

To: Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities, Fairbanks, Alaska
Attn: Colleen Ackiss.

From: Larry Mayo, 282 Hay Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709, Phone/Voice Mail (907-479-2954)

April 16, 2012

**COMMENTS ON THE FAIRBANKS AREA GOLDSTREAM ROAD INTERSECTION
IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT HHE-0002(253)/60264**

We built our house in 1962 on Sheepcreek Road, and have used Goldstream Road for years. At first, these roads were rough, bumpy, and narrow. As a result, most vehicles traveled safely on the gravel roads.

Today, these same roads are wide, paved, and unsafe. If you drive within the posted speed limit of 55 mph, other vehicles often rush up behind and pass at high speeds at blind driveways with STOP signs, around blind corners, and across the "no passing" painted center-line. A very dangerous situation arises when a vehicle enters Goldstream Road or Sheepcreek Road from a small road or driveway after a full-STOP. Even when no vehicle can be seen approaching in either direction, a fast-moving vehicle can appear suddenly and is life-threatening as you pull onto the road and the other vehicle skids to a stop. This situation can be made worse if the entering vehicle is pulling a trailer.

Some speeding vehicles loose control and go off these paved roads on straight-aways, corners, and intersections summer and winter. The distance a few of these vehicles traveled through the air leaves no doubt that they were going recklessly fast.

My conclusion is that reckless speeding on Goldstream and Sheepcreek Roads is the dominant safety problem. Major intersections are not a big hazard.

I recommend that the full funding for enhancing public safety be used along these roads in the following ways.

First, adopt a lower speed limit and work with drivers to help them understand just how fast they are going some times by following the example at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, of using automatic radar detectors to spell out the speed every vehicle is going.

Second, at major intersections and blind roads and driveways, add a turning lane in both directions to give all drivers a safe chance to slow down or speed up for stop signs and sharp turns, like the Mitchell Express Way.

And third, add additional pullouts for vehicles to stop safely at groups of mail boxes.

Finally, many roads exist, in part, for people to be able to enjoy interesting views both by day and by night. We are lucky to see bright stars, planets, northern lights, and comets clearly in Alaska. Street lights degrade the quality of nighttime sky views.

Larry Mayo

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Sacha [sacha242@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 12:01 AM
To: Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Cc: steve.levey@gmail.com; Rep.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us; dchomicz@newsminer.com; Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Fw: Comment Sent re: Fairbanks Spot Intersection project
Categories: file

Director Titus,

I went a little further in the public comments and saw your 3/27 response to Mr. Levey regarding his concerns about the project. To summarize, you said: "DOT knows better and believes the only solution re: this "serious problem" of 7 accidents over a 5 year period only one of which involved an injury, is to install lights. Too bad for you because we're looking at getting a 35% reduction in accidents for this spot." 35% of 5 nighttime accidents is 1.5 approx. It seems evident that you are mostly looking to spend federal money and found a spot that statistically just barely fits the threshold for this project even though "rural intersections". No definition of rural intersections is provided.

The January 12 FHWA Memo available at the link you provided to Mr. Levey says in part:

The new list of **proven safety countermeasures** includes:

1. Safety Edge
2. Roundabouts
3. Corridor Access Management
4. **Backplates with Retroreflective Borders**
5. **Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes on 2-Lane Roads**
6. Enhanced Delineation and Friction for Horizontal Curves
7. Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas
8. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon
9. "Road Diets" (Roadway Reconfiguration)

Additionally, you cite a 35% reduction in night time crashes, but the summary of Part II of the Minnesota study actually says: "**Before-and-after analyses showed that the nighttime crash rate decreased by 35 percent after intersection lights were installed, while the daytime crash rate increased 30 percent during the same period.**"

So please help me understand why you are suggesting that a 5% reduction in crashes at an intersection which rarely has any crashes is worth \$300,000 of taxpayer dollars (not including maintenance costs)?

Sincerely,
Sacha Layos
1520 Jennifer Drive

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sacha <sacha242@yahoo.com>
To: "colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov" <colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov>
Cc: "Rep.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Rep.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>; "dchomicz@newsminer.com" <dchomicz@newsminer.com>; "steve.titus@alaska.gov" <steve.titus@alaska.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 11:32 PM

Subject: Fw: Comment Sent re: Fairbanks Spot Intersection project

Good evening,

I am writing to follow up on my earlier public comment (included below for reference) submitted via the web. I feel compelled to write again regarding this proposed project after reaching page 85 of 132 pages of the public comments submitted as of April 2 (what is available online) because I am struck by a number of patterns that are clear after getting only halfway through: 1) The people of the Goldstream Valley are well spoken and have challenged the conclusions drawn by the DOT in response to limited data regarding the Goldstream Rd/Murphy Dome Rd intersection; 2) They are unanimously opposed to this project--a 6 yr old boy has even written in opposition to the lights (only two people remotely had anything positive to say about the possibility of lights in this area -- one said he would defer to the desires of the local community and only voiced support if LED lights were considered and the other was a somewhat inconclusive statement by the fire chief of Chena Goldstream that mentioned an appropriate location for the actual poles); 3) The residents have identified a number of valid safety issues on Murphy Dome, none of which would remotely be solved by adding 4 light polluting street lights along Goldstream/Sheep Creek Rd. (for your reference some of the identified Murphy Dome safety issues include treacherous, icy conditions at the Murphy Dome/Ivan's Alley intersection, frequent icy conditions at the end of Murphy Dome Rd., the lack of shoulder area along a road that has many driveways and side roads entering in areas where cars on Murphy Dome are going very fast); 4) Of the 5 proposed SPOT projects open to public comment, I only saw reference to one of the other listed intersections. All of the remaining comments so far are about Murphy Dome, and as I mentioned earlier, they are unanimous in their opposition to the project.

In short, the residents of this area, most of whom have traveled through this intersection no fewer than 1,000 - 10,000 times more frequently than any DOT employees/project managers (except any who may live out here), remain wholly unconvinced by the DOT provided data and are in near unanimous opposition to this project. Of the 5 listed projects, the Murphy Dome intersection has the highest Safety Index and the next to lowest Cost Benefit ratio per the DOT provided data. This project should be re-considered and the 3 less intrusive improvements listed by DOT should be implemented instead of costly lighting that will provide no meaningful reduction in accidents which are, according to DOT's own data, truly at a minimum at this intersection.

DOT should instead:

- Increase sign size
- Install retro-reflective stop bars
- Install transverse rumble strips

Other reasonable and likely more effective options also include:

- signs further up Murphy Dome warning of the upcoming intersection asking drivers to slow down.
- DOT could maintain the intersection with more frequency rather than letting it get icy.

Finally, I'd like to reiterate that the data provided do not indicate there is a serious problem at this intersection. DOT should not use a hammer to remove a splinter.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sacha Layos
1520 Jennifer Drive

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "noreply@alaska.gov" <noreply@alaska.gov>

To: sachal242@yahoo.com

Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 5:49 PM
Subject: Comment Sent

Thank you for your comment. A copy of your comment is included below:

From: Sacha Layos
Email: sacha242@yahoo.com
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on a project that will affect the area in which I live. As you know, the area where the proposed lights are designated for, is relatively sparsely populated. In fact, the former peat bogs adjacent to the site proposed for installation the streetlights was recently designated as a preserve. People frequent the preserve for northern lights viewing in the winter safely making use of the parking lots located therein. People frequently choose to live in this area in order to enjoy the relative solitude and absence of city light. I and many of my neighbors are among this group of people. I believe the proposed streetlights would have a negative impact on a core feature of that area of Goldstream Valley.

The data provided thus far does not, in my opinion, come close to justifying this expenditure especially when there are so many other areas in town that truly are unsafe and might benefit from enhanced safety measures. Vehicles are visible from 1/4 mile away or more in every direction at this intersection--installing streetlights will have no impact on that aspect of the traffic flow. \$300,000 to cure a problem that doesn't really exist seems to be an absurd waste of taxpayer money--7 accidents in 5 years and some were during the day?? How can you justify this expenditure based on that scant data?

This spot could benefit from rumble strips, a stop bar and some additional reflective signs that remind drivers to slow down, but to add streetlights to the intersection based on DOT's own data, is just not a useful expenditure. It makes more sense to take intermediate steps rather than to completely alter the character of this area. Please reconsider this ill-conceived project. The residents don't want it. The data doesn't support the need for it.

Sent at: 04/16/12 05:49 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 6:41 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

Removed personal information, CMA

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

Please reconsider the installation of streetlights at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome Road. People who live in the area have chosen to do so to get away from the downsides of the urban environment - including light pollution. I can't imagine that adding lighting to that intersection will reduce accidents - there's clear line of sight and approaches. I'm also concerned that DOT will use this to create a precedent for more streetlights outside of the core downtown area.

Sent at: 04/16/12 06:40 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Mike and Jen Schmetzer [schmetz@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 3:06 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: HHE-0002(253)60264 - Lighting Project

Categories: file

Hi, Colleen.

Below are my comments/questions on the Goldstream/Murphy Dome/Sheep Creek intersection lighting project.

- Funding...Based on the information/discussion given at the March public meeting, my understanding is that funding for this project is given to the state by FHWA and the state is mandated to spend it. This puts the state in the unusual position of identifying enough safety improvement projects to meet the funding demand. Quite opposite from the usual position of identifying enough funding to meet the project demand. It is also my understanding that the money is specifically for HSIP projects and the underlying description of the HSIP is to save lives and eliminate major injuries. In other words, the first intersections that should be looked at are intersections where there are documented fatalities or major injury accidents. None of the accidents at the Goldstream/Murphy Dome/Sheep Creek intersection were fatalities or major injuries.

- Accident Data...During the March public meeting, I was told by DOT that when it comes to HSIP projects, an accident is an accident...doesn't matter who reported it or how it happened. This is different than the direction DOT has given on other projects when they've decided to ignore certain accidents based on cause or type. Is there a technical basis for this difference in review or does the need to spend FHWA funding override normal technical review policy? The proposed project is to install street lights...the only "proven" means of accident reduction available to DOT. How can two daylight accidents be used in the analysis? What about the driver who fell asleep or the vehicle/moose collision? Neither of these should be used to indicate a problem at the intersection as vehicle/moose collisions are more prevalent in numerous other areas and a driver falling asleep has nothing to do with the intersection layout. The other three nighttime accidents appear to be valid for use for this intersection, but I doubt the intersection would qualify for the cost/benefit if you use only three accidents. Please also note that none of the three accidents included injuries...they were property damage incidents only.

Also, two of the accidents were reported by individuals, not police. I do not believe that accidents reported by individuals should be looked at the same as those reported by police. I'm not saying they aren't valid, just questionable.

These three accidents were from drivers going too fast for conditions. The roadway was icy in all three cases...in the case of the police reported accident, there was a ticket citation for speed. Were the drivers going fast enough to cause injury?

NO. They knew that an intersection was coming up. Were they going fast enough to slide through the intersection and cause property damage? Yes. I do not believe lighting will solve this problem. Nor do I believe that the intersection should qualify for HSIP funding.

