



AGENDA

Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

1. **CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)
4. **RECONSIDERATION**
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 5.A. Unapproved February 21, 2023 LAB Minutes **Page 3**
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS**
 - 6.A. Greater Homer Area Housing Event - Karin Marks
Housing Conversation Event Flyer **Page 9**
 - 6.B. Transportation Plan & Old Town Updates - Jan Keiser, Public Works Director
 - Transportation Plan Goals & Objectives **Page 10**
 - Transportation Plan Survey Results **Page 12**
 - Ohlson Lane/Bunnell Avenue Traffic Calming Recommendations **Page 13**
 - 65% Review Ohlson Lane/Bunnell Avenue Road Improvements **Page 19**
7. **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - 7.A. Library Director Report
 - Director's Report for March 2023 **Page 27**
 - 2022 Annual Stats **Page 31**
 - 2023 Annual Stats **Page 32**
 - 7.B. Legislative Update
 - 7.C. Fundraising Update
8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**

9. PENDING BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. LAB Goals & Opportunities Brainstorming
Agenda Item Report LAB 23-005 **Page 33**

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

11.A. The New York Times Article *A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue*
dated February 14, 2023 **Page 43**

11.B. LAB Meeting & City Council Report Calendar **Page 66**

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

15. ADJOURNMENT Next Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-02, a Regular Meeting of the Library Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Kate Finn at 5:33 p.m. on February 21, 2023 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

Chair Finn welcomed new Boardmember Lisa “Red” Asselin Martin, appointed February 13, 2023 to fill the seat vacated by Boardmember Emilie Springer who resigned January 25, 2023.

PRESENT: BOARDMEMBERS KUSZMAUL, BAILY, FAIR, ASSELIN, DOLMA, MCKINNEY, FINN

ABSENT: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

STAFF: LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

FAIR/DOLMA MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A. LAB Meeting Minute Approval
Unapproved January 17, 2023 LAB Minutes

KUSZMAUL/FAIR MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Boardmember Baily commented on the grammatical edits he submitted to Deputy City Clerk Tussey.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. Library Director Report
2023 January Library Director Report
2022 Annual Report
2022 Annual Stats
2023 Annual Stats

Library Director Berry spoke to his monthly report, upcoming special events, provided a recap of the 2022 annual library report, and the library statistics. He facilitated questions from boardmembers on the following:

- Teen Advisory Board; advises library staff on materials to purchase and library-hosted events.
- Status update on the City Manager's restructuring of City departments and divisions.
- If there was any follow-up on the books that were part of the appeal.
- The annual report; how it's disseminated, its contents, commending staff for their hard work.

7.B. Legislative Update

Chair Finn reported there are no specific legislative items at this time at the State or Federal levels that they could contact their representatives about; most items are still in committee with no assigned numbers yet. There was discussion on current funding activity for university libraries or grants for the Alaska Library Network.

7.C. Fundraising Update

Boardmember Kuszmaul gave a verbal synopsis of her 2022 Library Endowment Fund report, which broke down the funding amounts, number of donations, and donors for 2020-2022. There was discussion on the status of the fish plaques for recognizing donors.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. PENDING BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. Homer Library Western Lot Design Plan – Request for Input & Support Agenda Item Report LAB 23-001

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Mr. Berry explained how the Homer Library Western Lot Design Plan is entering into the final design phases. The Friends of the Homer Library is gathering feedback from various City entities and the public before going to City Council for a resolution of support. Once the design is finalized, they will proceed with fundraising and soliciting bids for construction work.

Boardmembers voiced their support for the design components. Mr. Berry responded to questions.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO SUPPORT THE HOMER LIBRARY WESTERN LOT DESIGN PLAN AND RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL FOR SUPPORT.

There was discussion on including language in the motion that speaks to how the western lot plan fulfills the LAB's goals.

KUSZMAUL/BAILY MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT THE LAB BELIEVES THIS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIBRARY'S ROLE AS A COMMUNITY HUB.

There was no further discussion on the amendment.

VOTE (amendment): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10.B. Library Budget for FY24-25
Agenda Item Report LAB 23-002

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry to report.

Mr. Berry presented library staff's budget requests that will be going to Council and facilitated discussion on:

1. Revising the library Fee Schedule to raise the charge for books and other materials, and
2. A one-time capital improvement budget request for new library chairs.

Chair Finn asked for a motion.

FAIR/BAILY MOVED TO AMEND THE CITY OF HOMER FEE SCHEDULE TO INCREASE THE CHARGE FOR INTERLIBRARY LOANS UP TO \$4.00 FOR BOOKS AND \$5.00 FOR OTHER MATERIALS.

Boardmembers Fair, Dolma, and Kuszmaul opined that those proposed rates do not seem high enough. Discussion ensued on what the fees should be set at, staff wanting to find the balance between keeping it affordable for patrons, and keeping up with increasing postage costs.

FAIR/KUSZMAUL MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ \$5.00 FOR BOOKS AND \$6.00 FOR OTHER MATERIALS.

There was no further discussion on the amendment.

VOTE (amendment): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion on the main motion.

VOTE (main motion as amended): NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Chair Finn asked for a motion regarding the capital improvement budget request.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO SUPPORT LIBRARY DIRECTOR BERRY'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET REQUEST FOR REPLACING THE LIBRARY CHAIRS, AND RECOMMEND ADOPTION TO CITY COUNCIL.

Boardmember Kuszmaul inquired if all the chairs are still in commission or have any been removed. Mr. Berry noted they are slowly dying one by one. Boardmember Kuszmaul suggested to update the narrative to reflect the accurate number of chairs still in use.

In response to additional questions, Mr. Berry explained how the number of seating is adequate and the request is to replace those numbers.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Mr. Berry commented on the other City budget materials that were provided in the packet. He responded to questions from the board on the library's proposed FY24/25 Operating Budget.

10.C. Library Policies – Annual Review & Proposed Revisions
Agenda Item Report LAB 23-003

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Library Director Berry.

Mr. Berry explained how during his review of the library's circulation development policy, he found that all of the library's separate policies are in need of significant review; they are full of duplication, internal contradictions, out of date information, incorrect code references, and ambiguous language. He shared his work to overhaul all of the policies into a single document, as outlined in his written memo, and his plan to bring a draft to the LAB at their March or April agenda after he gathers input from the City Attorney and Friends of the Homer Library.

Boardmembers discussed the situation of the appeal, what they learned from that process, and how they would like the policy to be reviewed to reflect that. They shared their support for the direction of the revisions and are interested in seeing the draft he will be bringing to them.

10.D. Annual Review of LAB Strategic Plan & Goals for 2023
Agenda Item Report LAB 23-004

Chair Finn introduced the agenda item by reading the title. She noted the document was last updated February 15, 2022 and opened the floor for discussion or amendments to the goals.

Boardmember Kuzmaul opined that the LAB nailed Goal #3 "Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups." Inadvertently through the book challenge, she felt they made a real contribution to the community. Chair Finn noted it also actively recruited new LAB members.

There was discussion on the language regarding the appointment of a liaison to the Friends of the Homer Library under the sections "Fiscal" and "Meetings". It was agreed the liaison role is not official, communication between the two groups is taken care of by the Library Director, and to leave the assignment of overseeing fundraising efforts more general. Deputy City Clerk Tussey facilitated edits to the strategic plan, revising the two sections under Values, Roles & Responsibilities:

- Fiscal – Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city charter **code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund.**

- Meetings – Participate in all advisory board meetings. ~~Appoint a liaison to the Friends Board and become a member of the Friends.~~ Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings.

FAIR/MCKINNEY MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS FOR 2023.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. Appointment of Red Asselin to LAB
AIR CC-23-046 & Appointment Letter/Certificate
- 11.B. LAB Appeal Decision
Written Notice of the LAB's Appeal Decision 1/19/2023
- 11.C. Materials Submitted by Chair Finn
Book Challenge Tips for Librarians
- 11.D. LAB Meeting & City Council Report Calendar
2023 LAB Calendar

Chair Finn noted the informational materials provided and commented on the book challenge tips for librarians that she included. She invited boardmembers to share library-related topics with Library Director Berry to be included in future informational materials.

At the request of Chair Finn, Deputy City Clerk Tussey explained how new appointment applications are advertised, the reappointment process and that notices of term expirations will be going out to Boardmembers Fair and Dolma.

Chair Finn spoke to the Council report calendar and requested boardmembers volunteer to give the LAB report. It was noted that Lifelong Learning should be moved to February.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Library Director Berry commented on his attendance at the upcoming Alaska Library Association Conference. It will be his first opportunity to attend in-person, and he'll have a report afterwards. Chair Finn inquired on any legislative watchdog points of contact with the association.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey noted her reappointment reminders to Boardmembers Fair and Dolma.

14. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD

Boardmember Dolma welcomed new boardmember Red Asselin and thanked the board for all their work.

Boardmember Kuszmaul shared a library-related story that came up while reading about Bob's Red Mill history. She suggested boardmembers be on the look-out for these kind of inspirational library stories.

Boardmember Fair noted he will be absent for the April meeting.

Chair Finn commented on the duration of meeting times and thanked Boardmember Asselin for joining the LAB. She voiced her excitement for what kind of things the board can accomplish.

15. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Finn adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: Housing Solutions in the Greater Homer Area

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023

9:00 AM TO 12:30 PM

Christian Community Church, 3838 Bartlett Street, Homer, AK

Doors open at 9 AM - Meeting begins at 9:30 AM

9:30-12:30 PM AGENDA

- Homer Housing Survey Results
- Workshop: What are our priorities?
- Workshop: Solutions and Next Steps!

For more information email:
hannah@gsquared.solutions

**SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFO:**



SUPPORTED BY:





Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives for the City of Homer transportation system were developed with input from city staff and the public. The goals describe the fundamental outcomes of the Master Transportation Plan, while the objectives are more specific and measurable outcomes that support the goals.

The planning effort to develop an updated Comprehensive Plan for the City of Homer has recently started. The goals and objectives in this Transportation Plan do not need to be the same as those in the Comprehensive Plan; however, the Transportation Plan goals should support the Comprehensive Plan goals.

GOAL 1: Increase safety of interactions between different modes of travel

Residents want travel within the city to be safer, including for people walking, biking, and driving, as well as for the movement of goods.

Objective 1A: Improve safety at conflict points between pedestrians and motor vehicles, especially at intersections

Safety can be improved at conflict points (where pedestrian and motor vehicle paths cross) by making crossing locations more visible, encouraging motor vehicles to yield to pedestrians, and reducing the crossing distance.

Objective 1B: Provide for safe use of the right of way by all transportation modes, considering the land use context and type of vehicle

Safety can be improved by policies that help to define the network for different users (such as defining truck routes or defining maximum speeds for e-bikes on pathways) and through infrastructure improvements to help separate users with different weight and speed characteristics (such as building bike lanes, pathways, and sidewalks).

Objective 1C: Improve user understanding of how to safely share the public right of way

Education is one way to improve safety, but it's not always effective. One example of education that has been shown to reduce crashes is safety education for children regarding safe pedestrian and bicycle behaviors

GOAL 2: Provide a connected network of local and collector roads and trails that balances modes based on land use contexts

Residents desire a connected network for all users. A connected non-motorized network provides more opportunities for walking and biking; a connected collector road network helps to reduce the number of short trips on the arterial road network, reducing the need for increasing the number of lanes or installing more restrictive traffic control on arterial networks. A connected collector road network works hand in hand with the non-motorized network to reduce the overall cost of the transportation network and address climate impacts.

Objective 2A: Identify a priority network for non-motorized travel that connects key generators and develop a plan to build these connections

Prioritizing building or improving non-motorized facilities that connect locations where people are most likely to walk or bike (such as schools, the library, shopping areas) will provide the biggest benefit.

Objective 2B: Identify key gaps in the collector road network and develop a plan to build these connections

Prioritizing building or improving collector roads that allow drivers to access a signal on a major arterial or travel directly between adjacent neighborhoods will decrease delay and trip length without necessitating major improvements to the arterial network.

Objective 2C: Identify and address bicycle parking needs

Trips for commuting, shopping, school, and other similar purposes rely on safe and secure bicycle parking at each end of the trip.

Objective 2D: Identify and address opportunities for parking once and then walking, ride sharing, or using transit

Some people will not be comfortable walking or biking for all trips; however, they may be comfortable walking or biking for a portion of all or most trips. Park and ride facilities could allow visitors to get out of their car or RV and travel to attractions using transit. Consolidated parking that serves several businesses allows people to park once and then visit several businesses without driving between each one.



GOAL 3: Maintain transportation network to be usable year-round

Residents desire roads and non-motorized facilities to be maintained so they are usable in winter and in summer.

Objective 3A: Reconstruct and proactively maintain non-motorized facilities to ensure year-round usability

Sidewalks, paths, and trails are less usable when drainage, lighting, wayfinding, etc. is inadequate. Addressing problems with the existing non-motorized system will help to make them usable year-round. Additionally, establishing standards for winter and summer maintenance by type of use (for example, walking paths will have different standards than ski trails) will help users know what to expect. Developing ways for the public to alert the city when there are concerns at specific locations will help to make facilities usable year-round.

Objective 3B: Reconstruct and proactively maintain City of Homer roadways to ensure year-round usability

Inadequate drainage can also impact the usability of roadways. Improving drainage during roadway reconstruction can help keep the pavement in good condition for a longer period of time. Establishing maintenance standards for city roads and ways for the public to alert the city when there are concerns at specific locations can help make roadways usable year-round.

Objective 3C: Work with Alaska DOT&PF to improve winter maintenance on state-owned non-motorized facilities

The public has identified maintenance of the non-motorized facilities along DOT&PF-owned roadways as a top priority for improvement. Transferring maintenance responsibility is one possible solution. There may be some roads currently under state ownership that should be under city ownership.

Objective 3D: Manage resources to maximize and balance maintenance efforts

Improving the efficiency of maintenance activities allows better maintenance without increasing resources. Designing new roadways or non-motorized facilities to accommodate the existing equipment or buying new equipment that makes it easier to clear debris and snow from existing infrastructure could help to balance maintenance efforts and make them more efficient.

Objective 3E: Establish design standards for walking, biking, road, and public transportation networks

Building on the existing Trails Design Manual, developing standards for infrastructure that serves all modes will ensure consistency and improve travel options.

Objective 3F: Include appropriate improvements for each travel mode to reconstruction or new construction within the public right of way

As roads are constructed or reconstructed, infrastructure should be considered for each mode. New or improved infrastructure should be consistent with the land use context, meet design standards, and help to complete the priority network for that mode.

GOAL 4: Provide expanded transportation options for year-round residents and seasonal travelers to support City of Homer goals for environmental preservation and climate threat reduction

Residents desire a transportation system that reduces environmental impacts.

Objective 4A: Support development of a public transportation network

Public transit provides additional travel options and reduces travel by a single occupant in a vehicle. The city could support private development of transit through building transit stops or park and ride facilities.

Objective 4D: Evaluate effectiveness of the transportation program at meeting City of Homer environmental goals

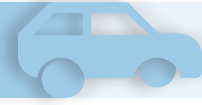
Measuring progress towards the City of Homer environmental goals will help to identify the effect of changes to the transportation system on the environment.



City of Homer Transportation Plan Survey Results

In the fall of 2022, 289 people responded to the survey.

