

# City of Homer Transportation Plan

PLANNING COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024





# What is a Transportation Plan?



# The Homer Transportation Plan

- Builds off of the Homer Comprehensive Plan
- Documents the Homer transportation system NOW
  - Public comment
  - Traffic volume data (now and 20 years in the future)
- Establishes 20-year GOALS and OBJECTIVES for the Homer transportation network
- Provides GUIDELINES for developing the transportation system
- Describes POLICIES and PROJECTS that work towards those goals
- Feeds into the Homer Comprehensive Plan





# Outreach and Public Involvement



# Public Involvement: Plan Direction and Content

- In the fall of 2022, the City of Homer sought input on the plan:
  - Non-motorized Transportation Symposium led by Homer Drawdown (October 1, 2022)
  - Online mapping tool (locations of specific concern)
  - Online survey (how do people travel and how do they want to travel)
  - Public Open House (goals and objectives)



# Public Involvement: Draft Plan

- In the fall of 2023, the City of Homer gathered input on the draft plan
  - Public meeting
  - City website
  - Open to public comment through October 10<sup>th</sup>.

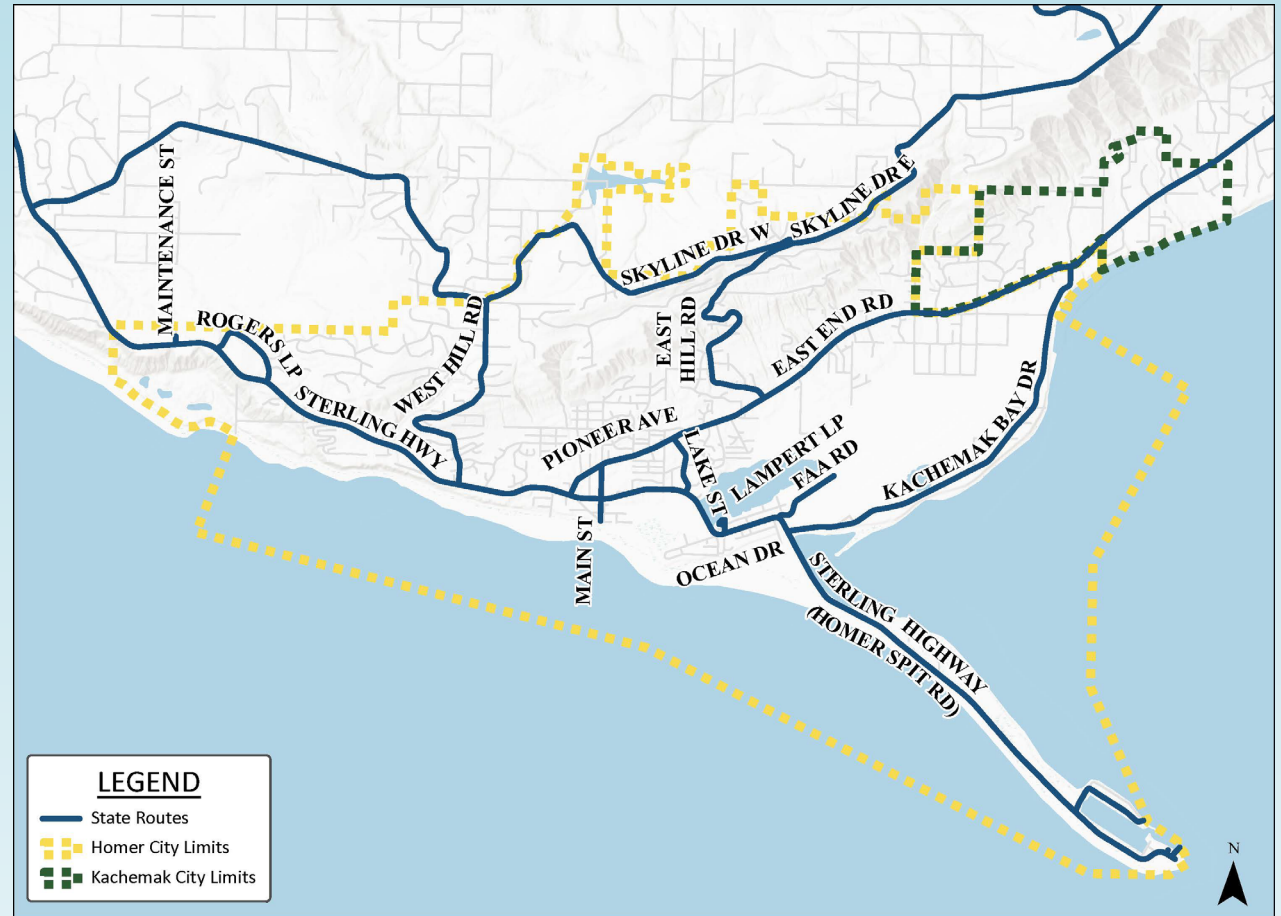


# State of the Transportation System



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- DOT&PF roads make up the backbone of the transportation system.
- City of Homer roads fill in the network, providing access to residents, businesses, and attractions.





# State of the Transportation System

- The DOT&PF roads have varying levels of walking and biking infrastructure.
- There are many DOT&PF routes without dedicated infrastructure for walking and biking.