- Jones Road/Goldstream Store/Ivory Jacks...I find it interesting that if you look at the Jones Road/Goldstream Store/Ivory Jacks intersection accident data for the same period you find five accidents. Of these one was a fatality and two were injuries. One of the injury accidents involved a school bus. DOT does not believe that this accident data warrants an HSIP project though. Why? Five versus seven accidents? Three of the five were daytime accidents? At least one included a DUI driver? If, according to DOT, an accident is an

accident, then why isn't this section of road being looked at more carefully under this program? DOT was asked to do a speed study through this section of road and to perhaps include a speed reduction zone; however, DOT's response was to threaten the local community with raising speeds if they forced DOT to do the study. My understanding is that DOT has apologized for that threat and agreed to do the study in the coming year. Has DOT also analyzed the intersection based on HSIP criteria?

I hope you will consider these issues in your final review. Thank you for your time!

Jennifer Schmetzer
2860 Waldheim Drive

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 1:46 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

Removed personal information. cma

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

Thought it was a traffic signal we were proposing, but has no problem with traffic lights going in. Lights would help to see the moose. Has lived in the area for 30 years and sees crashes where people are going too fast and miss the STOP sign. Don't put the lights directly across from the intersection so that they don't run into them.

Sent at: 04/16/12 01:45 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Steve Levey [steve.levey@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 7:49 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT); Potter, Steve B (DOT); Cameron, Meredith M (LAA)
Subject: SPOT safety project / lighting up the skies
Categories: file

Thank you to each of you for listening to the opposition to more lighting in Fairbanks. All of you have spoken of lighting being a "proven counter-measure" for dangerous intersections. The report cited for reaching this conclusion was the Minnesota study. Ice is not a variable in this study and yet it is the single most uniform variable in crashes at Murphey Dome Rd. and Goldstream/Sheep Creek Roads. This makes your conclusion statistically unfounded. (Of the 5 night accidents listed during the study period, one involved minor injury, one was with a moose, one was due to falling asleep, 4 involved ice, 4 involved property damage only -- cars in ditch due to ice and poor driving.) The intersection has high visibility in all directions -- it is wide open. It is, however, a challenging place to keep ice free. There is a year round spring adjacent to the intersection and driver speeds are too high as are the speed limits that guide the speed. DOT should assist with safety by suggesting -- with the force of law and signage -- a reduced speed zone and a larger, iridescent stop sign on Murphey Dome Road.

Please do not increase the sound pollution with rumble strips or light pollution with lighting.

I am personally punished by this project; I live right next to it and will be adjacent to the lights and hear rumbling cars approaching the intersection. I oppose the entire lighting project at all intersections as well as the all night lighting of the Mitchell Expressway (outside of commute times) and other areas that have little traffic after commutes but consume massive resources and put out significant pollution. I understand that you feel you have to punish some folks for the overall benefit of the community. However, this project is not a context sensitive solution (per federal regulation), it does not use good data, and finally, it goes against line one of your mission statement to prevent fatalities and serious injury (there have been none at this intersection but have been fatalities and severe injuries elsewhere nearby).

Please have the humility to yield on this project, there are other far more valuable ways to make driving safer in Fairbanks.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Steve Levey

2866 Monarch Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

PROJECT HHE-0002(253)/60264

COMMENTS BY MARTIN GUTOSKI

PO Box 80187, Fairbanks, AK 99708

mardeb@gci.net

April 15, 2012

I would like to express my concern and opposition for adding lighting at the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream Roads. Also had I the opportunity to comment on the original street lighting now in place at the intersection of Chena Hot Springs and Nordale Roads in 1999 that is now proposed for upgrades by this project, my comments would be similar.

I live at 330 Breeze Rd at 14.4 mile Chena Hot Springs Rd and have been commuting to work from there for 30 years. I am the project coordinator for the local amateur observing group, the *Fairbanks Astronomical Unit*. Our organization had three observing domes located on John Kalinas Road off Small Wood Trail that provided group viewing for observational astronomy in Fairbanks for both winter aurora tours and educational programs. We have been active in astronomy since the apparition of Halley's Comet in 1986 and provided thousands of viewing events. Our observatory was moved from John Kalinas Road after the lighting was installed at the intersection of Chena Hot Springs and Nordale.

A parallel tale of the light invasion that pervades the mindset of engineers is the donation by UAF to our organization in 1994 of the 21' observatory dome that was on the roof of the Chapman building on campus. It was abandoned by the Geophysical Institute for usefulness as an astronomical facility because the increased lighting from an expanding town in the 1970's rendered it unusable. We moved it and two smaller domes from our former observatory near Nordale at Chena Hot Springs Road to a new location on Spinach Creek Rd. Moving an oversize 21' diameter steel dome weighing over six tons is not fun or cheap to do every decade because of the slow, steady march of the street lights in the area.



Although our observatory was nearly a mile northeast of the Nordale intersection, the street lights that were installed after the Chena Hot Springs Road widening project added illumination to the intersections of Amanita, Herning, Risse, Esro and other roads west of our site, they became a picket fence of light pollution that washed out our former dark sky viewing location. Objecting to adding a few more lights to the Nordale Road intersection is a moot point now that they are already in place and impelled our exodus.

I see from your draft design for lighting at Nordale and Chena Hot Springs Rd, that five new lights are proposed, three of which apparently replace existing lights. One thing I have observed with the lighting as I pass through daily at that intersection is more than twice in a decade drivers have slid off the road only to plow down a street light in the process. Replacing one of them cannot be cheap, nor is it easy on the pocket book or body of the driver whose car is damaged or destroyed by the break-away bases of these lights. My wife had to avoid an oncoming vehicle that skidded into her lane elsewhere on College Rd and her only option was to hit a street light by turning into the curb. Her car was totaled and she ate glass from the pole landing on the hood then cleaving the roof in the process. Her accident was at an icy well lit intersection in town caused by avoiding a head on truck at slow speed.

I recently stopped to look at the Nordale lights on my way home and see that several are in bad shape with the most obvious damage to a few on the south side of Chena Hot Springs Road evident from the snow removal efforts of DOT. One of the most noticeable features of these lights and others on Chena Hot Springs Road is the random tilt of several caused by subsidence of the concrete piers in the thawing permafrost that riddles the paved shoulders. Surprisingly, DOT does not propose to install replacements for the badly leaning lights at the intersection of Chena Hot Springs with

Rainbow Drive, Kasalek Rd, ESRO Rd and other intersections. Instead three more lights will be put at the intersection further west on the Old Steese by Curry's Corner to further saturate the stop sign there.

I suspect steady subsidence will also be the case for any lights put along the equally unstable ground at Goldstream and Murphy Dome Roads. A quick look at DOT maintenance records for the intersection and a simple site inspection of the auf icing at that location reveals multiple years of laminated asphalt in a vain attempt to heal the frost heaves resulting in buckling pavement over decades since the roads were first paved in the 1960's. Since DOT has to install the lights a short distance from the paved shoulder for ease of maintenance with their bucket truck, as the shoulders sink so will the light posts lean when the soil subsides. Unless DOT does as GVEA has done on unstable ground adjacent to roads by driving in steel piles or freeze tubes 40' into the permafrost and then bolting the wooden power poles to them, any new concrete filled piers anchored less deep will tilt away from the vertical in permafrost as the ground thaws.

The orange glow of all the high pressure sodium lights along Chena Hot Springs forced us to relocate to a new dark site in 2003 at the intersection of Spinach Creek and Old Murphy Dome Roads. The new observatory is being constructed on 55 acres of land which is five miles from the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream Roads. The site is very dark with the nearest electrical power two miles south, a location we chose specifically for the lack of any lights well beyond that radius. We cater to winter tours that come to Fairbanks to see the northern lights at our dark skies. We fear that this first lighting project on Goldstream Road will be the first step in gradual light creep that will work its way up Spinach Creek to Moose Mountain Road and eventually to our intersection and force us to abandon that site too.

Street lighting has a social as well as economic impact to the residents of rural areas that urban dwellers seek to escape. As more lights drive more people out of town, they want what they were used to in their dense neighborhoods. And so the lights keep marching up the roads until they are at your doorstep like the many fractured brooms in the Disney cartoon starring Mickey Mouse as the sorcerer's apprentice, overflowing with a tsunami of light everywhere. The *International Dark-Sky Association* (www.darksky.org/) is committed to preserving the night sky from unnecessary lighting including shielding for stray light that spills outside the area of concern. Typical barn-door shutters or similar light baffles are pretty much useless in Alaska because of the high albedo of the snow around the lighted area bouncing the light back up. An example of the high reflectivity of the winter snow cover around street lights is readily apparent by the individual pillars of light seen from miles away rebounding in the sky hundreds of feet directly above the lights.

Another negative aspect of lighting in the winter is the driving into and out of the illuminated intersection. When I enter the lights the glare in the windshield is so bright that I lower the visors while the moving shadows through the side windows act like a strobe and momentarily overpower my lights. Then when I exit the lighted area there is a time period of ten or fifteen seconds when my headlights are useless while my eyes adjust to darkness again. A car can travel quite a distance doing the speed limit while the driver is blinded during that brief period of readjustment.

Although I only drive through the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream Road on the weekend winter nights when I access our new observatory site at 4660 Spinach Creek Rd, I have not had sight distance problems seeing traffic in either direction. The contrary super elevation on Goldstream Road at the Murphy Dome intersection as it comes onto the outside curve is actually more problematic than darkness as people skid to a stop turning onto Murphy Dome Rd. Signage and maintenance would go a long way rather than expending federal funding just because it is available on new street lights for an intersection like Murphy Dome and Goldstream Road. Electricity is still not free and the additional burden on subsequent state maintenance money resulting from the unnecessary lights seems counterintuitive to a sound economic reasoning for an intersection which has no demonstrated substantial safety record.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. E.', is located at the bottom left of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: dkistler@alaska.net
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 8:30 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: [Fwd: Intersection improvements]

Categories: file

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Intersection improvements
From: dkistler@alaska.net
Date: Sun, April 1, 2012 10:09 pm
To: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov

Hello Colleen Ackiss,

I am writing you in regards to the safety improvement for CHSR and Old Steese intersection. I and others are in hope of some attention given to the Swan Lane/Old Steese intersection (access to Steese Branch Post Office) just yards away from CHSR/Old Steese intersection when the proposed work is being done.

I have tried for years to get something done there (Swan) which is a treacherous spot year round. I have spoken to DOT, Yvonne from the post office, and others.

No one is responsible nor can make improvements. I and others have offered financial support for repairs, but according to Yvonne cannot accept it due to the road being located on private property.

The fix is really needed where Swan and Old Steese meet, nothing else. The apron is gone and a bad hole has developed which makes it hard to turn onto Old Steese with proper acceleration. The traffic on Old Steese from north to south really moves by there which also happens to be on a curve.

The fix is not that big of one, and surely if safety is a concern at that intersection this matter will be looked into. We all feel someone will be killed there one day. It really is a bad spot. Please pass this concern along, and if you need anything from me please let me know. Thank you, David Kistler



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

I am not favoring street lights at Sheep Creek -
 Goldstream intersection. Your main argument is
 safety. I am not sure what kind of a statistic
 you are using, or maybe it's the interpreting?
 Lights are not going to improve the safety
 of this intersection!
 Spending money just because we have it, is
 in my sense, not ethical.