83% use a car daily



27% walk daily

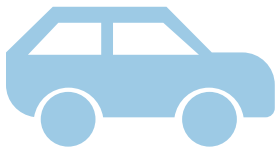


29% walk weekly



Prepared by
Kinney Engineering, LLC
March 10, 2023

Concerns raised when using different modes of travel



- » Traffic
- » Left-turn congestion
- » Summer traffic
- » Pavement conditions
- » Parking



- » Road accessibility
- » Pavement conditions
- » Parking
- » Pedestrians



- » Sidewalks
- » Crosswalks
- » Drivers
- » Winter conditions
- » Safety
- » Trails



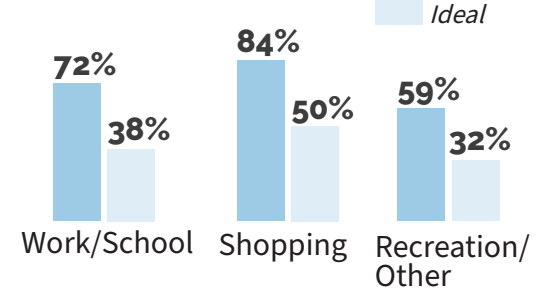
- » Drivers
- » Bike Lanes
- » Bike Paths
- » Safety
- » Trails



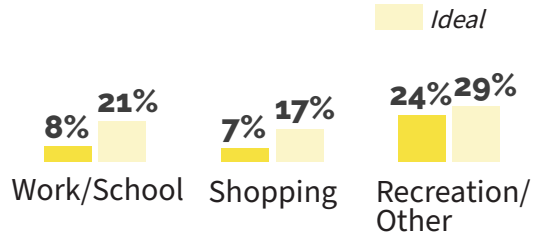
Travel Habits - Current & Ideal

What percentage of the time do you use your personal vehicle for the following trips? What about walking or biking? Under ideal conditions, would you use your personal vehicle more or less? What percentage of your trips would be by personal vehicle, walking or biking?

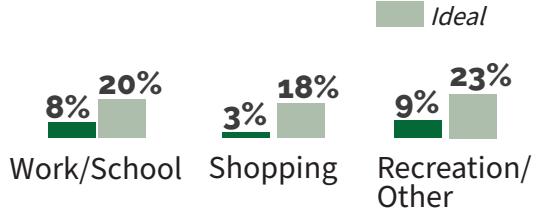
Personal Vehicle Trips



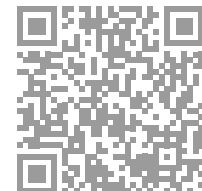
Walking Trips



Bicycle Trips



What would you like to see more of in Homer's transportation system?



TO: Jan Keiser, P.E. (COH Public Works Director)

FROM: Tae Voight, P.E., Randy Kinney, P.E. PTOE, Leon Galbraith, P.E.

DATE: December 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Ohlson Traffic Calming Recommendations/ COH #22-02

A resurfacing project to repair Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue is being developed to extend the life of the pavement and drainage facilities along this local road in Homer, Alaska. A recent meeting with locals indicated a need for additional traffic calming devices in the area of the project known as Old Town district.

Traffic calming measures generally address excessive traffic volumes and, or speeds. Excessive traffic volumes can result when vehicles that have no origin or destination point in the vicinity are using the street as a by-pass mobility route to avoid congestion on a designated mobility route. This is not the likely case or need on Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue because there is no advantage to using the Old Town street network to save travel time over the mobility route, Sterling Highway. As such, the primary benefit of traffic calming would be to deter speeding in the area. A secondary benefit of speed reduction would be safety, particularly pedestrian safety.

Existing Conditions

The City of Homer has provided Kinney Engineering (KE) with drawings from Nelson Engineering that show initial design recommendations for the pavement restoration project on Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue between the Sterling Highway and Main Street. Ohlson Lane currently does not have any sidewalks but there is a short paved bike lane shoulder on Bunnell Avenue to the east of Main Street (outside of the project limits). There is one speed hump on Bunnell and the posted speed limit in the area is 25 mph.

Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue are both classified as Minor Collectors (Rural) on the Alaska Traffic Data website. Given the collector street functional classification, it would be reasonable to expect a wide range of trucks from SU30s to WB-50s. The estimated 2021 Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) for Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue is 1,100 and 1,030.

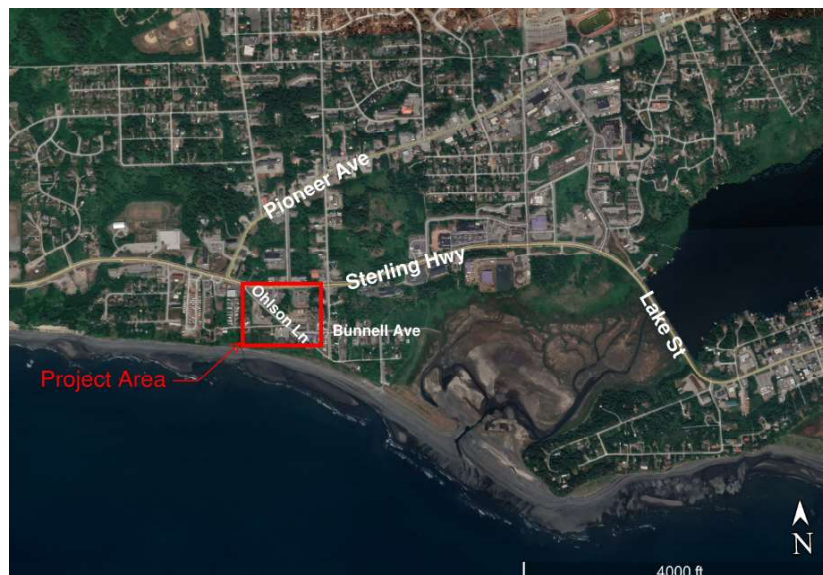


Figure 1- Homer Vicinity Map



Figure 2- Ohlson Lane



Figure 3- Ohlson Lane at Bunnell Avenue



Figure 4- Attached Pathway on Bunnell Avenue



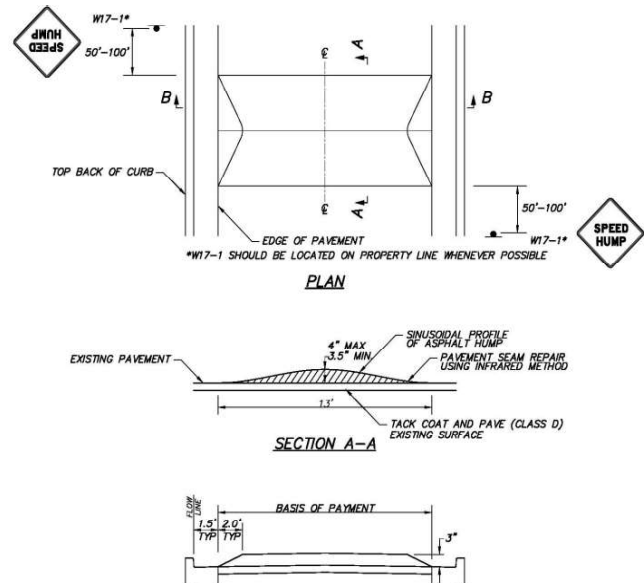
Figure 5- Speed Hump and Signage on Bunnell Avenue

Traffic Calming Devices Focused on Speed Reduction

Speed Hump

Speed humps are raised areas of pavement, in a parabolic shape, with a relative rise of 3 inches and are between 12 and 22 feet in length, and extending the width of travel way. Speed humps are intended to promote 85th percentile speeds between 25 and 35 mph when used in series and spaced between 250 feet and 500 feet apart. They are typically accompanied by associated signing and pavement markings. A speed hump diagram is shown in Figure 6. There are no speed humps on Ohlson Lane and one existing speed hump on Bunnell Avenue east of Main Street.

Effectiveness in Speed Reduction- A compilation of Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) studies indicate that speed humps are effective in speed reduction, with expected reductions of 20% to 25%. To be fully effective, speed humps must be used in series or with other traffic calming devices.



Source: https://www.muni.org/Departments/traffic/Documents/Policy Manual_Final_03_10.pdf

Figure 6- Speed Hump Diagram

Other Advantages- Bicycle lanes are compatible with speed humps if speed humps do not encroach into the bicycle lane. Trucks such as SU30's to WB-50s can safely negotiate speed humps at low speed.

Disadvantages- Speed humps can be damaged by snow plows and graders, especially over time and may require additional effort and costs. Typically, signs and pavement markings identifying a hump location will also be installed and have to be maintained. Emergency response times are impacted by speed humps and tables, and emergency responder personnel have been injured while traversing speed humps. As such, the use and placement of speed humps should be coordinated with street maintenance, and emergency responders.

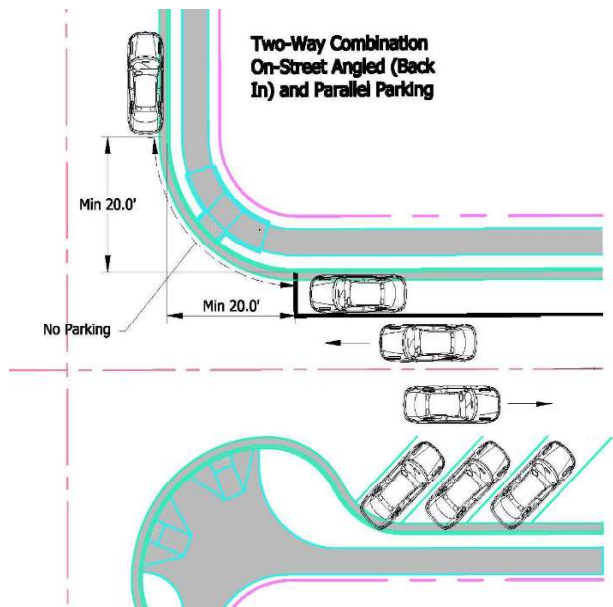
On Street Parking

Allocation of space to on street parking reduces street width and can be applied with other traffic calming measures. A schematic of on street parking strategies is shown in Figure 7.

Effectiveness in Speed Reduction- To maximize speed reduction, parallel parking is preferred to increase side friction to traffic flow per ITEs Fact Sheet on On-Street Parking, and as such, the existing configuration should change from angled to parallel parking.

Other Advantages- On Street parking can be combined with other traffic calming measures and provides convenient access to local businesses. First responders prefer this traffic calming measure over others per ITEs Fact Sheet for On-Street Parking.

Disadvantages- Road user visibility and intersection sight distance may be reduced with on street parking. During snow plowing operations vehicle removal is required.



Source: <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2013/12/H-3.5-On-Street-Parking.pdf>

Figure 7- On Street Parking Schematic

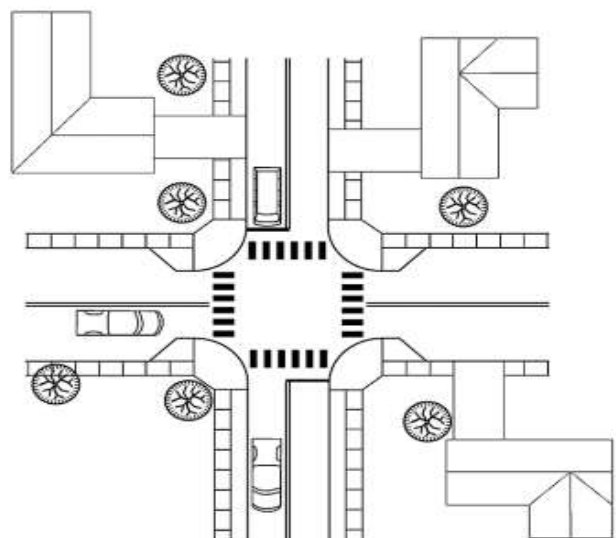
Bulb-Out

Bulb outs are a horizontal extension into the street that results in a narrower roadway section. They are beneficial when used in conjunction with other traffic calming measures. A bulb out schematic is shown in Figure 8.

Effectiveness in Speed Reduction- Studies indicate bulb-outs are not effective in reducing vehicle speeds.

Other Advantages- Effective when used in combination with crosswalks and on-street parking because it controls parking encroachment into the crosswalk area, increase pedestrian sight distance and vehicle visibility for pedestrian(s) staging to cross, and reduces pedestrian crossing distances.

Disadvantages- Turning radius must be taken into consideration in order to avoid turning vehicles crossing centerline.



Source: <https://regulations.delaware.gov/register/august2012/proposed/DETCM.pdf>

Figure 8- Bulb-Out Schematic

Supplemental Traffic Calming Measures

Sidewalks and crosswalks- Pedestrian facilities increase pedestrian compliance when placed appropriately and reduce conflicts with vehicles.

Landscaping- Increases vehicle and pedestrian visibility.

Education and enforcement- Traffic calming programs can be a non-physical measure, supplement, or precursor to physical measures.

Recommendations

The objectives of the project are to encourage speed compliance and responsible driver behavior, as well as increase pedestrian safety through traffic calming. For this project, speed humps, street width reductions, and bulb-outs are the proposed measures. The current design includes street width reductions by reconfiguring on-street parking on Bunnell Avenue. As shown in Figure 9 it is recommended to relocate the proposed crosswalks to the intersection of Ohlson Lane and Bunnell Avenue. Relocation of the crosswalk to the intersection promotes pedestrian compliance and visibility. It is also recommended to install an additional crosswalk and bulb out at the intersection of Bunnell Avenue and Main Street. The addition of two speed humps is recommended on Ohlson lane for speed reduction.

Supplemental traffic calming measures that could be beneficial to the area are landscaping, and education and enforcement measures.

References

(2005). *Traffic Calming Policy Manual*. Municipality of Anchorage.

https://www.muni.org/Departments/traffic/Documents/Policy_Manual_Final_03_10.pdf

(2012). *Corner Extensions*. DelDOT Traffic Calming Manual.

<https://regulations.delaware.gov/register/august2012/proposed/DETCM.pdf>

(n.d.). *Traffic Calming Measures*. ITE. <https://www.ite.org/technical-resources/traffic-calming/traffic-calming-measures/>

(n.d.). *Alaska Traffic Data*. Alaska Traffic Data. <https://alaskatraficdata.drakewell.com/publicmultinodemap.asp>

(n.d.). *On Street Parking*. Arlington County. <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2013/12/H-3.5-On-Street-Parking.pdf>

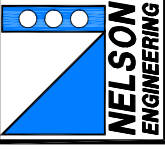
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CITY OF HOMER
OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA
TITLE PAGE, LOCATION MAP, AND LEGEND

