



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

Office of the Commissioner

3132 Channel Drive
P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
907.465.3900
dot.state.ak.us

January 9, 2024

Homer Trails Alliance
PO Box 2215
Homer, AK 99603-9237

Via email: homertrailsalliance@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Homer Trails Alliance,

On behalf of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, I would like to extend our gratitude for your comprehensive and thoughtful input on the proposed multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170. We acknowledge the valuable contributions and support of the Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary, Homer Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, Cook Inletkeeper, Homer Independent Living Center, Homer Soil and Water, Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Homer Drawdown, Homer Cycling Club, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club, and Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association in this collaborative effort.

Your proposal to create a safer and more inclusive access route that connects the Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest is impressive. We appreciate the vision to connect these areas, not only enhancing the trail systems within but also extending to the existing sidewalk leading into Homer. This initiative promises to significantly improve the recreational and travel experience for a wide range of users, including pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, and those using mobility aids.

The safety and inclusive accessibility concern you have raised regarding the current use of the Sterling Highway and adjoining trail systems are of utmost importance to us. The proposed Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development TAP grant, as outlined by HTA and its partners, addresses crucial issues impacting non-motorized users in the area. We understand the importance of this project not only for the hundreds of individuals using these areas for travel and recreation but also for the local businesses that serve this vibrant community.

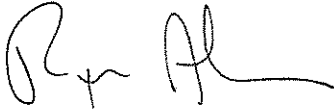
Please be assured that your comments and suggestions will be thoroughly considered as we progress with the Anchor Point Highway Project. We are committed to working closely with all stakeholders, including the Homer Trails Alliance and its supporting organizations, to ensure that the project meets the needs and expectations of the community while also adhering to our standards of safety and accessibility.

"Keep Alaska Moving"

We look forward to continued collaboration and communication as we move forward with this important initiative. Your engagement and advocacy for improved trail and transportation infrastructure in the Homer area are invaluable, and we are excited about the potential impact of this project on the community.

Thank you once again for your dedication and for sharing your insights with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ryan Anderson, P.E.
Commissioner
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



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Devony Lehner
Homer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Lehner:

Thank you for sharing your extensive experience and insightful comments regarding the trail systems and infrastructure improvements in the Anchor Point – Homer area. Your dedicated involvement with various organizations and trail projects since 1987, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, and others, is truly commendable.

We are particularly inspired by your emphasis on the significance of the pedestrian underpass under the Sterling Highway near Diamond Creek. Your detailed explanation highlights the enormous potential it holds for enhancing non-motorized travel safety, connecting diverse natural environments, and elevating the quality of local recreational systems. It's clear that this project could serve as a pivotal link, enriching the community's accessibility to the area's unique ecosystems and scenic beauty.

Furthermore, your work at the Independent Living Center in Homer, offering inclusive recreational experiences, brings an important perspective on how such infrastructure can impact individuals with various abilities. This aspect of accessibility and inclusion is crucial, and we appreciate you bringing it to our attention.

Your passion for and knowledge of the area's trail systems and environmental diversity are palpable and infectious. We are genuinely excited about the possibilities that the Diamond Creek underpass project presents, not only for the community but also for the broader scope of environmental education and appreciation.

Rest assured, we will consider your suggestions and insights as we move forward with the Anchor Point Project. Contributions from experienced and passionate community members like yourself are invaluable in shaping impactful and sustainable developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Anderson".

Ryan Anderson, P.E.
Commissioner
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

"Keep Alaska Moving"