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment -including your personal identifying information -may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: Marianne Stolz

MAILING ADDRESS: 1570 Russ Grind Fairbanks AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

This project is not well thought out and should be shelved. The Federal Highway Administration has typical crash thresholds of 5 NIGHTTIME crashes in 5 years and a NIGHT TIME total crash ratio above the statewide average for rural unlit intersections was not taken into account. One of the 5 intersections had no NIGHT TIME crashes in the 5 year data period. 3 of 5 intersections are sufficiently lighted at this time. Of these 3, none meet the criteria for justifying a more intense lighting project. One intersection out of the 5 has a few single vehicle night accidents, one hit a moose, one fell asleep and another was cited for unsafe speed. This same intersection does not even have a "Stop Ahead" warning sign.

This project and others like it will have a negative economic impact on the Fairbanks area. The more unnecessary lights that are installed contribute to light pollution already at too high a level for a community, that in part relies on winter tourism.

At this time when we could possibly lose 800 or more people from

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: maria.charlie@alaska.net

NAME: Charles Whitaker

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 81985 Fairbanks, AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



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(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

Eielson A.F. Base and the news of the refinery in North Pole laying off 402 workers
 we can not afford poor planning. There are 19 jets with travellers from Japan visiting
 Fairbanks in 2011. Many more tourists from all over the world also come to Fairbanks
 for the opportunity to see the northern lights. Fairbanks in winter is about the aurora.
 Bright and brilliant: Not muted through excess lighting. Yellow page ads are filled
 with the words Aurora or Northern lights in the companies names. The News Miner
 is consistently peppered with photos of the aurora. Letters to the editor
 have appeared from ecstatic tourists commenting on the night skies in Fairbanks.
 Ads by the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors bureau highlight viewing the
 northern lights. Millions of dollars are spent here over the winters by tourists.
 The dark skies should be a priority in the northern region. Listening to
 a recently broadcast radio program the preview stated Northern Lights are
 the most brilliant in years. Assuming the program would be about
 Fairbanks, I was surprised to hear the entire show was about Finland, where
 travellers from around the world are flocking like geese to a grain field to see

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment -including your personal identifying information -may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

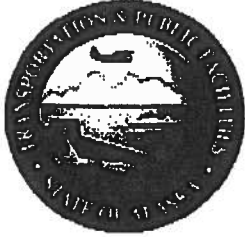
E-MAIL ADDRESS: mariacharlie@alaska.net

NAME: Charles Whitaker

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 81985 Fairbanks AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.



We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

The northern lights.

The point here is that Fairbanks does not have a corner on the winter tourism market and we as a community should be doing everything to protect and promote our dark skies.

Many areas of the U.S. realize the importance of dark skies. Starlight preserves have been created. Minimal lighting ^{standards} at intersections and on highway projects are used. No longer are roadways being lighted as though the sun is still shining at 3:00 a.m. Northern region D.O.T. has the chance to be a leader in lighting policies. I am asking that those in charge take the initiative to think outside the box and come up with lighting solutions that are engineered to minimum standards. Also to instal lighting only after other countermeasures have been proven ineffective.

It is time for D.O.T. to see the light!

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: *maria.charlie@alaska.net*

NAME: *Charles Whitaker*

MAILING ADDRESS: *Box 81985 Fairbanks AK 99709*

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.
Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 5:39 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

*removed personal information
[REDACTED] cma*

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

Please do not install lights at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome Roads. I usually do not get involved in these things, but the proposed lights directly decrease my quality of life in the Goldstream Valley. We deeply value the opportunity to see a dark night sky, northern lights, etc. and this is a direct attack on this. I frequently use this intersection and all that is needed is better signage, if anything. I am 100% opposed to this proposition. NO!

Sent at: 04/07/12 05:38 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: corvus@mosquionet.com
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 10:07 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: HHE-0002(253)/60264

Categories: file

Colleen Ackiss, PE c/o DOT Traffic and Safety,

Having picked up your notice of hearing from the PO on the day of your hearing, I didn't get to it that evening. So I'll briefly leave a comment by email, mostly regarding the 'unlighted' intersection safety most familiar, that at Murphy Dome/Goldstream. Commuting past that location for most of the last thirty years I have not considered it a safety hazard that might benefit from your proscribed remedies, including illumination, unless those things could restrain the preponderance of Murphy Dome commuters that respect the existing STOP sign in the 'California-stop' manner, or or if you could curtail negligent driving. Systemic to the problem, if there be one, is a downgrade approach to a required STOP, not a good plan in this country. Most of the commuter or service traffic on Murphy Dome KNOW there is a STOP at Goldstream, and there is little to no 'through' traffic. There are major interior road maintenance shortfalls, Goldstream is a good example, in constant need of repairs, which would seem a greater priority any day than lighting/alerting of an intersection. So my guess here is that the Federal money is there to spend, only it must be spent in accordance with strings that are attached. Please do us all a favor and send the money back to our mutual Uncle with 'strings' attached that the refund apply to our mother of all deficits. Respectfully, J G Holty, Fairbanks

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

removed personal information cma

I understand that a lot of people do not want new lighting at this intersection. Why not start installing lighting fixtures that don't cause light pollution? There are some communities in the US (Carefree, AZ for one) that prohibit the installation of lights that shine outwards; instead they have reflectors so that all of the light is directed down. I'm not sure how well this would work to reduce light pollution with snow on the ground, but it works great when the ground is snow free areas to dramatically reduce light pollution. Fairbanks should be adopting this kind of lighting exclusively throughout the borough to help keep the night sky visible for tourism and our own enjoyment. Furthermore the light that escapes sideways and upwards from a fixture is wasted so lighting directed downwards should be more efficient. My comment applies to all of the Spot intersections being considered for lighting upgrades and for that matter to all Fairbanks projects. Thanks.

Sent at: 04/05/12 11:13 AM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 1:07 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

removed personal information cma

I am strongly opposed to the plan to install street lights at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome Roads. I have lived in this neighborhood for 12 years and pass through that intersection daily. The only accidents I have observed in this area were from cars sliding into the ditch as a result of ice and snow in the winter. The solution to this problem is better plowing and sanding, not lights. Visibility at this intersection is unobstructed in all directions for several hundred yards. I cannot believe that lighting will have any beneficial effects, and if anything will increase traffic speed and create additional hazards. If you really are concerned about safety, please abandon this plan and instead increase the winter road maintenance at this intersection.

Sent at: 04/04/12 01:06 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Shirley Liss [saliss@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 6:45 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Goldstream Lighting - AGAIN!
Attachments: FHWA Safety.docx

Categories: file

Hi Colleen,

Thanks to you and the folks at DOT for holding the meeting last Thursday. I am sure you are aware that most of the folks there with an interest in the Goldstream/Murphy Dome intersection DID NOT want the lights. But I also talked with a friend at DOT who reminded me that "DOT is not a democracy where the residents get to vote for what they want. DOT does what it wants regardless of the people's wants"

Since the meeting I have had time to look at some of the web sites that dealt with improving traffic safety at intersections and wanted to add to the comments made at the meeting. I was VERY pleased that you did not include that terrible Minnesota Report. I'm attaching what I think was a VERY pertinent and up to date section and quoting what I think is important here. The report is Feb 2012 and lists the 9 most important items for reducing accidents and improving safety.

The new list of proven safety countermeasures includes:

1. **Safety Edge**
2. **Roundabouts**
3. **Corridor Access Management**
4. **Backplates with Retroreflective Borders**
5. **Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes on 2-Lane Roads**
6. **Enhanced Delineation and Friction for Horizontal Curves**
7. **Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas**
8. **Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon**
9. **"Road Diets" (Roadway Reconfiguration)**

NOTICE --- LIGHTING IS NOT EVEN LISTED!!!

I did look at the other web sites. The HSIP site only referenced street lighting with regard to the Minnesota Report – which I've explained before – is statistically invalid. And they really only dealt with a minor feeder road intersecting a major road with much more traffic. That is not what we have at Goldstream and Murphy Done.

In conclusion – please kill the plan for the lights.

Shirley Liss

2749 Goldstream Road

Fairbanks, AK 99709-6066



Quick Search

[Return to FHWA Office of Safety Web Site](#) > [Return to Proven Safety Countermeasures Home](#)

Memorandum

Subject: **ACTION:** Promoting the Implementation of Proven Safety Countermeasures

Date: January 12, 2012

From: Tony Furst
Acting Associate Administrator for Safety

In Reply Refer To: HSST

To: Division Administrators

Over the past four years, highway fatalities and serious injuries have declined considerably – from 41,259 in 2007 to 32,885 in 2010. Highway safety programs across the country played a major role in that decline by analyzing where safety improvements were needed and by utilizing many of the nine safety countermeasures that we worked with your Division Offices to collectively advance. Those countermeasures are contained in the 2008 "Guidance Memorandum on the Consideration and Implementation of Proven Safety Countermeasures (<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/memo071008/>)." Our efforts in advancing those countermeasures have paid dividends.

Those highway safety programs use a data-driven approach to safety improvements with countermeasure selection based on analytical techniques. Ultimately, the consideration and application of proven countermeasures is most effective through this approach. Our partners should continue to strengthen their evidence-based decision-making processes, as highlighted in the Highway Safety Manual, and systemic planning approaches to make improved safety investment decisions. We will continue to provide guidance and technical assistance to encourage these practices. We will also continue to research, identify and advance proven safety countermeasures and to provide those countermeasures to you and our partners so they can be integrated into this approach and used to help save lives and prevent serious injuries.

This guidance provides you with a revised list of research-proven countermeasures that supersedes the 2008 guidance. Through our collective efforts, many of the nine safety countermeasures in the 2008 guidance are thoroughly integrated into the options the States consider as they address their safety issues. However, some have not reached that level of wide

spread application. Accordingly, some of the countermeasures from the 2008 guidance were brought forward with the new ones we've added. As you so successfully did with the 2008 guidance, we encourage you to advance these safety countermeasure options with your State DOT counterparts.

The new list of proven safety countermeasures includes:

1. Safety Edge
2. Roundabouts
3. Corridor Access Management
4. Backplates with Retroreflective Borders
5. Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes on 2-Lane Roads
6. Enhanced Delineation and Friction for Horizontal Curves
7. Medians and Pedestrian Crossing Islands in Urban and Suburban Areas
8. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon
9. "Road Diets" (Roadway Reconfiguration)

We encourage you to refer your safety partners to resources such as the Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse (<http://www.cmfclearinghouse.org/>) and the FHWA web site (<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures>), to find more detailed descriptions, related research studies, and evaluations of each of these countermeasures.

In February 2012, we will begin tracking the implementation of these countermeasures and we will work with you to replace the current countermeasure index that every Division currently updates quarterly. The new performance measure is based on implementation and takes into consideration an analysis of safety data and a State's specific safety needs. We have already introduced a simplified version of this new reporting process through an online reporting tool. More information on this process will be forthcoming before we fully transition to the new measure.

This is from the US DEPT of TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

The heading didn't paste very well...