PROJECT NO.
2022037

DRAWN BY:
GTP

CHECKED BY:
MJD

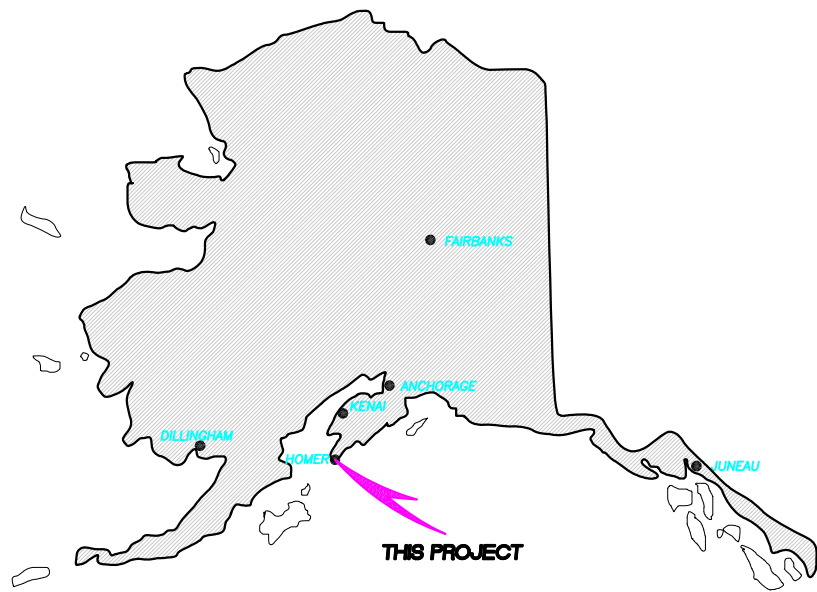
DATE: 02/08/2023

SCALES: NOTED
HORIZ. NOTED
VERT. NOTED

SHEET: **C1.1**
1 OF 8

CITY OF HOMER

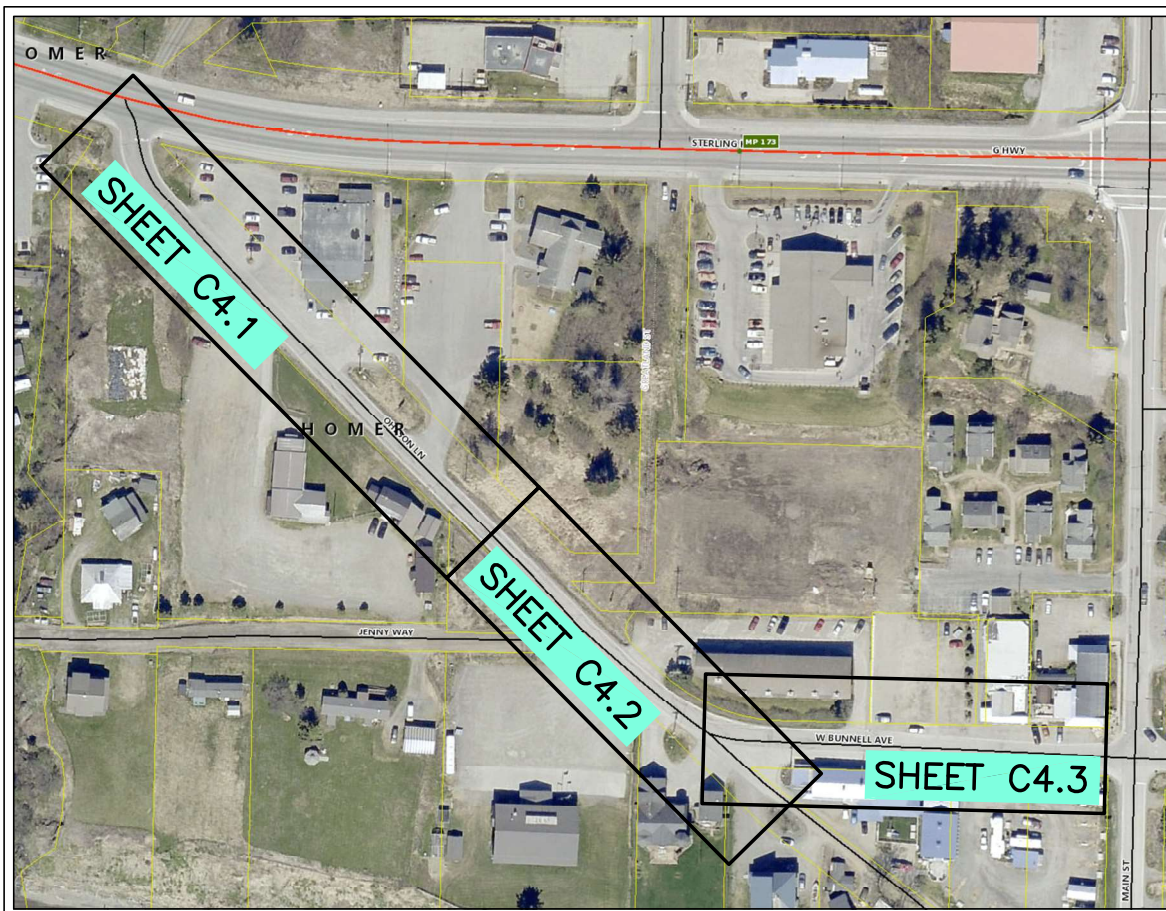
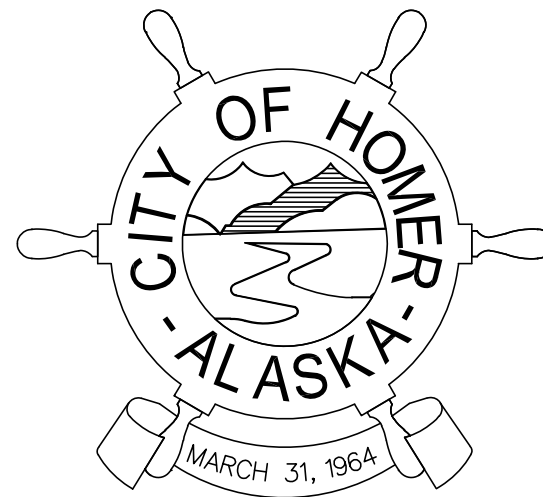
OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



LOCATION MAP



VICINITY MAP



DRAWING	SHEET
TITLE SHEET AND LOCATION MAP	C11
NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS	C21
TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS AND DETAILS	C31
TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS AND DETAILS	C32
TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS AND DETAILS	C33
PLAN AND PROFILE - OHLSON LANE STA 0+00 TO 6+00	C41
PLAN AND PROFILE - OHLSON LANE STA 6+00 TO 10+50	C42
PLAN AND PROFILE - BUNNELL AVE. STA 20+00 TO 24+50	C43

LEGEND

EXISTING (E)	PROPOSED (P)	
—	—	ROAD CENTERLINE
—	—	ROW CENTERLINE
—100—	—100—	CONTOUR LINES
—	—	CUT/FILL DAYLIGHT
—	—	EDGE OF ASPHALT PAVEMENT
—	—	EDGE OF GRAVEL
—	—	EDGE OF R.O.W.
—	—	PROPERTY LINE
—	—	EASEMENT
— UGT —	—	UTILITY - COMMUNICATION
— OHP —	—	UTILITY - ELECTRIC - OVERHEAD
— GAS —	—	UTILITY - GAS
— W —	—	UTILITY - WATER
— SS —	—	UTILITY - SANITARY SEWER
— SD —	— SD —	UTILITY - STORM DRAIN
⊙	⊙	COMMUNICATION PEDESTAL
⊙	⊙	MANHOLE - WATER
⊙	⊙	MANHOLE - SANITARY SEWER
⊙	⊙	MANHOLE - STORM DRAIN
⊙ ^{wv}	⊙	WATER VALVE
—	—	FENCE
—	—	CULVERT
⊙	⊙	REBAR / IRON ROD
⊙	⊙	TEST HOLE LOCATION

GENERAL NOTES

1.) THIS PROJECT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ST ANDREWS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING GRADING, LEVELING, AND ALL OTHER ITEMS SHOWN ON THE PLANS.

2.) LOCATION OF UNDERGROUND UTILITIES ARE APPROXIMATE. ACTUAL DEPTH, NUMBER AND LOCATION IS UNKNOWN. BURIED UTILITIES OTHER THAN THOSE SHOWN ON THE PLANS MAY BE PRESENT. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATION, IDENTIFYING, AND WORKING AROUND ALL UTILITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT LIMITS AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE OWNER. CALL FOR LOCATES PRIOR TO EXCAVATION.

3.) THE FOLLOWING ALASKA STATUTES APPLY TO WORK NEAR OVERHEAD ELECTRIC LINES:

AS 18.60.670 (1) PLACEMENT OF AN TYPE OF TOOL, EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY OR MATERIAL THAT IS CAPABLE OF LATERAL, VERTICAL OR SWINGING MOTION, WITHIN 10' OF ENERGIZED LINES IS NOT ALLOWED.

AS 18.60.670 (2) MINIMUM 10' CLEARANCE FROM BUILDINGS, APPARATUS, MACHINERY, MATERIALS, ETC.

AS 18.60.680 ANY WORK WITHIN MINIMUM DISTANCE STATED ABOVE SHALL REQUIRE CONTACT WITH HEA TO INSTALL TEMPORARY MECHANICAL BARRIERS, TEMPORARY DE-ENERGIZATION AND GROUNDING, OR TEMPORARY RAISING OF CONDUCTORS.

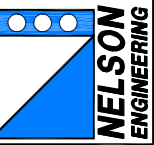
TYPICAL ABBREVIATIONS

ASS'Y	ASSEMBLY	EVCS	END VERTICAL CURVE	N	NORTH
APPROX	APPROXIMATE		STATION	NFS	NON FROST SUSCEPTIBLE
BEG	BELOW EXISTING GRADE	EXIST	EXISTING	NTS	NOT TO SCALE
BOP	BOTTOM OF PIPE	EX	EXISTING	OC	ON CENTER
BVCE	BEGINNING VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION	F	FOUND	OH	OVERHEAD
		FG	FINISH GRADE	PC	POINT OF CURVATURE
BVCS	BEGINNING VERTICAL CURVE STATION	FT	FOOT, FEET	PED	PEDESTAL
		G	GAS	PI	POINT OF INTERSECTION
CIP	CAST IRON PIPE	GD	GROUND	PL	PROPERTY LINE
CL	CENTER LINE, CLASS	GR	GRADE	PP	POWER POLE
CONST	CONSTRUCT	HDPE	HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE	PVI	POINT OF VERTICAL INTERSECTION
COR	CORNER	HORIZ	HORIZONTAL	PVMT	PAVEMENT
DET	DETAIL	HYD	HYDRANT	R	RADIUS, RECORD
DIA	DIAMETER	INT	INTERSECTION	RD	ROAD
DW	DRIVEWAY	INV	INVERT	ROW	RIGHT OF WAY
DWG	DRAWING	L	LENGTH	RP	RADIUS POINT
E	EAST, ELECTRIC LINE	LF	LINEAR FEET	RT	RIGHT
EA	EACH	LVC	LENGTH OF VERTICAL CURVE	S	SOUTH, SLOPE
EL,ELEV	ELEVATION	MAX	MAXIMUM	SEC	SECTION
EOP	END OF PROJECT	MB	MAIL BOX	SCH	SCHEDULE
EP	EDGE OF PAVEMENT	MFR	MANUFACTURER	SD	STORM DRAIN
ESMT	EASEMENT	MKR	MARKER POST	SHLD	SHOULDER
EVCE	END VERTICAL CURVE ELEVATION	MIN	MINIMUM	SHT	SHEET
		MON	MONUMENT		

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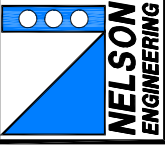
CITY OF HOMER
 OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
 HOMER, ALASKA
 NOTES, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SCHEDULES

PROJECT NO.
 2022037
 DRAWN BY:
 GTP
 CHECKED BY:
 MJD
 DATE: 02/08/2023
 SCALES: NOTED
 HORIZ. NOTED
 VERT. NOTED
 SHEET: **C2.1**
 2 OF 8

65%
REVIEW

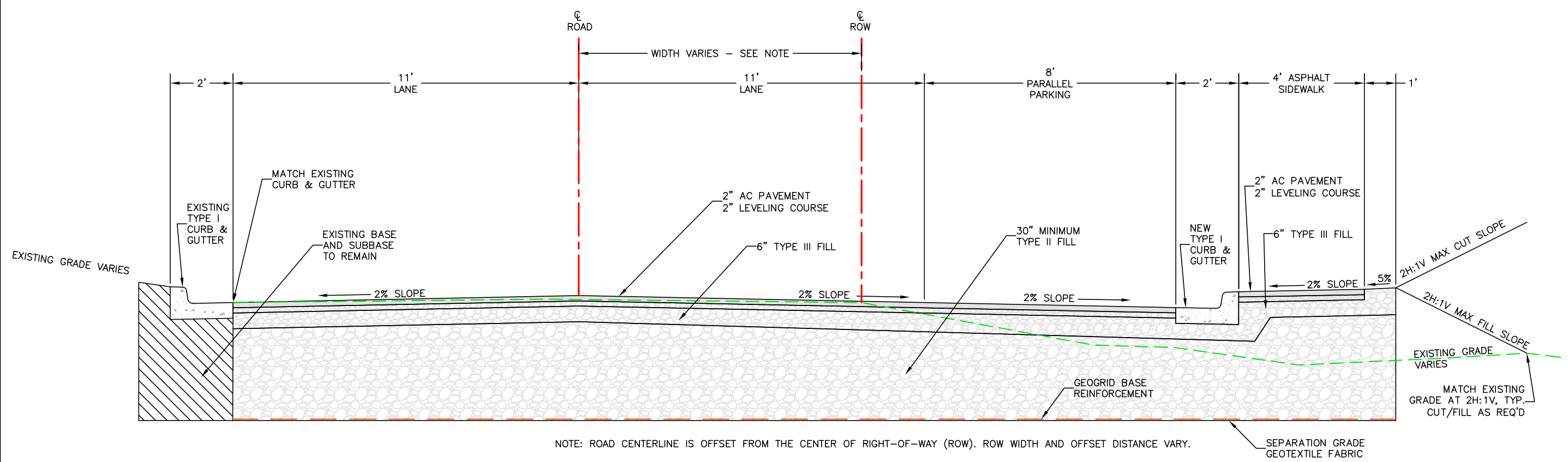
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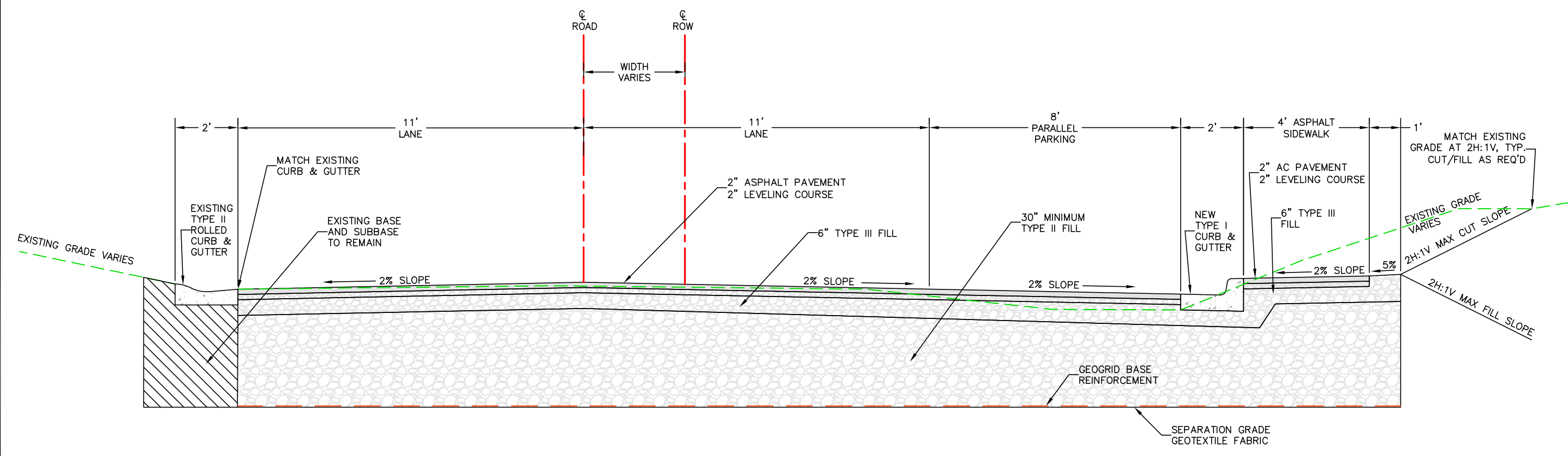


CITY OF HOMER
OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA
TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS AND DETAILS

PROJECT NO.
2022037
DRAWN BY:
GTP
CHECKED BY:
MJD
DATE: 02/08/2023
SCALES: NOTED
HORIZ. NOTED
VERT. NOTED
SHEET: C3.1
3 OF 8



A OHLSON LANE TYPICAL SECTION - STA 0+48 TO 1+42
C3.1 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS

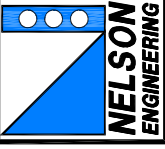


B OHLSON LANE TYPICAL SECTION - STA 1+42 TO 3+67
C3.1 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS

