completed Fall 2025.

Estimated Construction Year: 2027

Status: Preliminary design, environmental, and public involvement efforts are underway. Hydrology section conducted a site visit in September.

### **Potter Marsh Improvements**

Project Manager: Loretta Nabong, P.E.

Project Description: Preliminary design, environmental, and public involvement efforts are underway. Project will be presented at the Anchorage Transportation Fair in March 2024. An RFP soliciting design support services has been drafted and is anticipated to advertise soon.

Current Phase: Construction

Status: Contractor has completed all paving and striping operations on the project. They are now working to stabilize all exposed slopes and constructed earth mounds in preparation for winter shutdown. Contractor is scheduled to return to the project in the spring of 2024 to complete all remaining items. Completion date is May 24, 2024.

### **Rabbit Creek Road Rehabilitation**

Project Manager: Steven Rzepka, P.E.

Project Description: Project will rehabilitate Rabbit Creek Road from the Old Seward Highway to Goldenview Drive. Work will also include improvements to drainage, intersections, ADA facilities, roadside hardware, and utilities.

Current Phase: Environmental Document and Preliminary Design. Expected to be completed Fall 2026.  
Estimated Construction Year: 2028

Status: Preliminary design, environmental, and public involvement efforts are underway. An RFP soliciting design support services has been drafted and is anticipated to advertise soon. Topographical survey is scheduled for spring of 2024. Project will be presented at the Anchorage Transportation Fair in March 2024.

### **Recreational Trails Plan Update**

Project Manager: Nicolette Dent, MOA Parks & Recreation; Chelsea Ward-Waller, AMATS Transportation Planner

Project Description: A comprehensive update of all recreational trails within the AMATS area. This update will include primary and secondary linkages to established multi-use pathways as well as recreational facilities such as single-track bicycle trails, hiking networks and bicycle parks within the planning area. This plan will also study trail expansion opportunities and strengthening the connections between recreational trail development and fostering economic growth within the AMATS area.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: Internal project team kickoff in mid-February. Full project schedule will be available soon.

### **Regional Household Travel Survey**

Project Manager: Jon Cecil, AMATS Senior Transportation Planner

Project Description: The object of the project is to conduct surveys that not only complies with federal regulations, but also collects relevant data that will support and update the existing travel demand model (TDM). The goal of the project is to prepare and conduct a regional household travel survey and related on-board surveys to obtain detailed and reliable information on the travel behavior and socioeconomic characteristics of persons living in the AMATS region.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: A recommendation to award the contract is presently under negotiation. The contract is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2024.

## **Safety Plan**

Project Manager: Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS Coordinator

Project Description: This project will create a comprehensive safety plan that will provide a coordinated framework for reducing fatalities and serious injuries on the surface transportation network in the AMATS planning area.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: Project team will attend a work session with the AMATS TAC and PC and will make any edits to bring back for final approval in March of 2023.

## **Seward to Glenn Connection PEL Study**

Project Manager: Galen Jones, P.E.

Project Website: <https://sewardglennconnection.com/>

Project Description: This study will identify and evaluate options to improve safety, livability, regional travel between the Seward and Glenn Highways, and local travel within the surrounding neighborhoods. Currently, the two controlled access freeways are connected through the study area by slower speed arterial roads. The project will also identify ways to improve access between the Port of Alaska and the National Highway System network. The study will identify potential improvements and evaluate the environmental impacts and engineering feasibility of those improvements using a Planning Environmental Linkages (PEL) process.

Current Phase: Planning

Status: Public Open House #4 occurred on 2/7 at the Fairview Rec Center to unveil and solicit comments on: the No-Action, Interim, and Preliminary Alternatives. The Draft Detailed Alternatives Report was published to the website immediately after the Public Open House. The 60-day comment period for the Preliminary Alternatives will extend from 2/7-4/7. After which, the alternatives will be refined based on public input and the first round of Alternatives Screening will occur.

A robust (and first of its kind in Anchorage) pedestrian study was conducted at 37 intersections (including mid-block crossings) in Fairview on Gambell St, Hyder St, Ingra St, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. The draft pedestrian study report will be published to the study website for public review during the 60-day comment period.

The study team has regularly scheduled meetings with the FHWA Reconnecting Communities Grant recipients and is coordinating closely with them to ensure the study progresses in a manner satisfactory to both parties. The grant recipients have a completed grant agreement from USDOT and authority to begin soliciting consultant services.

The study schedule has been delayed by 6 months to accommodate the Grant schedule. It's estimated that a final PEL will be public during early summer 2025.

**Spenard Road Rehabilitation: Minnesota Drive to Benson Boulevard**

Project Manager: Alex Read, P.E.

Project Website: <https://www.spenardroad.com/>

Project Description: This project will rehabilitate Spenard Road generally from Minnesota Drive to Benson Boulevard. This project includes drainage, intersection, and ADA Improvements, as well as utilities, and roadside hardware.

Current Phase: Design Expected to be completed Spring 2026.

Estimated Construction Year: 2026

Status: The 75% design review (Plans in Hand) been completed, followed by the project's third public open house. The ROW acquisition process is anticipated to begin Spring 2024.

**VFW Road: Eagle River Loop Road to Eagle River Road Pavement Preservation**

Project Manager: Christina Huber, P.E.

Project Description: This pavement preservation project includes resurfacing, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, bridge improvements, ADA improvements, and utilities as necessary.

Current Phase: Design. Expected to be completed Spring 2024.

Estimated Construction Year: 2025

Status: The environmental document for this project has been completed. Plans In Hand Review has also been completed. Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) document is being drafted. The scope of the project has been expanded to include addressing an erosion/slope stabilization issue along Meadow Creek. Hydrologic study of the area has begun. The related subsurface exploration is scheduled to occur in February.