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

removed personal information cma

I live on Propwash Drive and take the route twice daily past Murphy Dome Rd. I do NOT want to see street lights at that intersection.

Sent at: 04/03/12 02:43 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: dkistler@alaska.net
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 10:09 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Intersection improvements

Categories: TO DO

Hello Colleen Ackiss,

I am writing you in regards to the safety improvement for CHSR and Old Steese intersection. I and others are in hope of some attention given to the Swan Lane/Old Steese intersection (access to Steese Branch Post Office) just yards away from CHSR/Old Steese intersection when the proposed work is being done.

I have tried for years to get something done there (Swan) which is a treacherous spot year round. I have spoken to DOT, Yvonne from the post office, and others.

No one is responsible nor can make improvements. I and others have offered financial support for repairs, but according to Yvonne cannot accept it due to the road being located on private property.

The fix is really needed where Swan and Old Steese meet, nothing else. The apron is gone and and a bad hole has developed which makes it hard to turn onto Old Steese with proper acceleration. The traffic on Old Steese from north to south really moves by there which also happens to be on a curve.

The fix is not that big of one, and surely if safety is a concern at that intersection this matter will be looked into. We all feel someone will be killed there one day. It really is a bad spot. Please pass this concern along, and if you need anything from me please let me know. Thank you, David Kistler

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 3:18 PM
To: 'Phil Schad'
Subject: RE: Lighting Goldstream Road

Mr. Schad –

Thank you for your comments on the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will take them into consideration as we develop this highway safety improvement project and add them to the public record.

Colleen Ackiss

From: Phil Schad [<mailto:pschad@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: FW: Lighting Goldstream Road

From: Phil Schad [<mailto:pschad@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 3:36 PM
To: 'colleenackiss@alaska.gov'
Subject: Lighting Goldstream Road

Colleen,

I could not make it to Noel Wein Library the night of your public meeting.

I would like to include my comments on the lighting of the intersection of Goldstream Road and Murphy Dome Road intersection.

I have lived in the Goldstream valley since 1981. Mostly on Nugget loop and Cordes Drive, but I have gone thru this intersection a lot over the years. In the Borough long term planning of this area, it was a most citizens point of view that street lighting was one thing we did not want in the Goldstream area. My thoughts on safety at this intersection has more to do with keeping up with the poor condition of the road due to poor sub base material mainly the permafrost which causes the road surface to have significant variations in it's elevation. I believe that turn lanes will also provide safer use of this intersection. I personally do not think of this intersection as a hazard when I drive.

I hope that you do not apply the one size fits all approach to this intersection and go against the wishes of the residents who do not want street lighting.

Thanks for your time,
Richard P. Schad Jr
1540 Goldpointe Drive
Fairbanks, AK
99709

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 8:21 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Chena Hot Springs/Nordale
Comment:

I heard mentioned in a news report about this issue, (probably on KUAC local news) that you could use street lights that directed the light downwards. I would love to have this type of light on all street lights so that I, who live in town, might have a better chance of seeing what is in the night sky.

This comment applies to all the intersections covered by this public comment period. I encourage the use of street lights only if these types can be used.

Sent at: 04/02/12 08:20 AM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2012 12:01 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

personal information removed cma

From: Sharon Allen
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

I agree with the folks that re concerned with light pollution. Please do not put additional lights at this intersection.

If any lights are installed, make sure that they are the most shielded type.

But The bottom line is that extra lights will net stop people from skidding on icy roads. More lights are not needed and I am against it.

Thank You

Sent at: 03/31/12 12:01 AM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2012 11:47 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

personal information removed cma

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

I do NOT support installing street lights at this intersection. I live in Goldstream valley and I regard this as an intrusion by DOT. There is not a problem. The statistics presented by DOT to justify this are laughable -- as others have pointed out, several of the accidents cited occurred during the summer and another occurred because the driver fell asleep. None of those would have been prevented by street lights. There is NOT a need for lights here.

Sent at: 03/31/12 11:47 AM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2012 4:55 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

personal information removed cha

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Chena Hot Springs/Nordale
Comment:

These lights seem like a good idea. I am big into looking at the night sky, and don't think that these lights will interfere.

Sent at: 03/31/12 04:54 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 2:24 PM
To: 'Carl and Delia Kretsinger'
Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA)
Subject: RE: Comment on the proposed Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements; project HHE-0002 (253) / 60264

Ms. Kretsinger-

Thank you for commenting on the upcoming highway safety improvement project. We will take these into consideration as we develop the project. Your other comments/suggestions will also be either passed along to the appropriate DOT section or evaluated further for appropriate action.

Colleen Ackiss

From: Carl and Delia Kretsinger [<mailto:carl.delia.krets@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 6:32 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA)
Subject: Comment on the proposed Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements; project HHE-0002 (253) / 60264

Dear Ms. Ackiss,

I was unable to attend your public meeting held at the Noel Wien Library on 29 March 2012 regarding the proposal to install street lights at the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream (Sheep Creek) roads. For the record I am against this proposal. The installation of lights at this intersection would detract from the general rural character of the area and introduce unwanted light pollution. In addition, the proposal is an unjustifiable expenditure of public funds during a time when these types of expenditures should be closely scrutinized.

I have lived out Murphy Dome Road for the past 23 years, traveling through the Murphy Dome - Goldstream intersection on average, two times per day. Over the 23 years of driving in this area I have witnessed possibly two instances in which vehicles have not been able to stop and have slid through the intersection – both during periods when the intersection was ice covered. I do not think better lighting would have prevented these drivers from sliding through the intersection as they were aware of the intersection and attempted to stop but were unable to do so due to the icy conditions.

During the time I have lived out Murphy Dome Road I have also observed a significant increase in the number of vehicles traveling the road but have also noticed that many of the drivers commonly exceed the posted speed limit by 10 mph or more - during all weather and road conditions. This has resulted in a large number of vehicle – moose collisions along Murphy Dome Road. If safety and reduction in the number of vehicle accidents is the primary goal of DOT then I would suggest a seasonal reduction in the speed limit along Murphy Dome Road in conjunction with increased enforcement of speed limits as a primary means to achieve this goal. More frequent

brushing of Right-of-Way limits would also reduce the attraction to moose to areas adjacent to the road during winter months. This may be a very effective means to reduce vehicle – moose interactions.

Another safety concern that may be worthy of your attention is that of a school bus stop approximately 0.5 mile from the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream roads. The bus stop is located in the middle of Murphy Dome Road near Ivan's Alley and Coyote Trail (heading toward the intersection with Goldstream Road). This school bus stop is just out of sight, over the crest of a hill and on a downhill slope as one travels toward the Goldstream intersection. During the winter months this portion of the road is ice covered and makes for a very bad situation as drivers in a rush to get to work come over the crest of this hill and are forced to try and stop on an ice covered hill. It is an accident waiting to happen. If your department wants to improve safety, providing a safe bus stop off the main road would be a very good step in the right direction.

Thanks for the chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Carl Kretsinger

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 4:46 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

personal information removed cma

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

I live there and I support bringing on the lights at the Goldstream Valley intersections - especially if it stops people from pulling over in or near an intersection to view the Northern Lights. These are high traffic areas and could really use the added light for safety. Plenty of adults and children out there walking and biking and crossing in the dark.

Sent at: 03/30/12 04:45 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

personal information removed cma

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

Flashing yellow lights should do as much or more to remind people of the upcoming intersection.

Sent at: 03/30/12 03:04 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 2:20 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: Spot Intersection Comment

Categories: file

personal information removed cma

From: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Intersection: Goldstream/Murphy
Comment:

Please no street lights. Most of us who live out here do so because we like not being in town. Don't bring the town to us! The lights aren't needed. There's enough light pollution already. Safety at that corner is speed related. Drivers need to slow down.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Kate Ripley

Sent at: 03/30/12 02:19 PM

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:59 PM
To: 'deborah lawton'
Subject: RE: Comment on lights at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome

Ms. Lawton-

Thank you for your comments. We will take them into consideration as we develop the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. In addition, we will add them to the public record.

Colleen Ackiss

From: deborah lawton [<mailto:deborealis@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Comment on lights at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome

To whom it may concern:

I have been a resident of Goldstream Valley for about 10 years and cannot understand why anyone sees a need for lighting at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome roads. I have driven through here in all kinds of weather for the past 10 years and never once has it crossed my mind that there is a need for lighting there. Compared to many other intersections in the borough, this particular one doesn't seem much cause for concern. I cannot think of anyone I know who regularly drives in Goldstream who thinks there is a problem. I urge you not to spend limited resources on an unneeded improvement that is opposed by so many of the residents who live in Goldstream.

Deb Lawton
1651 Willow Run

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Carolyn Parker [clparker@alaska.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 12:05 PM
To: Heim, Carl F (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT); Beck, Albert M L (DOT); Luiken, Marc A (DOT)
Cc: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Guttenberg, David (LAA)
Subject: Project 60264

Categories: file

Greetings! And thank you to DOT for having an open house last night giving all of us a chance to ask questions on this proposal.

I want to express my strong objections to the planned lighting project (Project 60264) for the intersection at Murphy Dome Road and Goldstream/Sheep Creek roads. As a 40+ year resident of Goldstream Valley, including a 20+ year resident at 5 Mile Murphy Dome Road, downstream from the proposed project, I estimate I have driven through this intersection over 10,000 times. The intersection is wide open, has very good visibility in all directions and in all seasons, and does not include any hills or blind spots on approach or entering. The problem there is primarily SPEED, sometimes augmented by DELAYED MAINTENANCE during the winter, when it is not uncommon for the intersection to not get plowed or graveled effectively for 2-4 days after a snowfall or ice storm, allowing a good hard ice pack to develop. Lighting will not change that and I believe the 'problem' can be dealt with in much less expensive and effective ways.

A larger reflective 2-arrow sign at the base (south end) of the intersection might be more visible than the current sign.

A large 'stop ahead' sign would be good on the Murphy Dome Road approach.

A 'reduced' speed limit sign further up Murphy Dome Road for approaching traffic might help, as is posted on the curve near Happy Siding and Ann's Greenhouse.

Rubble strips might be tolerable, they definitely get one's attention.

Quicker after-storm maintenance of the intersection would be appreciated.

But lighting will not solve the 'problem' and will not address speed.

Some of the most accident prone areas of Fairbanks are very well lit, yet this does not seem to make some drivers any more cautious and may even offer some a false sense of security.

I am not impressed with the 'statistics' that were pushed on us at the open house.

Statistics, as those of us who have used them, can be adjusted to show whatever you want them to. For us the explanation of 'proven results' vs. 'inconclusive results' has little weight unless one has the time to really look at all the data and the way it was gathered and interpreted. There have been more accidents along the length of Murphy Dome Road during the same study time period than at the intersection, most due to road conditions, moose, speed, drinking, or some combination of these. Just this last week there were two 2-car accidents within 1/2 of the intersection along Murphy Dome Road. That intersection is not inherently more dangerous than the rest of the road.

I hope DOT was serious when they stated they 'welcomed' our comments, though I felt our verbal comments were not well received by some of the representatives there and only met with 'robotic' responses. I sincerely hope you WILL consider the comments you have gotten and adjust your project accordingly.