65%
REVIEW

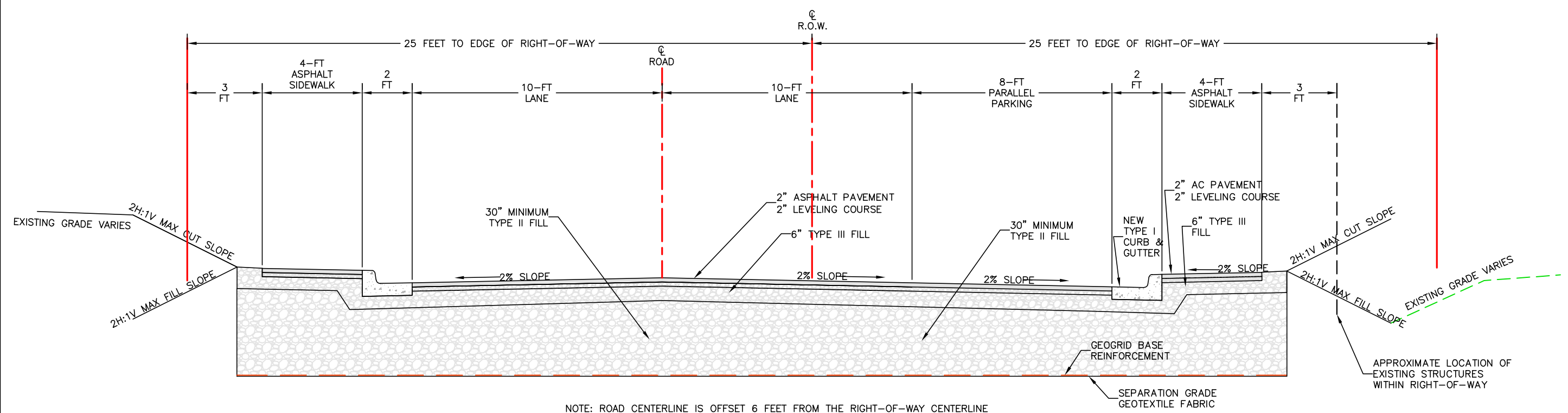
NO.	REVISION	DATE

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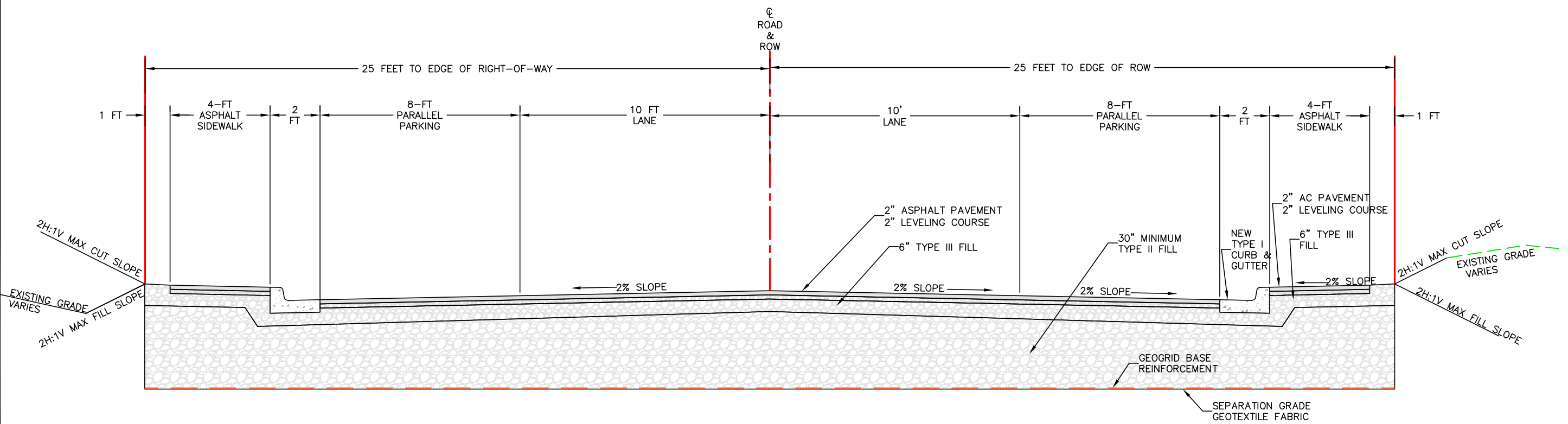


CITY OF HOMER
OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA
TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS AND DETAILS

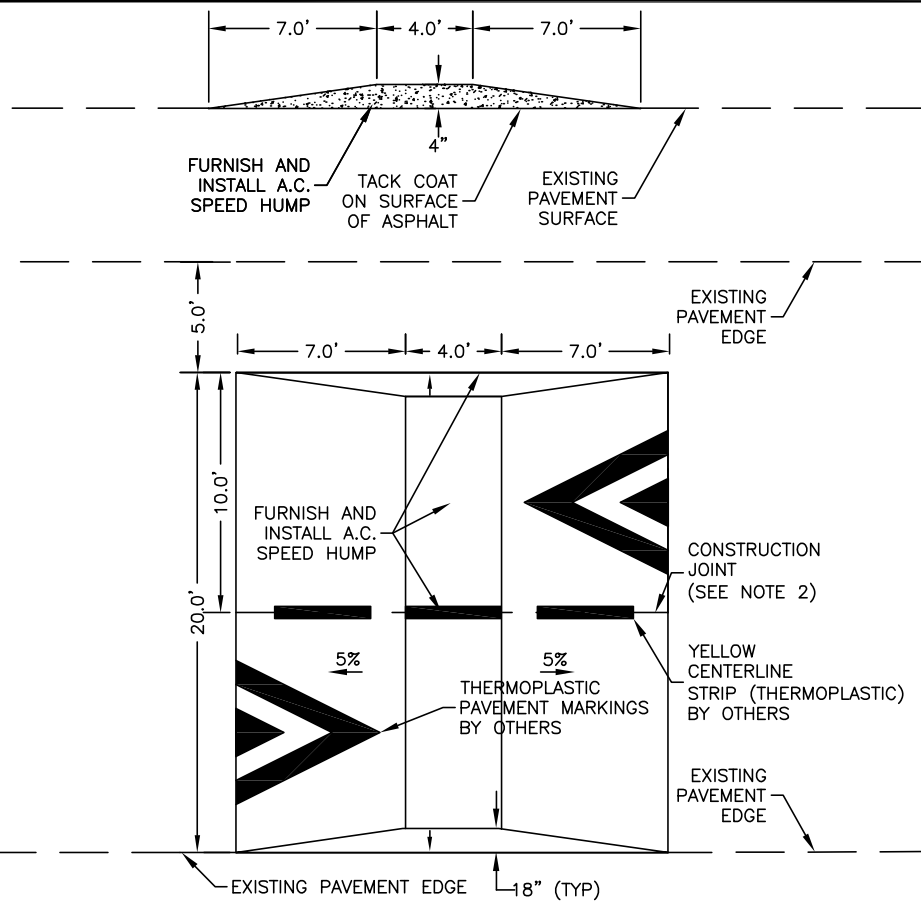
PROJECT NO.
2022037
DRAWN BY:
GTP
CHECKED BY:
MJD
DATE: 02/08/2023
SCALES: NOTED
HORIZ. NOTED
VERT. NOTED
SHEET: C3.2
4 OF 8



A W. BUNNELL AVENUE TYPICAL SECTION - STA 21+37 TO 22+43
C3.2 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS



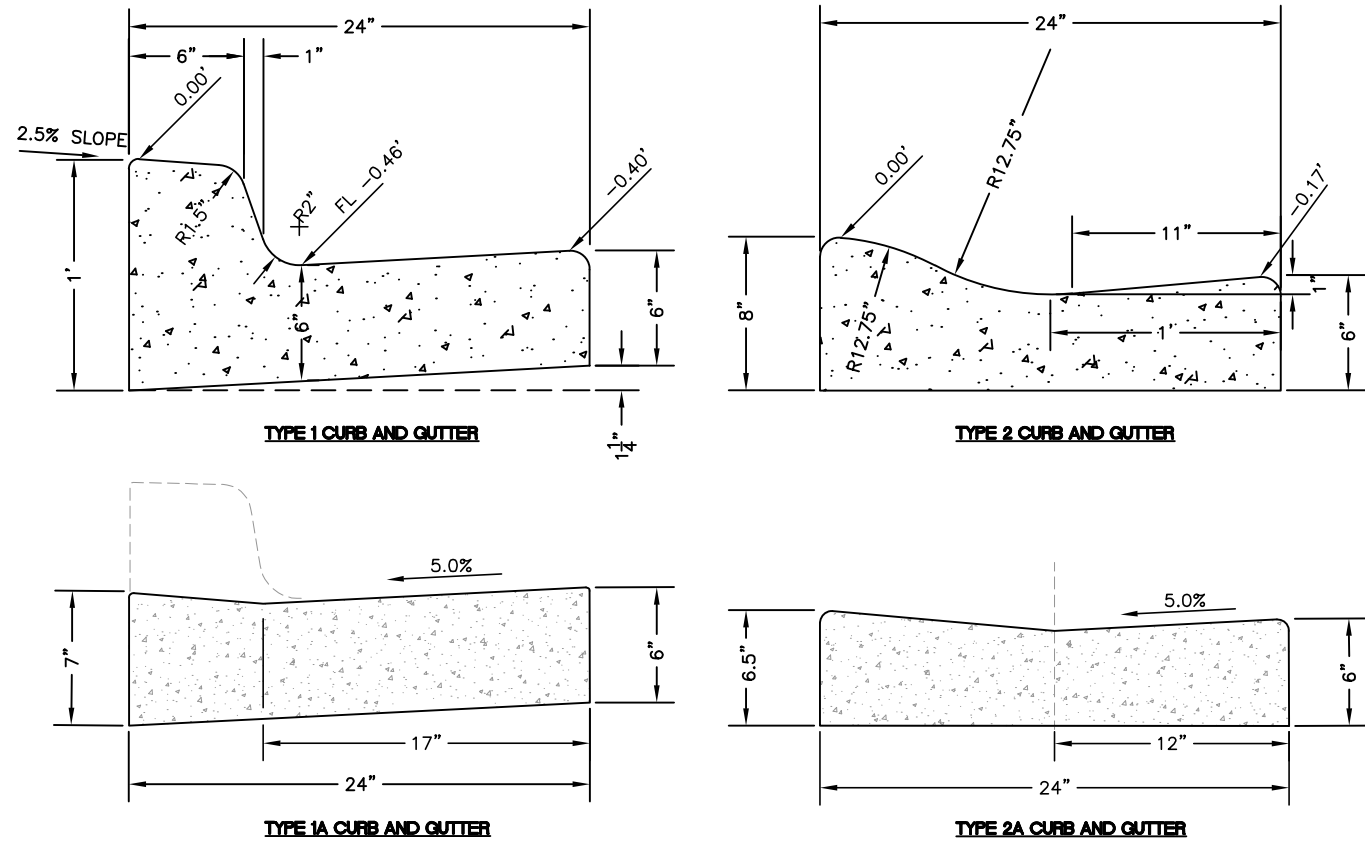
B W. BUNNELL AVENUE TYPICAL SECTION - STA 22+43 TO 24+25
C3.2 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS



NOTES:
 1) CONTRACTOR SHALL CONSTRUCT EACH HUMP IN TWO SECTIONS AND PROVIDE TRAFFIC CONTROL TO ONE LANE OF THROUGH TRAFFIC AT ALL TIMES.