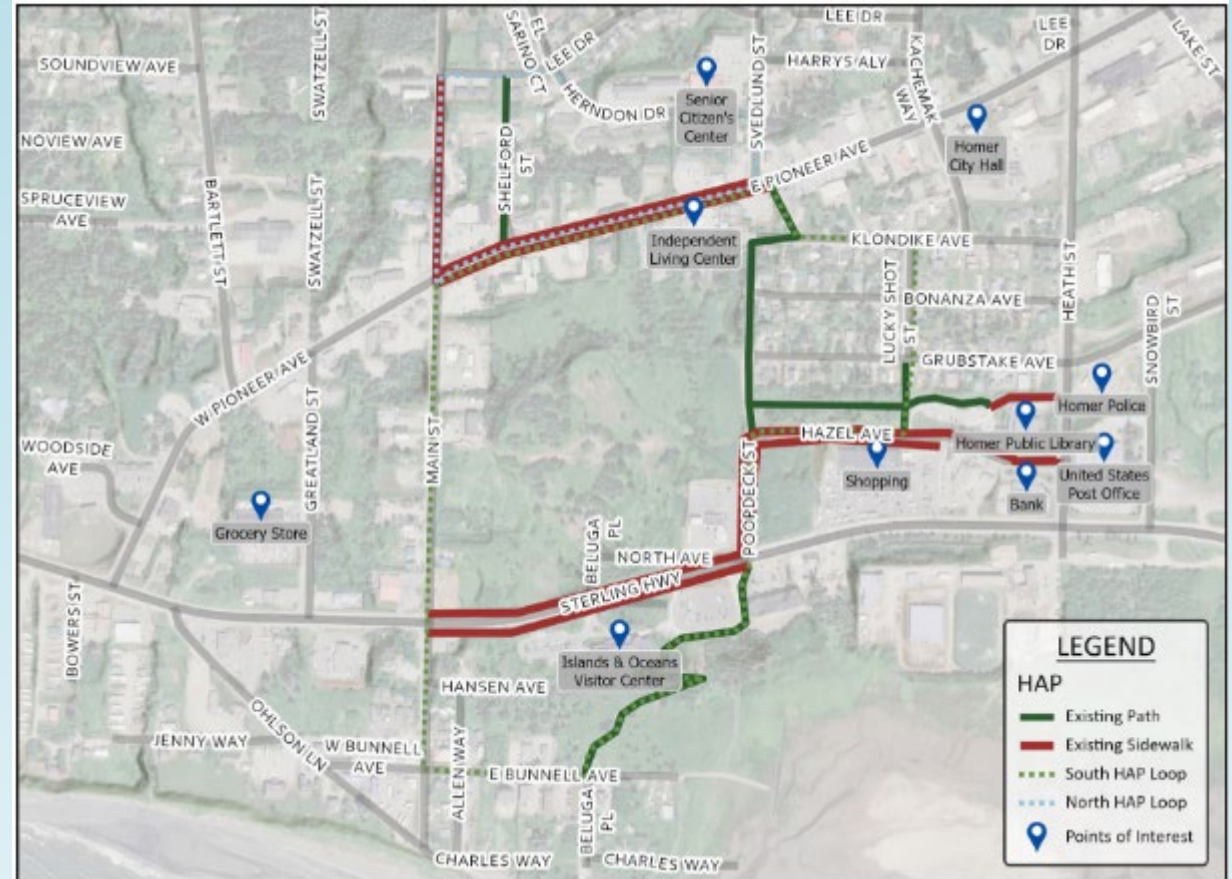
# State of the Transportation System

- The City has been working to build a well-connected network of local and collector roads.
- These connections can provide
  - Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections.
  - Reduction of short vehicle trips on arterials.
  - Vehicle access to signalized intersections on the major arterials.
- Examples: Grubstake Avenue extension, Greatland Street extension.



# State of the Transportation System

- The City has also been adding walking and biking infrastructure.
  - Ben Walters Lane sidewalk
  - Svedlund Street sidewalk
  - Homer All-Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway



# What improvements are needed?

- Year-round maintenance of pedestrian and bicycle routes (including along DOT&PF routes)
- Plan to keep up winter maintenance as more infrastructure is built
- New, connected infrastructure to improve walking and biking
- Design of trails and sidewalks to make maintenance easier
- Infrastructure for electric vehicles
- Separation of heavy trucks from high pedestrian use areas
- Affordable transportation options
- Opportunities to park, then walk or take a bus
- Reduction of environmental impacts of the transportation system
- Reauthorization of HART fund







# Transportation System Guidelines



# Transportation System Guidelines

- Included in the Plan are Transportation System Guidelines and examples
  - Designing for persons of all ages and abilities
    - Speed & Safety
  - Pedestrian Crosswalks
  - Traffic Calming



*Traffic Calming on Beluga Place*





## Complete Streets

- Designing and operating streets to enable safe use and support mobility for all users (including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders)

## Designing for People

- Design streets to balance the needs of diverse users in order to shape an enticing environment that ensures access, safety, comfort, and enjoyment for everyone.

## Streets as Places

- Design and construction of public streets focused on building places that improve the quality of life and the environment rather than simply move vehicles from place to place

## Vision Zero

- Strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all

# Safety-focused Transportation Planning



# Transportation System Goals and Objectives





# What are Goals and Objectives?



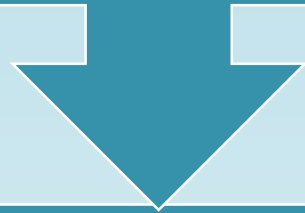
**GOAL:** Statements describing the fundamental outcomes the plan is aiming to achieve



**OBJECTIVE:** Specific statements of outcomes the plan is aiming to achieve (measurable)



The goals and objectives were developed with input from city staff and members of the community.



The goals and objectives represent the community's commitment to building a safe, sustainable, and accessible transportation system that meets the needs of all members of the community.