Thank you. Carolyn Parker, 1698 Old John Trail, 5 Mile Murphy Dome Road. 455-4113

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:42 PM
To: 'Gary Holton'
Cc: Brown, Janet L (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Subject: RE: comments on Spot Intersection

Mr. Holton -

Thank you for providing comments with regards to this upcoming highway safety improvement project. We will take these into consideration as we further develop the project and will add them to the public record as well.

Colleen Ackiss

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Holton [<mailto:gary.holton@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: Brown, Janet L (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Subject: comments on Spot Intersection

Dear Ms. Ackiss,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed lighting project at the intersection Goldstream/Sheepcreek and Murphy Dome Roads. My comment form is attached as a pdf file. Please let me know if I also need to submit a hard copy.

I appreciate your efforts to improve safety in the Fairbanks area, but I hope that in this case you will also consider the comments from the neighborhood which would be most directly impacted by the proposed lights. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about my commentary.

Gary Holton

2935 Portillo Pl.
Fairbanks, AK 99709



COMMENT SHEET
Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection
Improvements
Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
 (If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)**

COMMENTS:

I would like to express my opposition to the installation of street lights at the intersection of Goldstream/Sheepcreek Rd. and Murphy Dome Rd.

The proposed lights would create significant light pollution in the area of the valley below my home, causing a direct negative impact to my family's quality of life and to the value of my home. One of the main factors in my choice to live in the Goldstream / Murphy Dome area in 2001 was the lack of artificial light. Other neighborhoods closer to town such as College Hills are more convenient, but they have views with significant light pollution obscuring the night sky.

The stated motivation for the lighting project is to reduce the types of crashes occurring at this intersection. So far DOT has not provided sufficient data demonstrating that the proposed lights would actually decrease crashes. In particular, no data have been providing showing that lack of lighting in this area is a significant contributing factor to crashes at this intersection. Moreover, DOT has not provided convincing evidence that the crash rate is significantly higher at this intersection than at similar intersections elsewhere in Fairbanks. If DOT is in possession of supporting data, I encourage those data be made publicly available.

I have never experienced a problem with lack of lighting at this intersection. It is a three-way intersection with wide shoulders and excellent visibility in all directions. Two directions are flat, and the third has a gentle downgrade along Murphy Dome Rd. to the stop sign, clearly visible from a distance. While there are many reasons for vehicle crashes in winter conditions, I do not believe lack of lighting is a significant contributing factor in this case.

Thank you for your consideration.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: gary.holton@gmail.com

NAME: Gary Holton

MAILING ADDRESS: 2935 Portillo Pl., Fairbanks, AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:26 PM
To: 'Patricia Del Vecchio'
Subject: RE: street lights on murphy dome

Ms. Del Vecchio –

Thank you for your comments and suggestions for the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvement Project. We will take these into consideration as we further develop this highway safety improvement project. In addition, we will include your comments and suggestion into the public record for the project.

Colleen Ackiss

From: Patricia Del Vecchio [<mailto:patricia.delvecchio@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 10:40 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: street lights on murphy dome

Dear Ms Ackiss,

I am writing because I am opposed to street lights at the corner of Murphy Dome and Goldstream/Sheep Creek. I am a resident of this area and use that intersection daily. I was unable to attend the meeting but I believe there are other solutions to improved safety at that intersection.

1. sand for icy roads
2. a left turn lane
3. shoulders on Murphy Dome
4. a bike path

I feel that all of the above points would be far more useful than lights - which would only help (if at all as I don't feel visibility to be a problem) for a few dark winter months. I do not think that DOT applies sand nearly enough or on a regular enough basis. I also think that if you have found increased accidents during the months of November thru February you have made a spurious correlation to darkness when in fact icy roads and lack of sanding are the real cause.

And while I am in favor of safe roads, I think lights would certainly degrade our rural quality of life that people who live on this end (the west end) of Goldstream Valley have chosen and value.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Patricia Del Vecchio
1580 Ivans Alley
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 474-0420
patricia.delvecchio@gamil.com



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

I strongly oppose the proposed lights at the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream/Sheep Creek Roads. I have lived on Murphy Dome Rd. for 35 years and have driven through there literally thousands of times and never seen an accident, day or night. There is excellent visibility from all directions. I've had an issue with "light pollution" (a phrase I've used for 30+ yrs.) from neighbors who have a vapor lamp on a 40-foot pole next door. Fortunately the new owners do not leave it on all night anymore. Friends in the next subdivision have the same issue with current neighbors. I do not believe the proposed lights for the intersection in question will enhance safety whatsoever and only serve as a nuisance to those who live nearby.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: mbecker@mosquitonet.com

NAME: Martin Becker

MAILING ADDRESS: 1455 Backside Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:13 PM
To: 'Betty Luebke'
Subject: RE: OPPOSED TO MURPHY DOME/GOLDSTREAM INTERSECTION LIGHTS

Ms. Luebke –

Thank you for your comments with regards to the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will take these into consideration as we further develop this highway safety improvement project and will add them to the public record as well.

Sincerely,
Colleen Ackiss

From: Betty Luebke [<mailto:bettyluebke@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: OPPOSED TO MURPHY DOME/GOLDSTREAM INTERSECTION LIGHTS

Colleen Ackiss,

I am vehemently opposed to street lights at Murphy Dome/Goldstream intersection. These proposed lights would light up the corner of our property. Lights would shine through my bedroom windows, and interfere with my Northern Lights viewing. If I wanted bright lights, I would move to the city. Keep my nights optimum for Northern Lights, star gazing and sleeping without interference. No Lights at Murphy Dome/Goldstream intersection is my vote.

Sincerely,
Betty Luebke

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:11 PM
To: 'Doug Toelle'
Subject: RE: No lights please

Mr. Toelle –

Thank you for your comments. We will take these into consideration as we develop this highway safety improvement project.

Colleen Ackiss

From: Doug Toelle [<mailto:doug@toelle.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:10 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: No lights please

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

I am not able to attend tonight's public testimony.

I have lived at 1470 Ivan's Alley off Murphy Dome for about 8 years. I cross the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream at least twice a day. Please do not add street lights to this corner. They are unnecessary, this is a rural road, gravel it, change the signage but streetlights should be a state priority. Please spend the money somewhere that matters.

Thank you,

Doug

Doug Toelle

w 907.479.7940
c 907.460.4720
h 907.455.4998

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:15 PM
To: Brown, Janet L (DOT); Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: Heim, Carl F (DOT)
Subject: FW: Intersection Lighting On Goldstream Road

Categories: file

fyi

From: Joanne Klumb [<mailto:joanneklumb@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:56 AM
To: Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Cc: David Klumb; Representative.David.Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us; Representative.Bob.Miller@legis.state.ak.us; Representative.Scott.Kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us; Representative.Tammy.Wilson@legis.state.ak.us; Representative.Steve.Thompson@legis.state.ak.us; Senator.John.Coghill@legis.state.ak.us; Senator.Joe.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us; Senator.Joe.Paskvan@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Intersection Lighting On Goldstream Road

Mr. Titus,

At this point I am not sure if my husband and I will be able to attend the meeting tonight at the Noel Wien Library to discuss the installation of intersection lighting on Goldstream Road. For the record we are both opposed to adding any more illumination to these intersections. Having been residents in the Goldstream area for over 30 years we find the logic behind these so-called improvements to be spurious and disingenuous. This is simply a situation where the Alaska Department of Transportation has applied and received Federal grant money and is now trying to justify these incredibly over-priced installations. No amount of State DOT explaining can justify this project because the need simply does not exist. Nor does it seem that DOT is even interested in what the local residents want and are only holding hearings because they have been forced to. Having been to these kind of meetings before I suspect that DOT will simply go through the motions and then force their projects on us whether we want them or not.

That is why I am also sending this message to our local Legislative members. Hopefully they can remind DOT that they are State employees who work for the citizens of Alaska. This is no more than a waste of money that could be used in other areas where a legitimate need exists.

So if you are at least pretending to listen to local residents please list both David and Joanne Klumb as being vehemently opposed to these unneeded "improvements".

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

David Klumb 457-6526
Joanne Klumb 457-6527



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.

(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

We do not need to spend money on a light at the Murphy Dome / Goldstream intersection. People need to just slow down and pay attention. I did not move here to have a view of a lighted intersection. There are a lot better uses for these funds.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: lissarhughes@gmail.com

NAME: Lissa Hughes

MAILING ADDRESS: 2920 Portlo Pl. Fbks, Ak.

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

99709



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.



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(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

I live at the intersection of murphy dome and sheep
Creek / Goldstream Rd. on Goldstream Crceek. these lights
would directly affect my property and my life. I live
in goldstream because of its rural feeling and don't
wish to have lights there.
I also think that the conclusions drawn from
the data are incorrect. If a person falls asleep
and goes through an intersection this does not support
a need for lights. If 3 of the seven crashes
were the result of people sliding through the intersection
why don't we apply some gravel and rumble strips?
This is an unnecessary cost and light pollution to the
region.
So I say rumble strips and gravel, eh?

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: mawinterstein@alaska.edu

NAME: Mark Winterstein

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 750701 Fairbanks 99775

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



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Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

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COMMENTS:

We do not need lights at Murphy Dome (P) intersection!! Most people go off the road because they are asleep and/or driving too fast. A light will not help that situation. There is enough light pollution in the area as it is.

We live in that area so we don't have to deal w/ lights. Maybe s.t. like a motion detector light warning people to slow down before they get to the light would help.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: jmacgobbs@yahoo.com

NAME: Judy Gotschalk

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 85091 Fairbanks AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

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COMMENTS:

No lighting needed or acceptable at the Murphy Dome / Goldstream / Sheep Ck intersection. Light is not the problem!

What is needed is better warning signs and passing devices to let drivers coming east on Murphy Dome know that they really do have to prepare to stop and consider the conditions.

What is needed is a left turn only lane section ~~at~~ the end of Sheep Ck so that drivers turning left onto Murphy Dome don't lock up the road for cars going on north to Goldstream.

Lights belong in Anchorage... leave our valley beautiful.

And put in a usable bike trail to separate out bikes.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: lien@blm.gov

NAME: Lindsey Lien

MAILING ADDRESS: PO 81377 Fairbanks AK

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COMMENTS:

No lights on Goldstream. Too much light pollution as it is.

Before lights try bigger signage, rumble strips.

BTW - Ivan's Alley is a horrible place for accidents and there should be guardrail on the hill leading to the crest of the hill west of Ivan's Alley on MDR.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: marjierichards

NAME: Marjie Richards

MAILING ADDRESS: 2046 Toboggan Lane Fbks AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



COMMENT SHEET

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COMMENTS:

No LIGHT AT MURPHY DOME RD

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

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COMMENTS:

I live on Cordes Rd near Ballaine and Goldstream. We do not want a bright light at Goldstream and Murphy Dome OR anywhere along Goldstream. These lights are not needed or wanted by the people in the area that drive through this area. It is very difficult to see traffic coming in darkness after being subjected to a bright light. We do not want these LIGHTS. There are more important projects that could be worked on

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: nharun@mosquitoact.com

NAME: NINA HARUN

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 83531 FAIRBANK, AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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COMMENTS:

Concerning Murphy dome / Goldstream Intersection

Five 2SDw are not going to mitigate issues w/
'crashes' that have nothing to do w/ proper illumination.
3 crashes during the day out of the 7 that have
occurred in <u>5</u> yrs! A better idea is to raise the
grade of that intersection so that there is more of
an incline on Murphy Dome arriving at Goldstream.
The sample pool is incredibly low to make such
significant decisions about how the crash rate is
higher than the state average.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: brady.gross@gmail.com

NAME: Brady Gross

MAILING ADDRESS: 3631 Emol Ave, FBX, AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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COMMENTS:

Goldstream - Murphy - Sheep Creek

① all incidents are folks going to fast or distracted for numerous reasons is alcohol sleep etc.