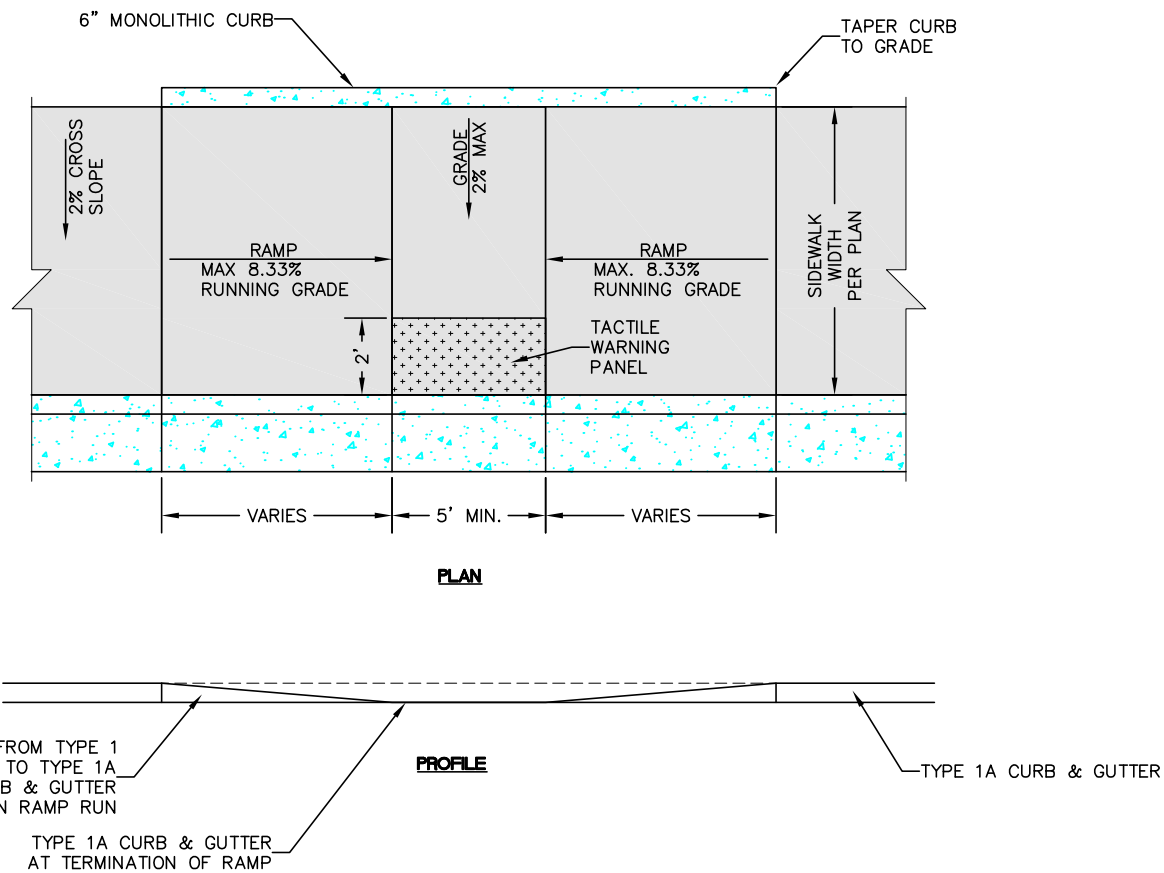
A TYPICAL SPEED HUMP

C3.3 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS



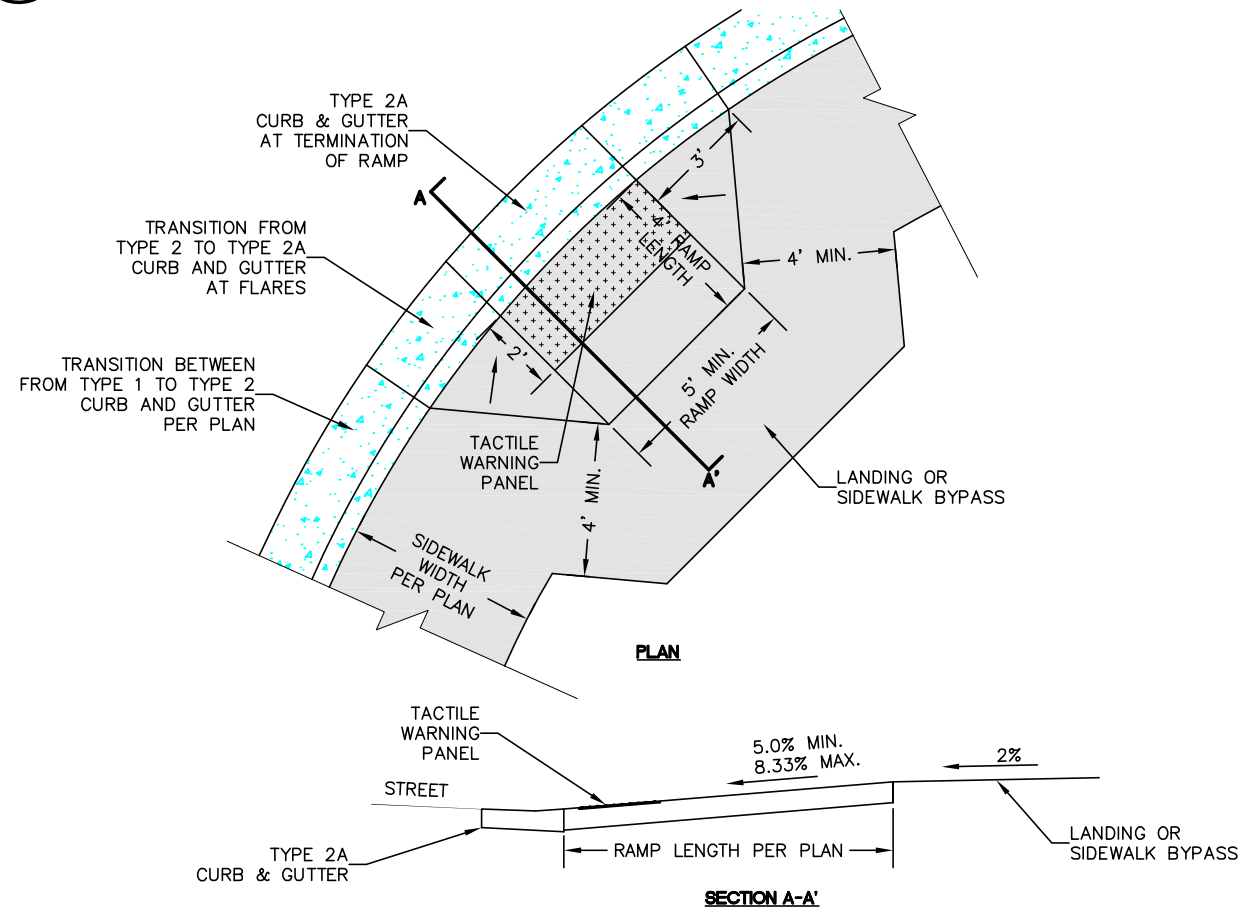
B TYPICAL CONCRETE CURBS AND GUTTERS

C3.3 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS



C TYPICAL ADA PARALLEL SIDEWALK CURB RAMP

C3.3 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS



D TYPICAL ADA PERPENDICULAR SIDEWALK CURB RAMP

C3.3 GRAPHIC SCALE: NTS

65%
REVIEW

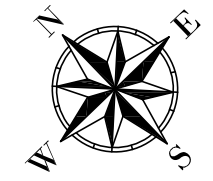
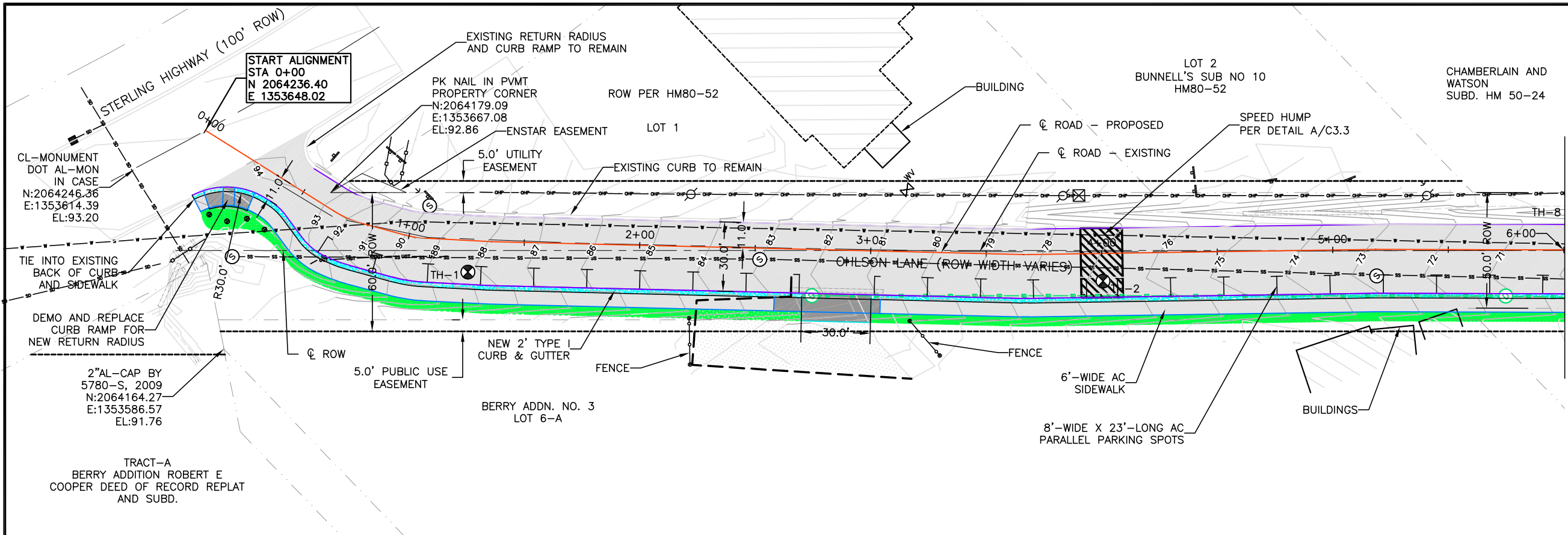
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CITY OF HOMER
 OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
 HOMER, ALASKA
 TYPICAL ROAD SECTIONS AND DETAILS

PROJECT NO.
2022037
 DRAWN BY:
GTP
 CHECKED BY:
MJD
 DATE: 02/08/2023
 SCALES: NOTED
 HORIZ. NOTED
 VERT. NOTED
 SHEET: **C3.3**
 5 OF 8

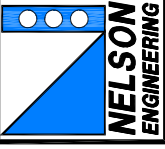


MATCHLINE SHEET C4.2
STA 6+00

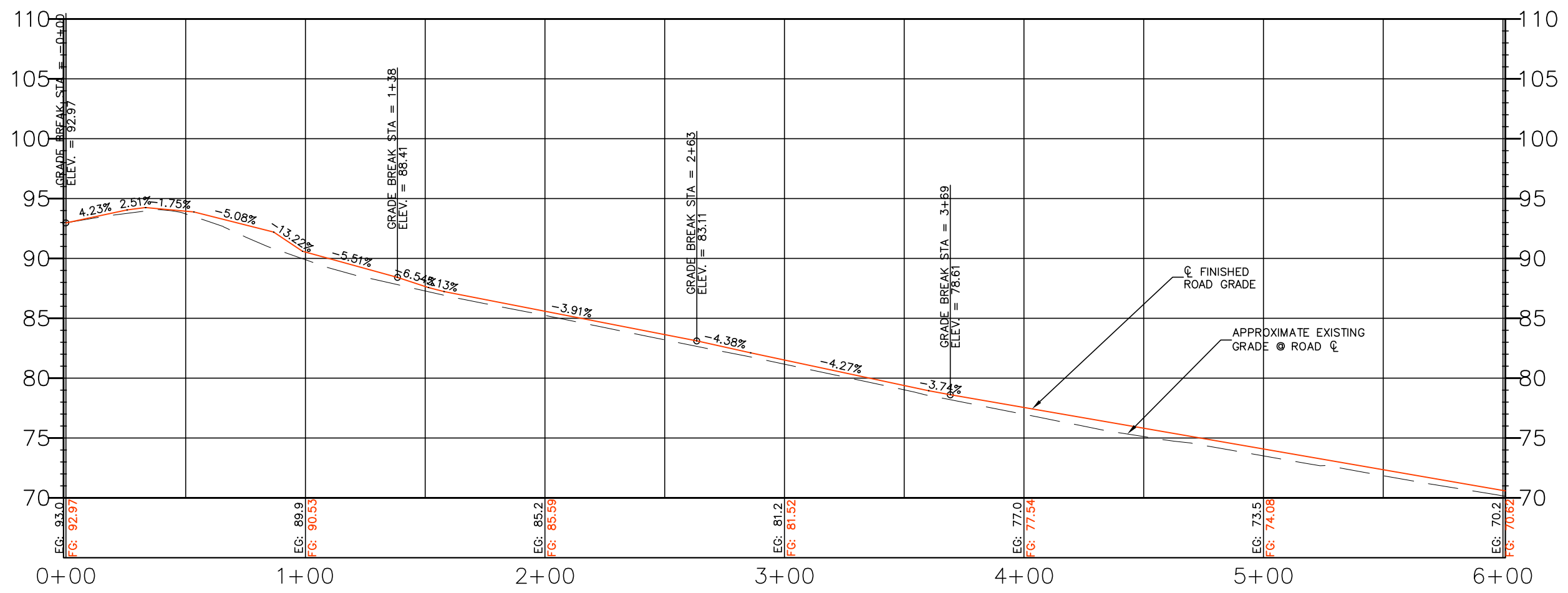
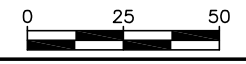
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A OHLSON LANE PLAN - STA 0+00 TO 6+00
C4.1 GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=25' (22X34), 1"=50' (11X17)



B OHLSON LANE PROFILE - STA 0+00 TO 6+00
C4.1 HORIZ. SCALE: 1"=25' (22X34), 1"=50' (11X17); VERT. SCALE: 1"=5' (22X34), 1"=10' (11X17)

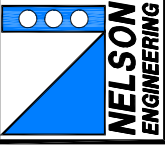
CITY OF HOMER
OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA
PLAN AND PROFILE - OHLSON LANE

PROJECT NO.
2022037
DRAWN BY:
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CHECKED BY:
MJD
DATE: 02/08/2023
SCALES: NOTED
HORIZ. NOTED
VERT. NOTED
SHEET: **C4.1**

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REVIEW

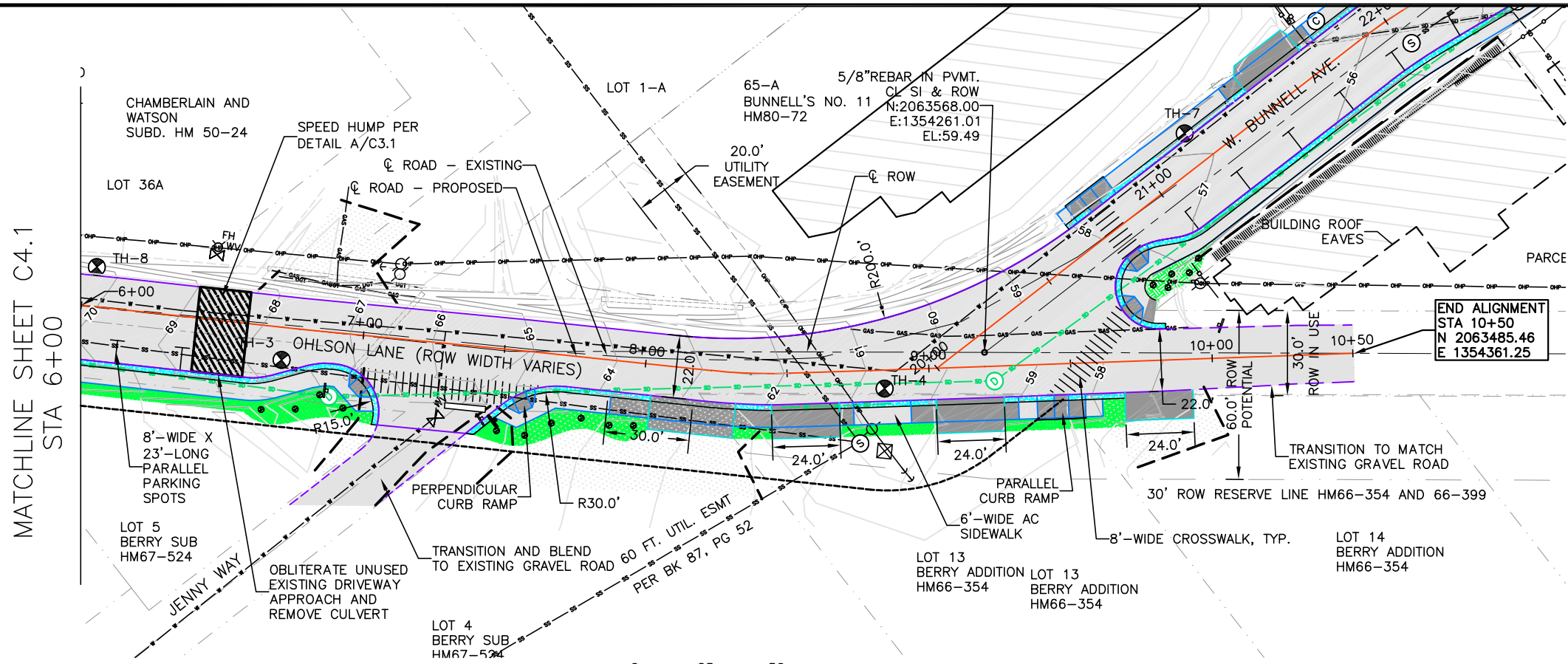
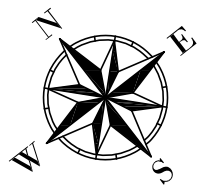
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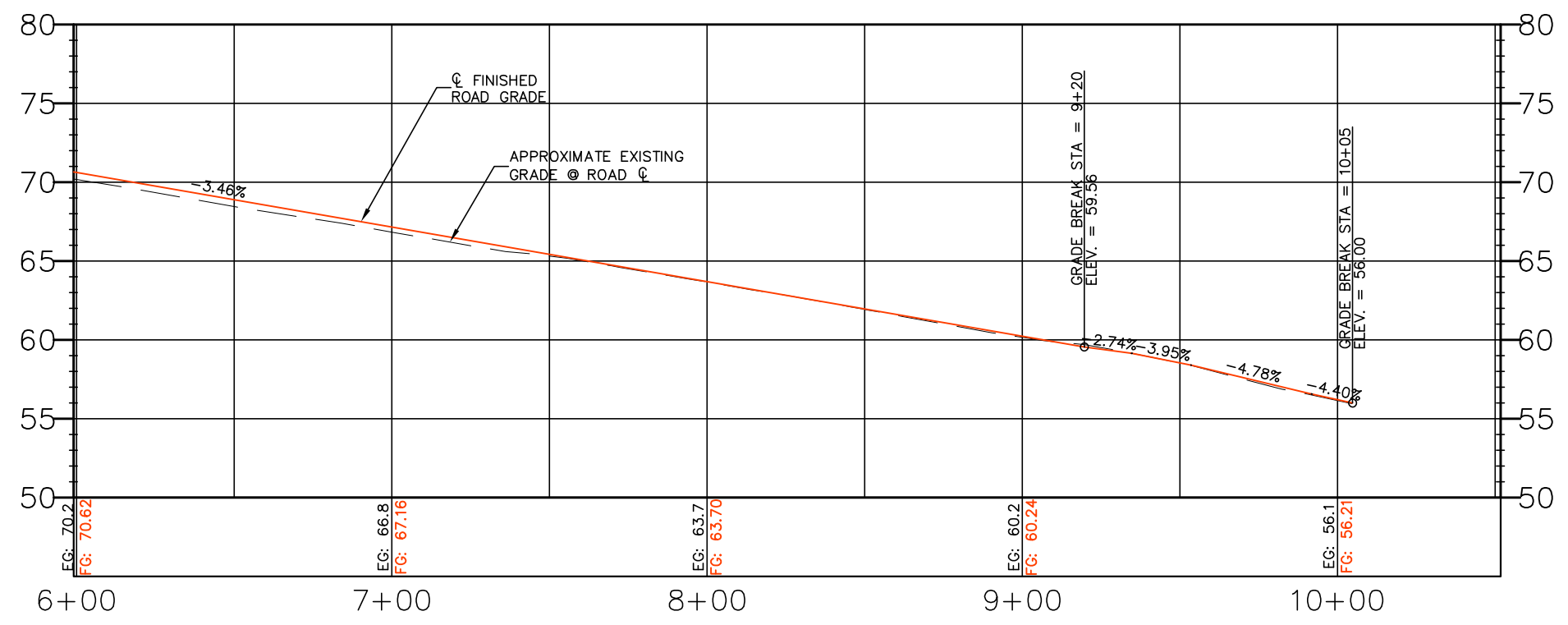


