CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 22-043

WHEREAS, The Homer Non-Motorized Trails and Transportation Plan states that “All new road construction projects will include facilities designed for non-motorized transportation,” which “may include sidewalks, safe crossings, separated/shared pathways, wide outside lanes, paved shoulders and striped, signed bikeways,”; and

WHEREAS, The Homer Non-Motorized Trails and Transportation Plan calls for implementation of a procedure to ensure that “all new road construction plans in Homer are reviewed by the city for non-motorized transportation infrastructure and presented to the community...early enough in the design development process for the design and construction plans to accurately reflect the expressed desires of the community.”; and

WHEREAS, Homer City Code 11.04.120 states that “New streets...identified as public access corridors in the adopted Homer Non-Motorized Transportation and Trail Plan shall have easements for sidewalks, bicycle paths or other non-motorized transportation facilities to ensure convenient mobility and convenient access to parks, recreation areas, trails, playgrounds, schools and places of public assembly,”; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is experiencing a tremendous increase in housing developments; and

WHEREAS, The population of Homer is growing, and new streets are being built; and

WHEREAS, A primary role of local government is to help ensure public welfare and safety; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has not been requiring pedestrian access in most cases when new streets are being built, but rather leaving this as an option for private developers; and

WHEREAS, Councilmembers have received many complaints about new roads within the City which, while built to current standards, do not provide adequate pedestrian facilities because they are narrow, elevated above grade, have deep ditches, and lack shoulders; and
WHEREAS, The City has an opportunity to develop updated standards for roads and non-motorized transportation facilities that meet current and future needs and interests of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council intends to pursue, beginning over the next three months, a number of actions to improve safety and a pedestrian and cyclist friendly community for residents and visitors alike:

1. Formulate reasonable changes to the Homer City Code to improve safety and pedestrian access on new City streets, including updating minimum road widths and assessing safety surrounding shoulders and ditch steepness.

2. Begin the process of updating the non-motorized transportation plan, an element of the Comprehensive Plan, including a long-term plan for building critical sidewalk infrastructure, and determining the costs to be borne by developers and/or private land owners.

3. Support the work of Public Works to catch up and develop a non-motorized transportation implementation plan, non-motorized trails, and access in active developments.

4. Develop a plan to integrate interested committees/commissions into sidewalk discussion to ensure staff and volunteer efforts are well-coordinated and aligned with Council interests and direction.

5. Establish a strategic plan for funding road safety improvements on existing roads.

6. Hold a series of work sessions for Council to work through these issues as a body alongside the administration.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 9th day of May, 2022.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: Advertising and Staff time