② street lights will not improve this statistic.

- Rumble strips as proposed is very good.
- flashing amber warning light may be of help to grab driver's attention!

* Worst case - use the lights with fixtures that do not shine light upwards.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: GCBerry@ATT.NET

NAME: George Berry

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 81590, Fairbanks AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



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COMMENTS:

I don't have a problem w/ plans* except I would like to see analysis of using LED instead of HP sodium. If not currently allowed by Alaska Design Standards, please provide me contact for DOT group / section that authors those standards.

* I defer to those who live closer to affected areas.

I'm interested to see how the rumble strips perform in winter, + how annoying they are to drivers

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: gary@chena.org

NAME: GARY NEWMAN

MAILING ADDRESS: 1083 ESRO, FAI. 99712

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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COMMENTS:

Intersections are where cars pull over and congregations of people interact. I believe more people will be ideling in cold weather in the lowest part of the valley where fog occurs due to extreme temperatures reduces visability, it would not be a good place to encourage people to gather. I live at this intersection over 30+ yrs. I am against this change

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: 455-6370

NAME: Brian Luebke

MAILING ADDRESS: 2872 Murphy Lane #1

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

No on MURPHY Dome / Goldstream Street Lights.
 Consider this ^{all} Area Spot Intersection
 (Improvements) individually instead
 of as one ^{all-inclusive} group project.
 For the Murphy Dome intersection
 CONSIDER metal rails with
 Reflective Lights like the excellent ones
 on Chena Hot Springs Road.
 Other intersection spots proposed are
 major Roadways with no homes very close.
 More accidents on this Road are due to
 the slope of the Road as people come down
 the steep Murphy Dome road. More warning signs
 of approaching ^{to slower speed limits around} the intersection would be
 more helpful.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: BettyLuebke@yahoo.com

NAME: Betty Luebke

MAILING ADDRESS: 2872 Murphy Dome Rd, Fairbanks, AK

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

99709



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

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COMMENTS:

- Please consider eliminating the Goldstream and Murphy dome lights. The intersection is clearly visible.
- The issue of light pollution is very important to me. I understand the lights are designed to allow for more light to be absorbed by the road yet at this particular intersection the flooding of water at the intersection will create a giant mirror.
- By lowering Murphy Dome so there is a up hill to Goldstream. allows for the ability for people going to fast to help decrease speed and fixing the water issue at the intersection

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Please call FlickerBlame2@hotmail.com (907) 479-0094
E-MAIL ADDRESS:

NAME: Michael Wutter

MAILING ADDRESS: 1466 Coyote TR. FBX AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

"THE"

The light @ (Murphy Dome Rd / Sheep Cr / Goldstream) is not going to help the problem of accidents. Speed is the main cause.

- use rumble strips before "THE" intersection
- level out the hill near Swan's Alley for better visibility.
- put in turning lanes at "THE" intersection

* install a dog crossing for better visibility when heading east across Sheep Creek.

* a flasher or yellow light

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: sbdailey@acsalaska.net

NAME: Sheila B Dailey

MAILING ADDRESS: 2749 Goldstream Rd

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

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COMMENTS:

I AM ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO THE ILLUMINATION AT THE GOODSTREAM-MURPHY DOME INTERSECTION. WE HAVE MAINTAINED LEASE AND NOW PURCHASE INTEREST IN A 40 ACRE PARCEL THAT WILL BE AFFECTED BY "LIGHT POLLUTION" FROM THE PROPOSED INTERSECTION LIGHTING. THIS IS PRIME PROPERTY INCLUDING THE BLUFF (1/4 MILE) THAT MURPHY DOME ROAD BISECTS. WHEN I DEVELOP A RESIDENCE ON THAT PORTION OF THE PROPERTY IT WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE LIGHTS. THERE IS NO PRACTICAL ALTERNATE ACCESS TO PROPERTIES SERVED BY MURPHY DOME ROAD, SO ANYONE APPROACHING THE INTERSECTION ALREADY KNOWS THEY HAVE TO STOP. INCREASED GRAVELING, RUMBLE STRIPS, AND BETTER SIGNAGE WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: alaska3@hotmail.com

NAME: CORBETT UPTON

MAILING ADDRESS: 119 GREENING WAY FAIRBANKS AK 99712

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COMMENTS:

I dont want light
at the bottom of
murphy dumb road.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: theodore Hilgert age 6

MAILING ADDRESS: Po Box 85 100 Fairbanks Ak 99708

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COMMENTS:

I live on coyote trail - how many know how coyote trail got it's name? I do!!!

I moved to ALASKA to escape the city Southern Calif after living in Germany for 3 yrs - could no longer stand how we in the US grow our communities - vs. Germany which has the same density as LA. !!!

For the same reason I live out of town and am glad I don't directly face the sickly pink glow of FBKS in the winter.

Myself & all the folks I've talked with ~~do~~ NOT want our beautiful dark nights all lighted up. I will consider this as an aggressive + invasive act by the Gov't. It was for safety that Hitler rounded up Jews!

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: K P Camp

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 85140 99708

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Please keep it dark - the way we like it.



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COMMENTS:

Thank you for improving safety in Fairbanks.
 My concern is for the proposed improvements at the Murphy Dome / Sleep Creek / Goldstream intersection. This intersection is in our viewshed (we live on the east side of Moose Mtn) and we do not want lights in our peaceful dark view unless they are the only option to improve safety. Instead, please try 1st:
 1) the other proposed improvements (step bar, rumble strip, increasing size of signs). We would also like you to reduce the speed limit on Murphy Dome road leading to this intersection to 40mph starting west of Ivan's Alley, and increase signage around Ivan's alley + Alderberry to alert drivers to these problematic intersections.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: ridgegurker@gci.net

NAME: Angela Matz + David Payer

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 73108 Fbnks 99707

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COMMENTS:

I have lived in Lincoln Creek Subd. for about 30 years. I drive through the Murphy Dome/Goldstream intersection about 10 times/week on average. In 30 years, the only type of accident I have seen at that intersection is a slide through the stop sign. I feel the solution to that problem is a stop sign warning sign (perhaps a flashing light). I strongly oppose placement of streetlights at that intersection. It would be a waste of money and would bring light pollution to our "neighborhood". Money would be better spent elsewhere.

We in Lincoln Creek value our dark nights. We want to say no to creeping, incremental urbanization.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: None

NAME: Birch Pavelstey

MAILING ADDRESS: 6063 Reconstruction Rd. Fai 99709

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COMMENTS:

- Re Goldstream - Murphy Dome - Sheepcreek Rd
- #1) Slow down the traffic!
- a) use rumble strips at Murphy Dome Rd approach - leave an open space for bikes
 - b) use flashing speed limit signs - like used on UAF campus.
 - c) Sloan's Alley is too dangerous slow down the traffic!
- #2) Additional overhead lights are wasted & and obnoxious to locals
- #3) Slow down the traffic! Use those obnoxious rumble strips. Locals will live with them in order to live!

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: rmbishop@ptialaska.net

NAME: Mary L. Bishop

MAILING ADDRESS: 1955 Gus's Grind 99709

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COMMENTS:

I own a business at the intersection of Gold Stream & Old Steese. I have witnessed two fatalities at this intersection, I would suggest a 4 way stop would greatly enhance safety here, please consider this low cost change.

Thank you

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: Anthony H Miller

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 71503 FRICS AK 99707

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COMMENTS:

I am opposed to the proposed lighting on the Sheep
Creek / Murphy Dome / Goldstream intersection. My
reasons are 1. light pollution in the outskirts
2. I do not believe the proposed lights
will have the desired effect

* If the money involved would
be much better spent in signage plus
a lowered speed limit ^{for} in this road complex
There are many road extraneous, lots of
commuters and a open highway speed
limit is totally inappropriate. My
neighbors all agree the speed limit should
be reduced. It could be spent on
"you are going X fast signs rather than
inappropriate expensive lights

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: mayogail@gmail.com

NAME: Gail Mayo

MAILING ADDRESS: 282 Hay Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709

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COMMENTS:

Old Stees + Chena Hot Springs Road
needs more warning lights -
a yellow light just past overpass
+ maybe red at the intersection -

lots of gravel trucks in winter

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: abyrd@mosquitonet.com

NAME: Ann E. Byrd

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 10084 (622 Old Stees Rd)

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COMMENTS:

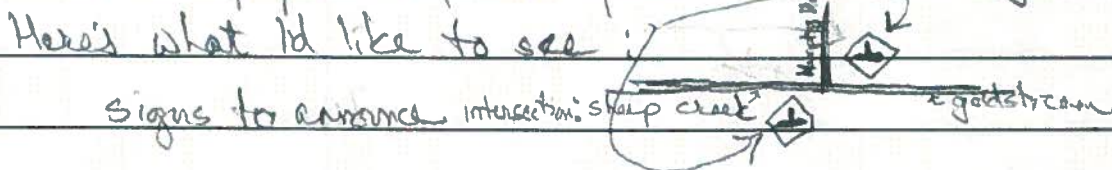
I've lived on Murphy Dome Rd 31 years.

My observations are that the main problem at the Murphy Dome - Goldstream intersection is on icy days when drivers slide in the intersections.

I DO NOT think lights would help this.

I DO NOT want to see lights at that intersection.

I DO want to see better signs. Why is there NO sign identifying the upcoming intersection on goldstream / sharp creek?



If you do want to spend money wisely - Please help us on Murphy dome & Ivan's Alley intersection. It is very bad now in day light because Alley cars don't know when to pull out safely. In dark it's ok because drivers can see head lights.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: cathy-curby@fws.gov

NAME: Catherine Curby

MAILING ADDRESS: 1158 Appomattox Fairbanks AK 99709

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of cars coming over the hill on Murphy Dome.



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COMMENTS:

GOLDSTREAM + MURPHY AONE
PUT ALL LIGHT POLE ON NORTH SIDE OF
THE ROAD IT IS UP HILL UPGRADE

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: CHIEF@CGFR.COM

NAME: JACK WILLIAMS FIRE CHIEF CHENA GOLDSTREAM FTR

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 80487 FAIRBANKS AK 99708

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COMMENTS:

I strongly oppose the installation of street lighting at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome Roads. I have lived in the Waldheim Drive/Windy Creek area north of the Goldstream General Store since 1985. I drive through this intersection nearly every day.