CITY OF HOMER
OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA
PLAN AND PROFILE - OHLSON LANE

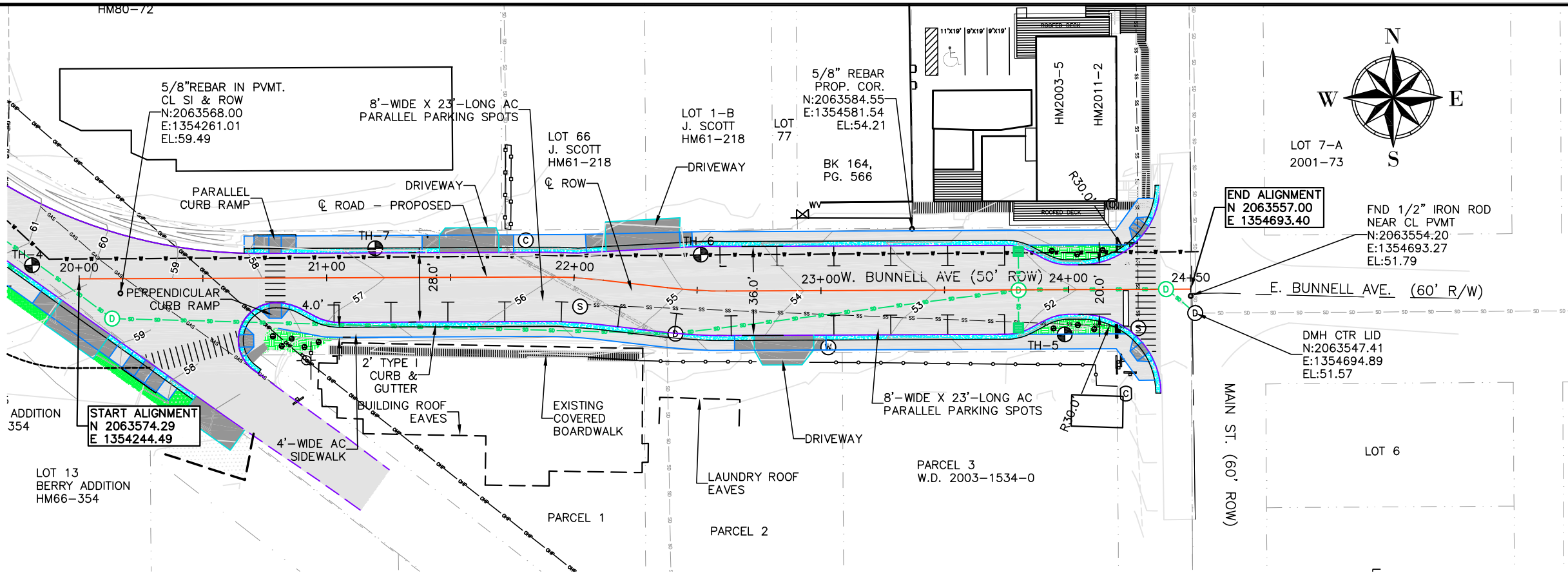
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DRAWN BY:
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DATE: 02/08/2023
SCALES: NOTED
HORIZ. NOTED
VERT. NOTED
SHEET: C4.2
7 OF 8



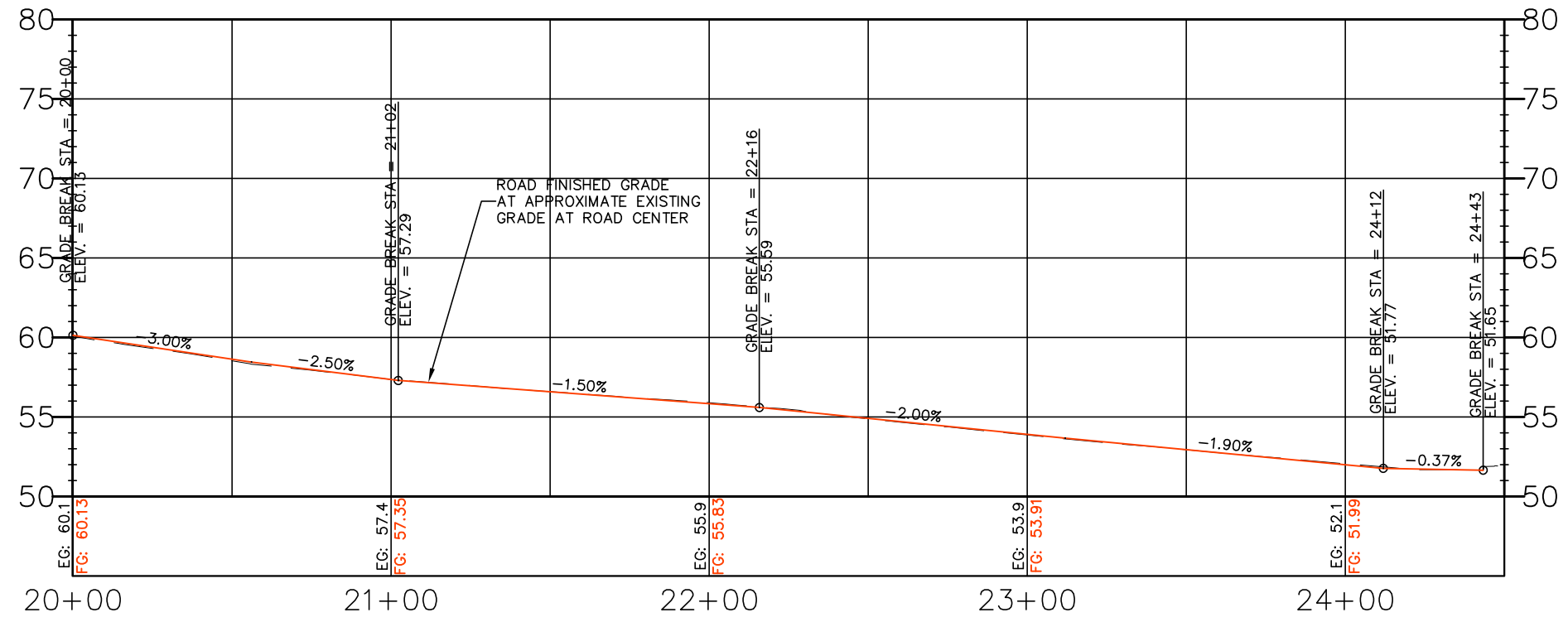
A OHLSON LANE PLAN - STA 6+00 TO 10+50
C4.2 GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=25' (22X34), 1"=50' (11X17)



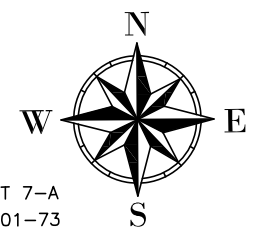
B OHLSON LANE PROFILE - STA 6+00 TO 10+50
C4.2 HORIZ. SCALE: 1"=25' (22X34), 1"=50' (11X17); VERT. SCALE: 1"=5' (22X34), 1"=10' (11X17)



A W. BUNNELL AVE. PLAN - STA 20+00 TO 24+50
C4.3 GRAPHIC SCALE: 1"=25' (22X34), 1"=50' (11X17)



B W. BUNNELL AVE. PROFILE - STA 20+00 TO 24+50
C4.3 HORIZ. SCALE: 1"=25' (22X34), 1"=50' (11X17); VERT. SCALE: 1"=5' (22X34), 1"=10' (11X17)



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CITY OF HOMER
 OHLSON LANE AND W. BUNNELL AVENUE
 HOMER, ALASKA
 PLAN AND PROFILE - BUNNELL AVENUE

PROJECT NO. 2022037
 DRAWN BY: GTP
 CHECKED BY: MJD
 DATE: 02/08/2023
 SCALES: NOTED
 HORIZ. NOTED
 VERT. NOTED
 SHEET: C4.3
 8 OF 8

Library Director's Report

February 28, 2023

General Notes

Community Recreation and SPH have kindly donated four sun lamps to the library for checkout. They have been popular so far—as of this writing, all four are in the hands of patrons.

The library's policies are due for an overhaul. I've combined them all into a single document and edited to remove duplication, internal contradictions and out-of-date material. I've also added some sections to cover new and emerging policy concerns. Once staff and FHL have had a chance to weigh in, we will take the revised document to the City for legal review and forwarding to the LAB.

Staff Notes

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 3
- LAB: 1
- FHL: Many (at least 6)
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 3
- Other: Mock interviews at middle school, Chamber of Commerce, discussion of installing the plaque for Duffy Murnane, budget review, teleconferences to upgrade the videophone, PARCAC meeting, various IT meetings

Facility

There were no major maintenance problems in February. The City is currently short on custodial staff, so patrons may notice a bit more dirt than usual. Library staff have been cleaning in spare moments. The library videophone was replaced on Feb. 3. The main public copier was upgraded with the ability to scan to email, not just to USB.

Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The LAB voted to raise ILL fees by \$2 to compensate for increased postage costs, and discussed the library budget more broadly. I presented an update on the Western Lot project, and the Lab passed a motion of support. The body reaffirmed its strategic goals with minor revisions.

Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)

Throughout the month of February, FHL volunteers ran the Love Your Library Month prizes. Each week, patrons had the opportunity to drop their names into a random drawing for a coffee gift card.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning on Feb. 25 was a smash hit! Nearly all 80 tickets sold out and the building was packed. All but one of the silent auction items sold, the speeches were impressive, the choir and musicians excellent, the food superb, and the trivia tree incomparable. Congratulations to all the staff and FHL people who put in so much work to make the event successful, and thank you to Kathleen Gustafson of KBBI for recording the event and running the trivia tree.

The western lot project is moving forward. The LAB and PARCAC passed motions of support, and the ADA Commission expressed verbal approval. From here, the Friends will go to Council for a resolution of support.

There are numerous author readings, workshops and other events coming up in March. See the calendar below for a complete list.

Ongoing Events

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30: LEGO Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00: Community Defined Youth Outreach

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30: Chess Club

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 1:00-4:00: LARP

Saturdays, 12:30-2:30: Green Dot Bystander Training

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Saturdays, 10:00-12:00: Tech Help

Second Sunday, 1:00-4:00: Second Sunday Shakespeare

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Fourth Thursday, 4:30-6:45: Games for Teens and Tweens

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

Special Events

- **Feb 1-28: National Love Your Library Month. Prize drawings in the library each week.**
- Feb. 3: Library videophone replaced.
- Feb. 4 and 9, 4:30-5:30: Alice Porter teaches two workshops on making accordion-book boxes.
- Feb. 6: Scan-to-email function set up on the library's public copier.
- Feb. 9, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Lana Harper, author of *Payback's a Witch*.
- Feb. 11: Puzzlerama in the library.
- Feb. 14, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with Councilmember Caroline Venuti.
- Feb. 16, 9:00-10:00: Virtual author talk by Grace M. Cho, author of *Tastes Like War*.
- **Feb. 25, 7:00-9:00: Celebration of Lifelong Learning honors Samantha Cunningham and Thea Person.**
- Feb. 28, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Sadeqa Johnson, author of *Yellow Wife*.
- **Mar. 4, 3:30-5:00: In-person workshop led by Dimi Macheras and Casey Silver, authors of *Chickaloonies*.**
- **Mar. 9, 6:00-7:00: Local writer Derek Stonorov, author of *Living in Harmony with Bears*, visits the library.**
- Saturdays, Mar. 11-Apr. 15, 3:00-4:30: Seed Library/Soil and Water Conservation.
- Mar. 13, 9:00-10:00: Virtual author talk by David Epstein, author of *Range* and *The Sports Gene*.
- Mar. 14, 12:00-1:00: Lunch with Councilmember Rachel Lord.

- **Mar. 14, 6:00-8:00: Lt. Browning from the Homer Police Department delivers a talk on Parenting in the Digital Age.**
- Mar. 21, 12:00-1:00: Virtual author talk by Jernard A. Wells, author of *Southern Inspired*.
- **Mar. 24, 6:15-7:45: Margaret Willson visits the library to talk about her newest book, *Woman, Captain, Rebel*.**
- Mar. 28, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Pam Jenoff, author of *The Lost Girls of Paris*.
- **Apr.-Jun.: The Art in the Library program displays photographs by R. J. Nelson.**
- Apr. 4, 3:00-4:00: Virtual author talk by Kate Beaton, author of *Hark! A Vagrant!*
- **Apr. 6, 6:00-7:30: Tentative Community Poetry Reading.**
- **Apr. 21, 6:30-7:30: Reading by local poet Peter Kauffman.**
- Apr. 27, 4:00-5:00: Virtual author talk by William Kent Krueger, author of *Ordinary Grace*.
- **Apr. 28-29: Spring Book and Plant Sale.**
- **Jul.-Sept.: The Art in the Library program displays oil paintings by Achim Jahnke.**
- **Sept. 8-9: Fall Book and Plant Sale.**
- **Nov. 9, 6:30-7:30: Author talk by local writer Robert Stark, author of *Warflower*.**

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2022

Date: 10-Jan-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,269	10,348	12,360	11,394	9,965	11,919	12,015	13,136	11,843	11,313	10,441	10,467	136,470
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	8,788	8,085	9,856	8,940	7,892	9,717	9,620	10,614	9,583	8,849	8,267	8,163	108,374
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	93	78	80	109	76	118	122	117	101	92	73	86	1,145
*Alaska Digital Library	2,295	2,112	2,376	2,297	1,974	2,043	2,242	2,367	2,141	2,329	2,033	2,176	26,385
*Flipster e-magazines	93	73	48	48	23	41	31	38	18	25	39	22	499
*Kanopy streaming video	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	29	20	67
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	59	46	20	14	21	11	18	22	11	20	32	28	302
Outgoing (Lent)	25	21	28	15	18	13	16	19	22	13	27	15	232
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	4,929	5,120	6,573	7,613	6,719	7,675	8,905	8,794	12,042	9,628	6,919	6,570	91487
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	102	136	145	147	269	194	160	261	222	161	174	156	2127
Study Rooms (# of people)	152	214	218	219	370	264	203	342	363	302	296	235	3178
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	13	13	20	19	19	23	28	22	28	30	23	20	258
Meeting Room (# of people)	55	70	144	115	149	217	222	169	286	284	228	132	2071
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,414	1,683	2,053	2,265	2,396	2,995	3,383	3,678	2,399	2,035	1,827	1,700	27,828
*Wireless Internet sessions	765	951	1,147	1,389	1,560	2,075	2,348	2,548	1,488	1,242	1,176	1,039	17728
*Hardwired Internet sessions	649	732	906	876	836	920	1,035	1,130	911	793	651	661	10100
Website visits (sessions)	4,283	3,558	4,217	4,375	4,640	4,583	4,980	4,931	4,618	4,437	4,300	3604	52,526
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,206	1,153	1,006	1,351	1,286	997	1,154	1,285	1,250	1,324	1,003	294	13309
*Programs for Age 0-5	1130	990	914	1184	665	768	658	983	810	930	748	116	9896
*Programs for Age 6-11	15	19	8	66	329	183	213	80	170	215	137	59	1494
*Programs for Age 12-18	22	1	3	4	2	18	9	0	5	31	3	12	110
*Programs for Age 19+	32	53	49	15	10	3	78	149	143	84	90	81	787
*Programs for All Ages	7	90	32	82	280	25	196	73	122	64	25	26	1022
OUTREACH													
# Events	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	1	21
# People	6	7	11	8	8	15	6	7	12	21	10	6	117
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	14	12	25	27	31	40	32	39	34	21	23	22	320
Borough	20	24	33	33	21	39	34	28	31	20	18	26	327
Temporary	1	0	2	1	2	7	3	3	2	1	0	0	22
Reciprocal	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	60	53	56	39	39	43	46	50	48	47	72	58	611
# of hours	203	206	193	232	159	133	182	183	179	146	288	309	2413
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	282	207	219	231	277	327	272	285	108	295	147	239	2889
Audio	3	8	33	4	46	11	9	17	1	4	7	9	152
Video	25	23	47	68	73	45	35	43	10	27	20	33	449
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electronic Resources	79	45	183	93	73	118	68	0	163	252	19	59	1152
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	168	304	543	567	531	139	272	157	270	229	329	252	3761
Audio	0	0	1	44	25	2	68	0	0	9	1	0	150
Video	0	0	0	33	131	72	0	4	1	79	116	0	436
Serials	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	9
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1075.00	517.20	1570.00	566.00	908.00	455.00	1378.00	9,570.20
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants							7000.00	8058.00					15,058.00
TOTALS	260.00	679.00	504.00	757.00	901.00	1,075.00	517.20	8,570.00	8,624.00	908.00	455.00	1,378.00	\$24,628.20

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 15-Mar-23

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,755
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289											18,611
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108											199
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408											4,851
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22											50
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16											44
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14											38
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6											24
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500											21732
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219											419
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361											697
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28											68
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205											487
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,541
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055											2061
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785											1480
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966											8,686
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1880
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597											1267
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160											336
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26											40
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44											107
*Programs for All Ages	24	106											130
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2											4
# People	12	8											20
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33											74
Borough	30	32											62
Temporary	0	1											1
Reciprocal	0	0											0
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67											140
# of hours	312	227											539
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180											504
Audio	7	7											14
Video	56	31											87
Serials	0	0											0
Electronic Resources	31	61											92
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216											739
Audio	0	0											0
Video	0	0											0
Serials	0	0											0
Electronic Resources	0	0											0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1037.00											1,902.00
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,902.00

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.