# GOAL 1: Increase Safety of Interactions Between Different Modes of Travel

- Community members want travel within the city to be safer, including for people walking, biking, and driving.
- Objectives:
  - Improve safety at conflict points between pedestrian and motor vehicles
  - Provide for safe use of the right-of-way by all transportation modes
  - Improve user understanding of how to safely share the public ROW



## GOAL 2: Provide a Connected Network of Local and Collector Roads and Trails that Balances Modes Based on Land Use Contexts

- Community members desire a connected network for all users.
- Objectives:
  - Identify a priority pedestrian network that connects key generators and develop a plan to build these connections.
  - Identify a priority low-stress bicycle network that connects key generators, develop a plan to build these connections, and encourage appropriate bicycle parking.
  - Identify gaps in the collector road network and develop a plan to build these connections.
  - Identify and address opportunities for parking once and then walking, ride-sharing, or using transit



# GOAL 3: Maintain Transportation Network to be Usable Year-Round

- Community members desire roads and walking and biking facilities to be maintained so they are usable in the winter and summer
- Objectives:
  - Reconstruct and proactively maintain pedestrian, bicycle, and City of Homer facilities to ensure year-round usability.
  - Manage resources to maximize and balance maintenance efforts.
  - Update and enforce design standards for walking, biking, road, and public transportation networks
  - Include appropriate improvements for each travel mode as part of reconstruction or new construction projects within the public right-of-way





# GOAL 4: Provide Expanded Transportation Options for Residents and Visitors

- Community members desire a transportation system that provides additional transportation options and reduces environmental impacts
- Objectives:
  - Support the development of a public transportation network.



# Recommendations

POLICIES AND PROJECTS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO ACHIEVE THE  
ESTABLISHED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



# Goal 1: Increase the Safety of Interactions Between Different Modes of Travel

## POLICIES:

### “Truck Network”

- *Establish Truck Routes to reduce the number of through trucks travelling on Pioneer Avenue.*

### “Traffic Calming”

- *Develop a Traffic Calming Manual that describes treatments that are effective and acceptable to the City of Homer.*

## PROJECTS:

### “Improve Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations at Schools”

- *Study schools with circulation concerns and develop plans to improve them.*

### “Kachemak Drive Reconnaissance Engineering Study”

- *Conduct a reconnaissance engineering study to identify concerns, needs, and obstacles for improving Kachemak Drive for non-motorized travel and to develop potential solutions.*





## Goal 2: Provide a Connected Network of Local and Collector Roads and Trails that Balance Modes Based on Land Use Contexts

### POLICIES:

#### “Bicycle Parking”

- *Adopt a bicycle parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bicycle parking available.*

### PROJECTS:

#### “Parking Study”

- *Conduct a parking study to determine the location and benefits of centralized parking lots. Many members of the community voiced frustrations with parking options, especially along the spit and in the Central Business District.*

#### “Neighborhood Connectivity to Schools”

- *Encourage Kenai Peninsula Borough to build improved trails between schools and surrounding neighborhoods. This will ensure the safety of children walking to school by creating more connectivity to the schools and providing a set of identified, constructed, and maintained trails.*



# Goal 3: Maintain Transportation Network to be Usable Year-Round

## POLICIES:

“Transfer of Responsible Agreements for State Roads”

- *Pursue additional Transfer of Responsibility Agreements (TORAs) to allow the city to maintain roads and pathways that are currently maintained by DOT. Currently, DOT and the City have TORAs for Pioneer Avenue and the Homer Spit.*

“Maintenance Standards”

- *Set maintenance standards for the City of Homer to meet expectations, such as how frequently or under what circumstances roads, sidewalks, paths, and trails will be plowed in winter and swept in summer.*

## PROJECTS:

“Identify Additional Priorities for Walking & Biking Infrastructure”

- *Identify priority areas for non-motorized travel and develop plan for construction sidewalks, paths, and trails in those areas.*
- “Pioneer Avenue as an Extension of the Homer All Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway (HAP) Loop”
- *Evaluate pedestrian crossing improvements for Pioneer Avenue intersections. The main intersections on Pioneer Avenue have been identified as high stress locations for crossings.*



## Goal 4: Provide Expanded Transportation Options for Residents and Visitors

### **POLICIES:**

#### “Transit Options”

- *Seek out partners to provide public transportation service in the Homer area. Year-round transit options that serve area residents and seasonal options that encourage visitors and employees to park their vehicles and travel to the Homer Spit by bus and on foot.*