One of the most important values of the Goldstream Valley to me is its rural and still largely natural environment. The absence of light pollution is an essential part of my decision to live here. On winter nights, one can get amazing views of the northern lights from nearly anywhere in the valley, unlike the more urban parts of Fairbanks. Other sky-watching opportunities that benefit from the lack of artificial light include the various phases of the moon, planets, lunar eclipses and rare objects such as comets.

The intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome Roads can be challenging under icy conditions. Most accidents occur when people coming off of Murphy Dome Road are unable to stop and slide into the ditch on the other side of Goldstream Road. I cannot recall hearing of any accidents there that involved serious injuries or deaths.

A far simpler and less objectionable solution would be additional signage, including one on Murphy Dome Road that says "Caution – STOP sign 500 feet" or something to that effect, and "Intersection may be icy". A larger, more reflective barrier with directional arrows at the "T" could be a highly effective visual cue that drivers could see even as they approach the stop sign.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

You can identify me by name but please do not release my contact information to the public.

Additional comments at library -- add gravel when it's icy. Those of us who live here know that most accidents are caused by over speed when it's icy. Please give us some low-tech solutions. More light won't help the icy situation.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: jjodwalis@acsalaska.net

NAME: Lisa Jodwalis

MAILING ADDRESS: 1749 Gillette St. Fairbanks, AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

Subject: Murphy Dome Road safety concern
From: david daum (david_daum@yahoo.com)
To: mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us;
Cc: Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us; colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov;
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 4:21 PM

Major Hopkins: I'm not sure if it is good or bad timing, but two more accidents happened on Murphy Dome Road in the last week while the Goldstream Road safety/construction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. I have lived on Ivans Alley for over 30 years and have seen major growth in both residential housing (mostly from Borough sold lands), development of a ski area, and increased traffic through the years. I personally know of 8 major vehicle accidents that have happened in the last 0.9 miles of Murphy Dome, with 3 involving a school bus (one of the accidents last week). None of these have occurred near the intersection with Goldstream/Sheep Creek and all happened during daylight. In my opinion, that intersection is not a safety concern that lighting will fix. The problem is and has been with Murphy Dome Road. The speed limit needs to be reduced to 40 MPH like on Ballaine Road where there are a lot of hidden interestions with subdivision roads. DOT will not act on my request until the major or Troopers request a study. I have asked the Troopers twice and both times they said talk to the major. So this is my attempt. I'm not sure if funds from the Goldstream Road reconstruction can be used for this purpose but, in my mind, it is all related. In any case, I am requesting that you initiate DOT to study the last 1.0 mile of Murphy Dome Road for safety issues, including reducing the posted speed limit to 40 MPH. Ideally, Murphy Dome needs to be redesigned to accommodate the ever increasing traffic load, but in the mean time a speed limit reduction is the simplest and most cost effective solution. I know you live in the area, but I hope this will not influence your decision not to act for reasons of perceived favoritism, because that is not the case.

Sincerely,
David Daum
1540 Ivans Alley
Fairbanks, AK 99709



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

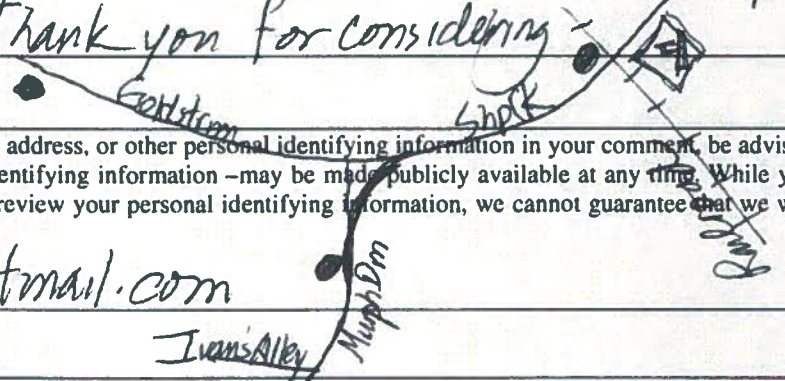
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COMMENTS:

Please consider, prior to installing Lighting at the intersection of Goldstream & Murphy Dome Roads, other methods to improve safety such as: a sign on west-bound Goldstream, east-bound Sheep Creek, and on Murphy Dome near Ivans Alley indicating an upcoming "T" intersection (see map below). ^{Put signs before the curve in the road} The next step might be a short, vertical post with a single flashing red light at the starred location, (see map below) and flashing yellow light at the circled locations below. ~~Rumble~~ Rumble strips down the center line of these roads would also help. Noisy rumble strips are less of a concern than increasing light pollution to me, as a resident of the area for over 16 years. People move to the area to live AWAY from the infrastructure. Thank you for considering this input!



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E-MAIL ADDRESS: jj_reed@hotmail.com

NAME: Jennifer Reed

MAILING ADDRESS: 1389 Richard Berry Dr. Fairbanks, AK 99709

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COMMENTS:

I have lived on Triplehorn Lane for over 40 years so I know the Murphy Lane / Goldstream intersection very well. In all that time I never thought of this as a particularly dangerous intersection. Assuming your data are correct, perhaps some changes are needed. My objection is to the necessity of the lights - the other traffic controls seem like a good idea - and are not very expensive or intrusive. The lights would be intrusive and their number seems excessive.

Night lighting in general has become excessive. You probably have seen photos of the US and the whole planet at night. Too much light pollution and an enormous cost of electricity. I don't like my neighborhood so illuminated at night and I don't want to bear the cost

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: dmtriplehorn@alaska.edu

NAME: Don Triplehorn

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 80826 Fbks 99708

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COMMENTS:

BY NO MEANS AM I INFAVOR OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT @ MURPHY DOME AND GOLDSTREAM RD. I LIVE AT THE END OF PORTILLO PLACE ON MOOSE MOUNTAIN RD. I HAVE LARGE SOUTH FACING WINDOWS AND THIS WILL RUIN THE VIEW & FEEL OF MY HOME. IF I WANTED LIGHT POSITION RIGHT OUTSIDE MY HOME, I WOULD MOVE TO LAS VEGAS. THE FACT THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY 7 ACCIDENTS OVER 5 YEARS AND 3 OF THEM WERE DURING THE DAY, THIS IS A COMPLETE SHAM. I COULD UNDERSTAND IF THERE HAVE BEEN FATALITIES, BUT THERE HAVEN'T BEEN. I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MORE SIGNAGE, MAYBE EVEN A SHIELDED FLASHING LIGHT. WHY DONT YOU RAISE THE ROAD GRADE OF GOLDSTREAM RD SO WHEN YOU COME UP TO THE INTERSECTION ON MURPHY DOME, IF YOU SLIDE TOWARDS THE INTERSECTION GRAVITY IS ON YOUR SIDE & WOULD SLOW THE SLIDE. ALSO BY PUTTING (5) LIGHT POLES UP, YOU ARE CREATING (5) MORE OBJECTS TO POTENTIALLY CRASH INTO CAUSING DAMAGE TO BOTH A POLE →

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: omelette333@yahoo.com

NAME: Ryan Hughes

MAILING ADDRESS: 2920 PORTILLO PLACE FBKS 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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AND A VEHICLE. THEN THERE IS THE COST TO SUPPLY POWER TO THE LIGHT EVERY MONTH, THUS BURNING MORE COAL, THUS CREATING MORE PM 2.5 PROBLEMS. THERE ARE FAR BETTER USES FOR OUR TAX DOLLARS, OUR COUNTRY IS BROKE & HERE WE ARE WASTING IT ON FRIVOLOUS PROJECTS THAT DO NOT NEED TO BE DONE!! THE AREA OF MURPHY DOME BY IVAN'S AULEY IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN THIS INTERSECTION. THERE ARE FAR MORE CARS THAT GO OFF THE ROAD AT THE INTERSECTION OF MOOSE MOUNTAIN RD & SPINACH CREEK THAN THIS INTERSECTION. PLEASE, PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS PROJECT. YOU WILL RUIN GOLDSTREAM VALLEY!! YOU MAY NOT LIVE HERE, YOU MAY NOT CARE BUT WE DO!!



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

A street light at the Murphy Dome/Goldstream/Sheepcreek intersection will not solve the problem of sliding through the intersection. Three possible fixes are:

1) Redesign the end of Murphy Dome to increase the upward slope where the road meets Goldstream/Sheepcreek

2) Have State Troopers randomly ticket drivers who don't stop at the stop sign

3) Raise Goldstream/Sheepcreek road in the vicinity of Murphy Dome so that road has more of an upward incline. Given the annual overflow problem at that intersection

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: dis@mesquite.net.com

NAME: Herb Melchior

MAILING ADDRESS: 2721 Horseshoe Trl, FBAS, AK 99709

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This might be the better solution.

We have lived in the area since 1974. In addition, we have stood at the intersection with Vote Today Signs on election days and have direct observation of driver behavior at that intersection



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COMMENTS: Re: Murphy Dome Rd / Goldstream

The problem is not lights. The problem is Speed!!
Folks don't stop at the stop sign. If they slide through, part of the problem is the delay in plowing and graveling after a snow storm.
Puddle strips will help but NO LIGHTS

We ^{live} live out there in Goldstream for almost 40 years and have seen the light creep more + more from town. We chose to live out of town so we can see the stars and aurora. If you put lights on this corner - we will no longer have this joy of life. It's getting harder as it is. Even with directed lights, reflections off the snow will cause too much light and hinder our star and aurora viewing. Quality of life is important to us →

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: hpm@mosquitonet.com

NAME: Hilda Melchior

MAILING ADDRESS: 2721 Horsetail Trail, Fbk 99709

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but it seems statistics are more important to DOT.
As to types of accidents:

Rear End - lights won't change this
Hitting a Moose - this happens in places with
lights

Speeding - lights won't change this.

What will help -

- more sending and prompt processing
- troopers to randomly ticket the folks that don't stop at the intersection
- rumble strips
- speed bumps.



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COMMENTS:

proposed

The light @ Murphy Dome Rd intersection is an abomination. Our taxpayer \$\$\$ wasted! Why not install signage + rumble strips first to provide warning of the intersection. Now there is no warning of the intersection. Signs would be much less expensive. The type of accidents that have happened at that intersection are not serious (ie, no deaths; your category). Perhaps then more \$\$\$ could be spent on the places where serious accidents have recently happened, for instance at the intersection of Ivan's Alley, just up Murphy Dome Rd. a little ways. Why not put the \$\$\$ where it's needed?

Perhaps, too, if as I've heard this is

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: Ann Wood Obrien

MAILING ADDRESS: 1576 N. Rader Dr, Fbks AK 99709

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over

\$\$\$ that needs to be spent now, the process of budgeting \$\$\$ should be modified. This may help eliminate these boondoggles in the future & encourage the \$\$\$ to be used where more needed.

I sincerely hope these comments are considered seriously. So often, as I know from working in the public sector, public comment is ignored.

Another approach could be to slow the traffic down & then enforce it, put a Trooper there, periodically & issue citations to folks who go too fast. A light rally will not address the problem. The intersection is already very visible.

The value of the dark sky & the ability to see the aurora for the immediate residents is also an issue. Those bright lights are obnoxious. We already have too much light pollution.

Thank you.