ACTION ITEM REPORT

LAB Goals & Opportunities Brainstorming

To: Library Advisory Board
Through: Dave Berry, Library Director
Rachel Tussey, CMC, Deputy City Clerk
From: Kate Finn, Chair
Meeting Date: 21 Mar 2023

Summary Statement:

This March meeting, with its slim agenda, offers a golden opportunity for us to do some brainstorming. Our board is made up of people with rich and varied life experiences and career backgrounds. I'm wondering if there are new, "out of the box" ways of viewing how to enhance our LAB. At most meetings our time and agenda items are necessarily quite circumscribed.

I'm hoping that we can have an open discussion:

- How each of us can contribute to promoting/enhancing one of our goals? Roles?
- What might we be missing about opportunities for the Library, and/or the community, or...?

This will be a discussion item on our agenda. Please feel free to bring your thoughts and ideas. No plan of action or implementation is desired, needed or expected, just ideas, creative thoughts, and ways to open our minds to other possibilities of being the best LAB we can be.

Thanks so much for giving this some thought!

Comments from the Clerk:

Reminder that there will be a City Council and Board/Commission Joint Worksession on **Monday, April 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.**

City Council has scheduled this joint worksession to conduct a training session that primarily addresses the roles and responsibilities of advisory bodies, the report structure at Council meetings, and recommendations to/from Council. It will also provide an opportunity for questions and discussion on how the LAB can accomplish its goals within its advisory body capacities.

Make plans to attend either in person or by Zoom as this will serve as the annual training for the board in lieu of the April training worksession.

Additionally, Chair Finn has asked that this be an open discussion; no plan of action or implementation is desired, needed, or expected. That being said, staff does ask boardmembers to keep in mind that once topics of interest spring up from the discussion, that they eventually become agenda items at future meetings, edits to your goals in the form of motions, or boardmembers can volunteer to take on certain tasks and provide that information/materials back to the board via your staff person.

Food for thought – Other boards/commissions have taken their goal lists a step further by listing the actionable tasks for both the volunteering member and the staff liaison so it's clear what's expected of who, and allows staff to identify where they have/don't have the capacity to work on something. The commission then keeps their list of goals as a running item under Informational Materials so the group can stay abreast of any tasks they agreed to do.

This will be helpful for the LAB once you get to the planning stages; for now Chair Finn encourages this meeting to be about visioning and brainstorming.

Staff Recommendation:

For discussion. No recommended action from staff.

Attachments:

2023 LAB Strategic Plan & Goals – Approved 2/21/2023
Homer Public Library's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

Approved at the February 21, 2023 Regular Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

The Library Advisory Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council concerning the Homer Public Library and its programs pursuant to the powers and duties in Homer City Code 2.48.050.

VALUES, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

General	Advise the Library Director and the City Council to ensure quality library service.
Administrative	Advise city government to recruit, employ and retain a qualified library director.
Policy	Work with the Library Director to establish written policies to govern the operation and program of the library for approval by the City Council.
Planning	Ensure that the library has a strategic plan with implementation and evaluation components.
Fiscal	Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Assist in the preparation and presentation of the annual budget in accordance with city code. Oversee fundraising efforts and collaboration between Friends of the Homer Library and the library's Planned Giving Program/endowment fund.
Advocacy	Promote the mission of the library within the community. Advocate for the library to legislators.
Meetings	Participate in all advisory board meetings. Report on LAB and library activities to City Council at Council meetings.
Networking	Join United for Libraries national organization and/or Alaska Library Association as a resource for policies, operations and advocacy for libraries.

GOALS

1. Advocate for Library Budget

- a. Ensure the library has a collection development budget sufficient to build and maintain a current and robust collection of materials relevant to the community.
- b. Review needs for library physical plant upkeep and efficiencies.
- c. Promote future funding of library technology needs.
 - i. Scheduled replacement of public use computers.
 - ii. Requests for new or updated technologies (printers, scanners, security, etc.)

2. Implement the Planned Giving Program for the Library

- a. Identify and use the tools provided by the Homer Foundation and the American Library Association to learn how to ask potential donors if they would be interested in donating to the Library Endowment Fund.
- b. In the next year:
 - i. Ask a person to donate to the Library Endowment Fund.
 - ii. Get one “Big Fish” donation to the Endowment Fund.

3. Explore opportunities with the Library to increase and improve library service to all community members, especially students and underrepresented user-groups.

- a. Work with Library Director to develop a schedule of community partner visitors/presenters, including partners that aid with outreach to students and underrepresented user groups.

4. Actively recruit for LAB boardmembers**DUTIES OF THE BOARD & STAFF**Boardmembers

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend worksessions and training opportunities.
- Come to meetings prepared to take action through motions, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on LAB-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff Liaison

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from boardmembers, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the board needs to review annually.
- Inform the board of City Council actions and discussion of library-related issues.

Clerk’s Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the board.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Track yearly items such as reappointments and election of officers.
- Advertise any seat vacancies and process new appointment applications.
- Help the board learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the board’s ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

Homer Public Library

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Executive Summary

Homer Public Library serves a population of roughly 13,000, providing access to information, promoting literacy and facilitating lifelong learning. The library moved into a new building in 2006, but library usage has increased significantly since then. In order to keep up with the shifting demands of library patrons the library has adopted four main priorities for future planning: improving operational efficiency, expanding the library's role as a community hub, promoting lifelong learning, and providing access to materials in a range of formats.

Our Mission: What We Do

The mission statement was approved by the Library Advisory Board on April 5, 2016, and the entire Homer City Council on June 27, 2016. It appears on the library's website:

The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.¹

About the Library

Interest in a public library services in Homer began in the 1940s when the Homer Women's club set up a library in an old school building. By 1950 a simple 600-square-foot cabin was built to house the library. In 1978, the library became a department of the City of Homer, and the following year was replaced by a 3,500 square foot building on Pioneer Avenue.² In 2002 the Library Advisory Board, Friends of Homer Library, City of Homer and many volunteers collaborated to begin the Capital Campaign for the New Library, which raised \$8.1 million over the course of several years.³

Homer Public Library moved into its current 17,000-square-foot facility in 2006. The facilities include 5 study rooms and a public meeting room, as well as 26 public-use computers and a collection of roughly 45,000 items.⁴ Library services include reference and circulation, interlibrary loan, access to a variety of electronic databases and free wifi available throughout the building. The library's service area includes roughly 13,000 people and extends from Ninilchik in the north to the southern shore of Kachemak Bay, and from Cook Inlet in the west to Kachemak Selo in the east.

As a part of the Homer City government, the library is managed by a director in consultation with the Library Advisory Board (LAB), an eight-member body that suggests and molds policy. The LAB advocates for the library before the city council as well as assisting with fundraising and some library programs. The director answers to the city manager and through him or her to the elected city council and the mayor. The city council sets the budget for the entire city and has lawmaking powers.

For FY 2019 the library's total budget was \$925,502, of which \$712,346 went to personnel costs and the remainder to materials and service expenses.⁵ The director works with the city manager to define a budget request, which is then amended or approved by the city council in November of each year.

The library offers numerous public programs to support the mission, including many for youth and families. From storytimes and STEM programs to book clubs and author visits, library staff bring families together to support literacy and learning. The Friends of Homer Library (FHL) play a major role in community outreach. FHL manages the library bookmobile, the StoryWalk® outside the building, the *Reading Between the Lines* weekly radio program, a public newsletter and various periodic activities. In conjunction with the children's librarian, FHL staff and volunteers sponsor a large number of events for the Summer Reading and Learning Program. Various community groups make use of the library facilities on a regular basis, including the Knitting Circle, the Ham Radio Club, the Live-Action Roleplaying (LARP) community and the Writers Refuge, among others.

The library has always been heavily used. After the library moved into its then-new building in 1979, usage tripled in ten years.⁶ From 2011 to 2018 the library averaged 128,312 annual visits.⁷ According to *Library Journal*, during 2018 the library had a per-capita circulation rate of 28.01 and per-capita visitation of 25.89.⁸ The library and library staff have won awards on several occasions:

- 2007: Honor Award from the Alaska Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in recognition of the modern design and use of local materials.⁹
- 2011-14 and 2016-18: Annually awarded Star Library status from *Library Journal*.^{10,11}
- 2017: Children's Librarian Claudia Haines served on the selection committee for the Caldecott Medal.¹²

The *Homer Comprehensive Plan* was published in 2018 and addresses library services in Chapter 6, Objective G. This plan discusses library objectives at some length:

Objective G: LIBRARY– Maintain Homer's first-class library facility and continuously build on the high-quality library services to meet current and projected needs.

Current Status

In the ten years since the new Homer Public Library opened in 2006, use of the facility and library services has increased dramatically. Between 2008 and 2015, circulation of library materials grew by 43%, rising to 142,178 items. The number of people using the library's study rooms rose 19%, while use of the meeting room increased 35%. Attendance at children's story times grew by 63%. Fortunately, the library enjoys wide community support, as reflected in the fact that volunteer hours rose as well, by 48%. Since the closure of Homer's Boys and Girls Club in 2013, the library has seen a significant increase in the number of children using the library after school. Tourists and transient workers use the library heavily during the summer months. Winter, traditionally a slower time at the library, has also seen increased activity in recent years, on par with the summer months.

The library building is approximately 17,000 square feet and houses about 45,800 titles with a capacity for up to 47,000. The library offers 26 public computers with internet

access, wireless internet, and cabled connections in study rooms and carrels. The library employs six full-time and three part-time staff. The Friends of Homer Library and numerous other volunteers support library operations.

Resources to support the library come from the City's general fund, the majority of which is from sales and property tax revenue, a small annual grant from the State of Alaska, and extensive local support from the Friends of Homer Library. The Friends of Homer Library is a nonprofit organization which provides resources for many library programs as well as occasional one-time equipment purchases not provided for in the city budget.

When economies tighten, library use increases because individuals are less able to afford to purchase internet connections, computers, books, and DVDs. More people use library computers to seek employment, higher education, and training. Especially during difficult economic times, the public library plays a crucial role in equalizing access to information, government, jobs, and educational resources.

The facility currently accommodates the existing level of usage with moderate conflicting demands for space or services; however, if current trends continue, the ability to provide the access to information, materials, programming, and workspace requested by the community will be challenged. The 2018 library budget for the City of Homer is \$891,814, approximately 7.1%, of the City's overall budget.

Short-term Priorities

Technology: The use of computers and other digital devices to access information and reading material continues to expand. The library's public computers and wireless network are used extensively (49,406 sessions in 2015). The current public-use computers, as well as the video conference equipment, are near the end of their useful life span. A depreciation/replacement reserve fund is crucial to replace this essential equipment as it ages.

Staff: On-going training is essential to keep current on new technologies as they arise in order to implement best practices regarding technology, as well as to assist the public of all ages.

Implementation Strategies

- Keep current with the demands of new technology

Mid and Long-term Priorities

The library building was intended to provide capacity to serve projected demand for 20 years. With significant increases in library use and demand for services at the ten-year mark, meeting the demand at 20 years may be challenging. Should the demand at the library continue to increase beyond projection, it will be necessary to evaluate options for providing services into the future.

Implementation Strategies

- Consider the strategies to address the demand for library services¹³

In 2016 the library conducted a qualitative survey of patrons regarding what they most liked about the library. Common sentiments included the size and variety of the collection; the helpfulness of the staff; and the ease of accessing electronic materials.¹⁴ In 2018 the library undertook a survey of the local business community to assess how often businesses used the library’s resources. This survey showed mixed results: about half the businesses in town had used the library or some professional organization as an information source, but only 14% of respondents cited “information services” as a major need. Far more respondents expressed interest in face-to-face interactions such as classes and networking.¹⁵

About Homer

According to 2017 estimates by the Census Bureau, the city of Homer has 5,697 residents with a median household income of \$59,185. About 94.7% of the population holds a high-school degree or higher. About four-fifths of households (80.6%) have access to a broadband internet connection.¹⁶ The population is 86.19% white and 6.39% American Indian or Alaska Native, with no other single race representing more than 2% of the total.¹⁷ (Note that these statistics apply specifically to the City of Homer.)

The community is served by eight public schools and one small campus of Kenai Peninsula College.¹⁸ The school libraries vary in size.

Homer’s economy includes a range of industries. According to the *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*, “educational services, health care and social assistance are responsible for more than 26% of jobs in Homer...additionally, arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services provide another 13% of local jobs.”¹⁹ Commercial fishing also makes up an important component of the community’s tax base.

Priorities

PRIORITY	SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES	MEDIUM-TERM ACTIVITIES	LONG-TERM ACTIVITIES
Improve the efficiency of the library by harnessing technology and streamlining procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automate library processes where possible Update library card registration process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-train staff in multiple capacities and update technology skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider joining the Alaska Library Network as a full member
Expand the library’s capacity to serve as a community hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the public school system, homeschooling families and Kenai Peninsula College to provide resources for and increase library use with students Continue working with FHL to develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase resources and services for the business and entrepreneurial community Consider hosting a job fair or career day for students and employers Host open debate forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a gate between the meeting room and the main floor, allowing the meeting room to be open when the library is closed Expand the library’s meeting space/add additional meeting rooms

	programs based on community need		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the library's ability to serve as a disaster response center
Promote lifelong learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer more activities and resources to support information competency • Continue working with FHL on the Celebration of Lifelong Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with community organizations to promote public safety (Red Cross, Coast Guard, Police) • Workshops on financial literacy • Workshops on health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in resources for all age groups • Partner with library systems in Anchor Point and Seldovia to promote literacy and access to programs
Provide access to materials in a range of formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganize and simplify website • Consider building subcollections of physical goods based on community interest and need, such as tools or seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitize archival materials, starting with the Top Drawer Collection • Acquire new databases and expand existing ones

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- ¹¹ Lance, Keith Curry. "2018 Star Libraries By the Numbers."
- ¹² Armstrong, Michael. "Homer Children will Play Part in Picking Top Book Illustrator." *Homer News* 8 Dec. 2016. Web. 29 Jul. 2019. <https://www.homernews.com/life/homer-children-will-play-part-in-picking-top-book-illustrator>.
- ¹³ City of Homer. *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*. City of Homer, 2018. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/2018-homer-comprehensive-plan>.
- ¹⁴ Homer Public Library. "What Do You Value About HPL?" 2016. Print.
- ¹⁵ City of Homer. "Homer Public Library Survey for Small Businesses, Entrepreneurs, and Nonprofits." *Minutes of the Library Advisory Board*. City of Homer, 6 Nov. 2018. Print.
- ¹⁶ Census Bureau. "Homer City, Alaska." *Census.gov*. Census Bureau, 2017. Web. 21 May 2019. www.census.gov.
- ¹⁷ State of Alaska. "Homer." *Alaska Community Database Online*. State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs, 2019. Web. 21 May 2019. <https://dcra-cdo-dcced.opendata.arcgis.com/>.
- ¹⁸ *Alaska Community Database Online*.
- ¹⁹ *Homer Comprehensive Plan 2018*.

A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue

The New York Times sent photographers to seven states to document the thrum and buzz in buildings once known for silence.

By Elisabeth Egan and Erica Ackerberg

Feb. 14, 2023

Step into a public library and you know what to expect.

First, there's the smell: a paper bouquet of nothing and everything, including notes of vanilla, sawdust, wet coats, rubber soles and school. Then there are the spines lined up like soldiers, snug in plastic jackets. There are the shelves — metal, wood, sturdy as trees — stretching in every direction.



At the Northtown branch of the Chicago Public Library, a young reader curled up with a picture book. Todd Heisler/The New York Times



Leon Sykes read “My Papi Has a Motorcycle” to his son and a friend at the 81st Avenue Branch of the Oakland Public Library. Jim Wilson/The New York Times

There are the rolling step stools. The windowsill ferns. The free bookmarks. The bulletin board papered with fliers advertising firewood, a 10-speed bike, free kittens, CPR class.

There are the sturdy armchairs, the picked-over magazine racks, the award-winning dioramas on loan from adolescent creators, the study carrels etched with decade-old graffiti. There’s the water fountain spouting the coldest beverage in town, a different vintage from the lukewarm dribble in the school gym or the violent torrent at the Y.M.C.A.



Pint-size bookworms made themselves at home in the Hialeah Gardens Branch Library in Hialeah Gardens, Fla. Rose Marie Cromwell for The New York Times



A young patron focused intently on a writing exercise during homework help time at the Hialeah Gardens Branch Library. Rose Marie Cromwell for The New York Times



At the Hialeah Gardens Branch Library, a pair of budding musicians strummed guitars in the YOUmedia space, where teenagers can make podcasts, design video games and explore technology. Rose Marie Cromwell for The New York Times

There are the overhead lights casting their fluorescent glow, occasionally flickering, flattering no one except people who live on the page. Still, they get the job done.

And above it all — hovering over the murmurs and coughs and scraping of chair legs and gurgle of fish tanks and crackle of plastic covers — there is a weighted blanket of quiet, that reassuring hush we're hard-wired to expect from our inaugural visit to the children's room. Whether you first crossed that threshold in the scrum of a class trip or clutching your mom's hand; whether your hometown library was on a country road or at a busy intersection; whether you put your library card to good use or used it to pick locks; odds are good that, at some point, someone touched an index finger to their lips and shared the universal password for the kingdom of words: "Shhhh."



In Littleton, Colo., bookworms of all ages gathered outside the Edwin A. Bemis Public Library to hear a story read by Donna Stephenson, a children's librarian, as part of the weekly Books & Blankets program. David Williams for The New York Times



Linda Velarde, an associate librarian, loaded a van with books and movies bound for patrons enrolled in the Bemis Library's Doorstep Delivery program. David Williams for The New York Times



In Littleton, Colo., Sandra Weeder marveled at her monthly installment of new entertainment. David Williams for The New York Times



Phillip Pollreis played patriotic songs during a meeting of the Senior Social Club at the Bemis Library. David Williams for The New York Times

But this sentiment doesn't really apply anymore. It hasn't for a long time.

Just as reading has changed (from paper to pixel to audio) and tools for research have streamlined (sorry, World Book), so have the places that house the goods. Silence is no longer a requirement; versatility is.

It's easy to romanticize libraries. But, the fact is, they're not "just" about the written word. Were they ever? As local safety nets shriveled, the library roof magically expanded from umbrella to tarp to circus tent to airplane hangar. The modern library keeps its citizens warm, safe, healthy, entertained, educated, hydrated and, above all, connected.



Valerie McCormick, an outreach librarian in Minnesota's Kitchigami regional library system, completed paperwork during a bookmobile stop at Foothills Christian Academy in Backus, Minn. Jaida Grey Eagle for The New York Times



The bookmobile has been a fixture of the library system in Cass County, Minn., since 1966. Here, a kindergarten class took stock of the offerings. Jaida Grey Eagle for The New York Times



Reagan Morgan, a library assistant, made sure the books were neat and orderly in Bemidji. Jaida Grey Eagle for The New York Times

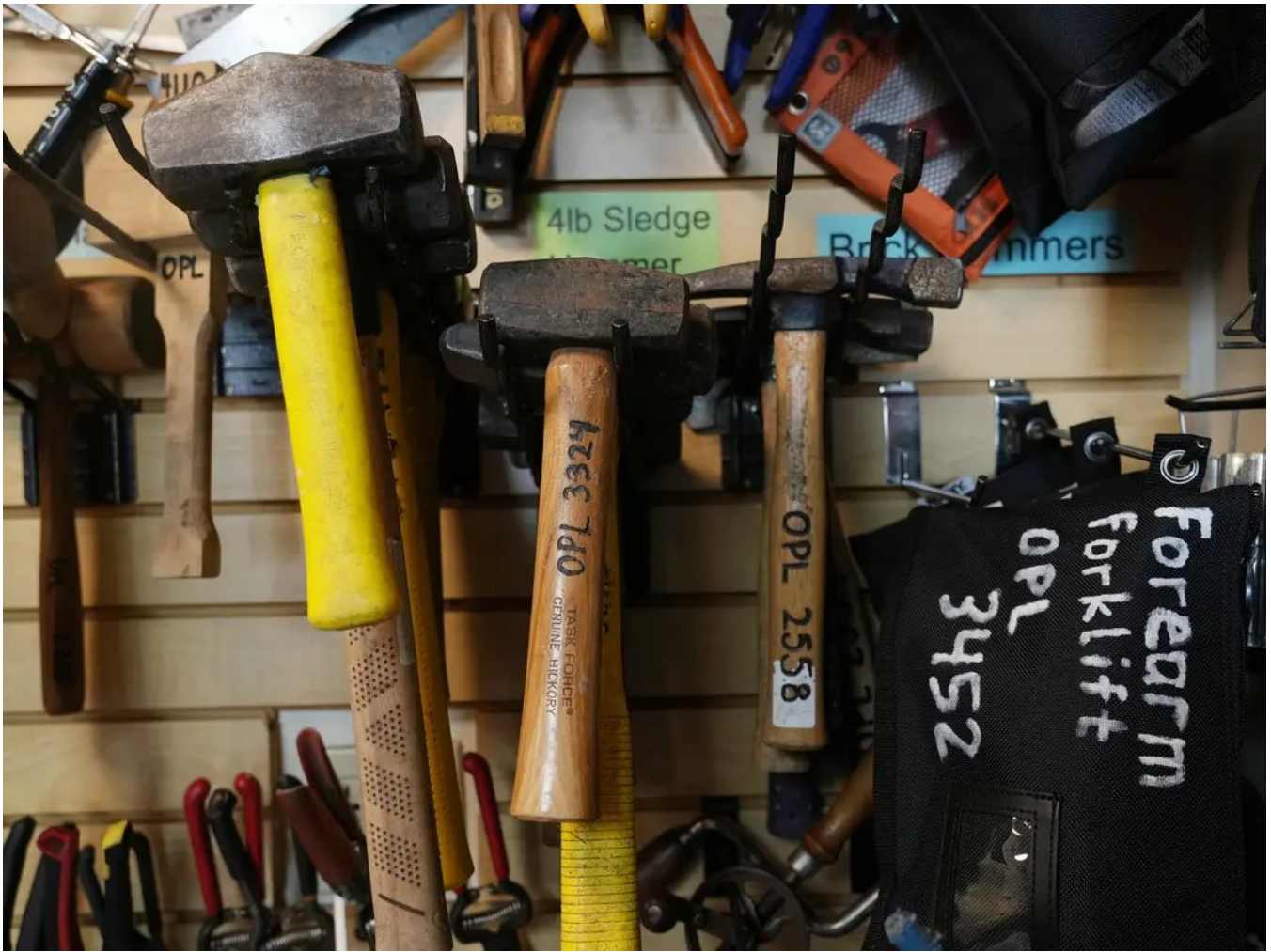
Imagine a teacher who's responsible for a mixed-age classroom where students are free to wander in and out as they please, all opinions are welcome and detention is not an option. This person is also the principal, the guidance counselor, the school nurse and, occasionally, the janitor. This person is your local librarian.

Yet somehow librarians still find time to match people with the books they need. These selections may be second-guessed by irate taxpayers who don't know the difference between F. Scott Fitzgerald and L. Ron Hubbard or don't understand that ideas and stories aren't contagious; the only disease they'll infect you with is empathy. Nevertheless, librarians persist. One could argue that they distribute more wings than an airline pilot. Put yours to good use and you can fly anywhere.

Libraries have always been a place of worship for a certain type of person, but they're also community centers, meeting houses and pop-up medical clinics, offering vaccines, homework help, computer classes, craft sessions and tax advice. Perhaps you need fresh needles, marigold seeds, a loaner guitar, a hammer, a venue for your knitting club or a donation box for your old eyeglasses? Head to your local library. It might have you covered and, if it doesn't, someone there will know where to send you.



The Oakland Tool Lending Library has over 5,000 tools for patrons to borrow, including shovels, hedge shears, staple guns and cordless drills. Jim Wilson/The New York Times



D.I.Y.-minded patrons of the Tool Lending Library have access to home improvement books, DVDs and a variety of workshops on projects such as plumbing and tiling. Jim Wilson/The New York Times





Here are a few future vegetables at Oakland's African American Museum and Library. Jim Wilson/The New York Times



At Oakland's 81st Avenue Branch Library bike repair clinic, a child worked on a scooter. Jim Wilson/The New York Times

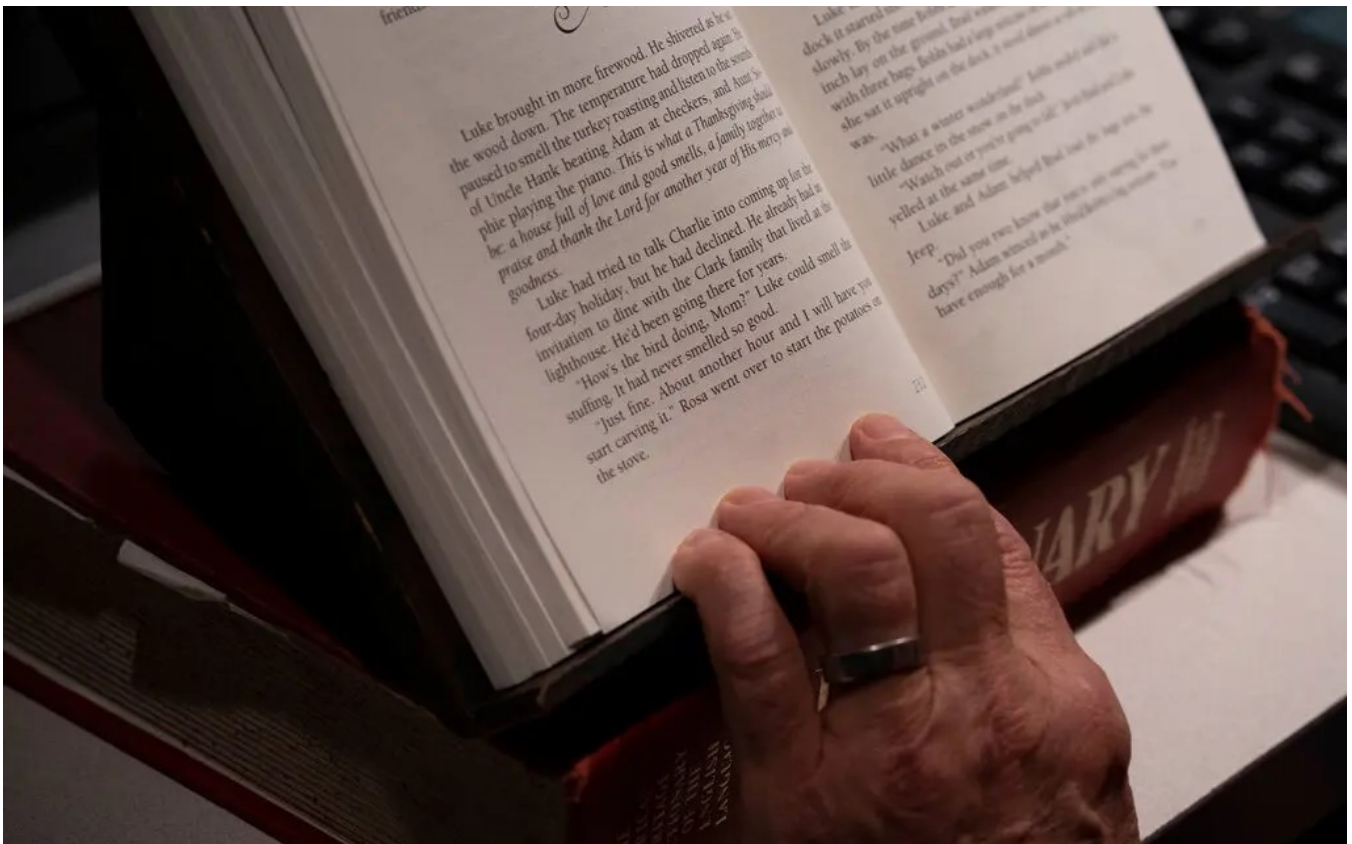
Best of all, you never need a reason or an invitation to go to the library. You aren't required to make a reservation ahead of time or purchase a cup of coffee while you're there. You can pop in when your Wi-Fi is on the fritz or you need a break from your roommates. You might go there to dry off or to cool down. To study for algebra or to read a romance novel. To stock up on thrillers or to take stock of your less-than-thrilling life. To meet a friend or to be alone. For a bit of excitement or for a moment of calm.



In Seattle, the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library provides services to people who are unable to read standard print material. Eric Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" is part of the collection. Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



Esha More, a volunteer audiobook narrator, spoke into a microphone in Seattle. Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



Another volunteer, Rick Sipe, recorded a novel. Ruth Fremson/The New York Times



This 14-year-old patron, who is visually impaired, moved with her family from India to Seattle after her father discovered the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library while he was on a business trip. He felt that there would be more opportunities for her in the United States. Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

Last fall, The New York Times sent photographers to cities, suburbs and rural areas in seven states to document how different libraries respond to the needs of their communities, and the many ways in which patrons find a haven in each one.

At the time, the news was full of grim dispatches from the land of letters. In Colorado, two branches closed because of meth contamination. In McFarland, Calif., city leaders debated whether to convert a library into a police station. In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams proposed massive budget cuts that would slash library hours and programming. The American Library Association announced that attempts to ban books were accelerating across the country at a rate never seen since tracking began more than 20 years ago.



At the Carver Branch Library in Austin, Texas, a mural on an exterior wall hinted at the vibrancy of the community inside. Miranda Barnes for The New York Times



Wanda Johnson attended a meeting of Top Ladies of Distinction, a nonprofit educational and humanitarian organization that started meeting at the Carver Branch Library more than 30 years ago. Miranda Barnes for The New York Times

It was enough to make you wonder if the ancient tradition of book lending was going the way of card catalogs.

Then the photos started to roll in, and they told a different story. In this version, toddlers tried to catch bubbles on the loose in the library. Grateful seniors welcomed monthly deliveries of movies and crime novels. Teenagers strummed guitars together. Children and caregivers gathered beneath technicolor trees to listen to a picture book read by a beaming librarian. In a different time zone, another librarian worked contentedly in the cozy oasis of a bookmobile.



Toddlers chased bubbles in Chicago's Northtown Branch Library. Todd Heisler/The New York Times



A cubby of your own? It's available at the Northtown Branch Library. Todd Heisler/The New York Times

It was impossible to look at these pictures and not feel hopeful about the state of humanity, especially with several seasons of isolation still fresh in our minds. Remember when you were craving the casual comfort of strangers? Remember when the simple act of checking out a book felt like a small miracle?

Sitting in a windowless room in Times Square, scrolling from library to library, state to state, we were unexpectedly moved by the color, light and joy at our fingertips. These glimpses into lives of strangers were a reminder that copies of the books piled on our desks at the Book Review will soon land on shelves in libraries across the country and, eventually, in the hands of readers. You'll pass them to other people, and on and on.

We all know that books connect us, that language has quiet power. To see the concentration, curiosity and peace on faces lit by words is to know — beyond a shadow of a doubt, in a time rife with shadows — that libraries are the beating hearts of our communities. What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep. How often we pause to appreciate their bounty is up to us.



A small reader returned “Choo Choo Clickety-Clack!” at Colorado’s Bemis Library. Luckily, there’s more where this picture book came from. David Williams for The New York Times

*Tell Us:
What’s your favorite memory from a library?
What’s happening in your local branch these days?*

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m. [Finn]	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m. [Kuszmaul]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules & Regulations • Annual Review of Board’s Bylaws • Celebration of Lifelong Learning
MARCH	Wednesday 3/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m. [McKinney]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out
APRIL	Wednesday 4/12 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/18 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m. [Asselin]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of LAB Officers • National Library Week, Library Workers Day, & Library Legislative Day
MAY	Wednesday 5/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m. [Bailey]	
JUNE	No Regular Meeting			
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/9 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Card Sign-up Month
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/21 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Friends of Libraries Week • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/19 5:30 p.m.	1/8/2024 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals

*The Board’s opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council’s regular meeting following the Board’s regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.