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COMMENTS:

I OWN THE PARCEL THAT IS IN CUT SECTION, BISECTED BY MURPHY DOME RD. AT APPROX. 0.7 MILE NDR. THE IVANS ALLEY / MURPHY DOME ROAD "T" INTERSECTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A HIGH-HAZARD AREA FOR TRAFFIC THAT EXITS IVANS ALLEY HEADING TOWARDS GOLDSTREAM ROAD. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO SIGHT DISTANCE TO THE WEST AND TRAFFIC ^{ON MURPHY DOME} (EVEN THOUGH HAZARD SIGNS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED) DOES NOT APPEAR TO SLOW DOWN, EVEN THOUGH IT IS A KNOWN HAZARD. (SIMILAR TO A SCHOOL XING SIGNAL)

I PROPOSE AN AMBER OR RED SIGNAL BE INSTALLED AT THE IVANS ALLEY / MURPHY DOME ROAD INTERSECTION →

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: alaska03@hotmail.com

NAME: CORBETT UPTON

MAILING ADDRESS: 119 GRUENING WAY FAIRBANKS AK

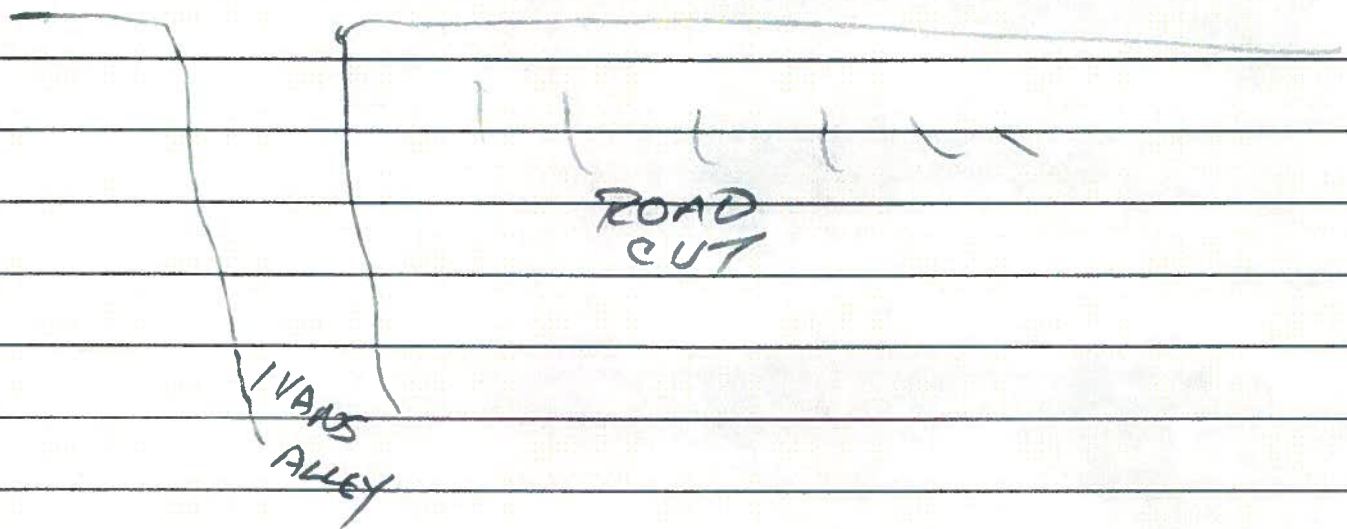
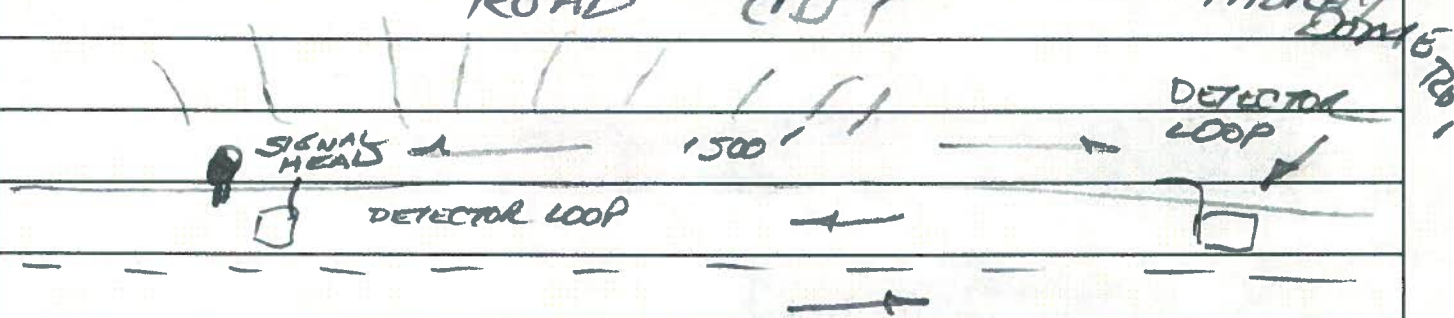
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997R

FACING IVANS ALLEY, WITH A DETECTOR LOOP INSTALLED 345' WEST OF THE INTERSECTION. TRAFFIC EASTBOUND ON MURPHY DOME RD. WOULD TRIGGER THE LOOP AND A SECOND LOOP WOULD CANCEL THE SIGNAL ONCE TRAFFIC IS THROUGH THE INTERSECTION.

THE SIGNAL WOULD TURN RED, ALERTING IVANS ALLEY TRAFFIC OF APPROACHING TRAFFIC ON ROAD CUT





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COMMENTS:

It's a waste of \$300,000

almost everybody exceeds the speed limit

1. I do NOT believe DOT will even consider comments - They have made up their mind & don't care what folks think
2. The Minnesota study that is cited as "proving" lights reduce accidents is statistically invalid. The best their data shows is that lights make NO difference.
3. DOT est is \$300,000 for street light at that intersection - The MINN study says \$1500-\$3000 to install 2 lights at isolated location. Is this true? Why is it 100X more expensive in Alaska.
4. Instead of lights - enlarge intersection - put a left turn lane on Sheep Creek Ave Traffic turning L to Murphy Dome Rd - Sort of what's on Farmers loop / Buller's
5. The ICE + SPEED are causes of the accidents. Have any of the drivers causing accidents blamed the dark (except when a moose suddenly appears + they cross anywhere - lower speed limits.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: saliss@alaska.net

NAME: Shirley Liss

MAILING ADDRESS: 2749 Goldstream (1/2 mi E of Murphy Dome

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6. It isn't really dark in winter - headlights provide adequate warning of approaching vehicles. The darkest time is sept & its not usually ice then.
7. Lights will not reduce drunk driving - a source of accidents.
8. Murphy Dome is downhill when it hits Goldstream & lights will not change that - People slide through.
9. The people who live in Goldstream really DO know more about conditions & they should be listened to.
10. I'm mostly concerned about Goldstream/M.D. Road but know folks near Ballane don't need more lights either. And I've e-mailed Willem & Pat other into previously.
11. At the summer meeting, there were no lights mentioned for the project. But folks wanted a "off the roadway" bike path & were told funds were available. How about using the 1M or so to start that project - something they want in exchange for what they don't.
12. Goldstream Old Steese should have a 4-way stop.
13. Goldstream ^{1M} 1/2 mi E always falls apart. Longitudinal cracks develop which cause speeding cars to go out of control. Also a bad spot E of Miller Hill Ext. & many spots E of Willow Run.



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COMMENTS:

First off, I ~~would~~ hope it was observed that the majority of the people that came tonight were at the Murphy Dome / Goldstream stand / map. The data presented showed that there were seven crashes in four years - of those seven, two were during the day and one was involving a moose. So, I am being told that because there have been five ^{at night} accidents in a four year span, that's reason to put street lights up. I know there are more places, including well lit, traffic lights, etc. that have had more than 5 accidents in a 4 year span. This shows lights don't help. And are you going to go put lights in all of those places? I was told over and over this evening that the lights are going in this area because the crashes are above the state average. What factors are considered in these other places in the state. Where is the data collected from (what areas?) - villages with low traffic / few roads? I don't think that approximately 1 crash a year is need for a lights to be put up. I have lived on Murphy →

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: thefamily8@aol.com

NAME: Christina Puleo

MAILING ADDRESS: 3945-A Murphy Dome Rd

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Dome Rd for 5 yrs and I have never seen an accident at this intersection. I highly doubt that putting lights here is going to prevent crashes from happening. The information I was given tonight was that the crashes are people coming from Murphy Dome Rd to Goldstream. These people know there is a stop sign, that ^{the} road meets another road, that they have to stop, that the road is probably slick right there. How is putting lights up going to help people that drive like idiots, ~~don't~~ and don't slow down or drive cautiously? Why don't troopers patrol that area? If they ~~be~~ gave people tickets for running a stop sign or speeding, I'm sure that would help. What about a flashing yellow light? The people that live in this area live there because it is out of town, away from the light pollution, away from town. We don't want street lights, we don't want light pollution. This area is one of the best areas to view the northern lights. This is our home, this ~~is~~ is where we go every night to escape from our jobs and the rest of society. This is our resting place, we pay to live where we live, and we want it the way it is. Please don't take this away from us. Please don't add light pollution to our get-away, to ~~the~~ ^{the} place we call our home. Especially for something that isn't going to solve this "problem", which is so minute. Lighting is not the issue here, speeding and people that drive aggressively ~~and~~ seem to be what are causing these few crashes.



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COMMENTS:

T Line near the Murphy Dome / Goldstream Valley Rd intersection + pass through 2x/day.

Visibility at this intersection is excellent in all directions. Please look at the nature of the accidents that have happened before assuming that lighting will help. I have alternate suggestions:

- better signage on roadways approaching intersection
- widening the roads w/ improved shoulders for pedestrian safety
- enhanced road maintenance during icy conditions
- turning lane on Goldstream Valley Rd
- Speed zone on Murphy Dome Rd (over)

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: ridge lurker @ gci.net

NAME: DAVID PAYER

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 73108, FAIRBANKS, AK 99707

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Approaching intersection

- improve situation at Ivan's Alley -
Outlet is close to crest of hill & Dangerous.

& live in this neighborhood, use these
roads, and urge you to please NOT
install street lights at the corner of
Murphy Dome & Goldstream Valley Rds.
Try these other safety suggestions
first, please.

Thank you,





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COMMENTS:

I HAVE LIVED IN THE AREA SINCE 1978 AND ACCESS MY HOME
 E. Th from Murphy Down Rd or Goldstream via Every Road AND
 HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE Murphy Down Rd / Sharp Creek Rd /
 Goldstream Rd INTERSECTION VERY OFTEN. THERE IS GOOD
 VISIBILITY OF THE INTERSECTION FROM ALL THREE APPROACHES.
 AT LEAST SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS EVEN IN BAD WEATHER.
 IN THE 34 YEARS THAT I HAVE LIVED IN THE AREA, THE MAIN
 PROBLEM I HAVE OBSERVED IS THAT OF VEHICLES COMING FROM
 MURPHY DOME ROAD AT TOO HIGH SPEED AND ARE UNABLE TO STOP
 AT AN OFTEN ICY INTERSECTION WHICH LEADS THEM TO SLIDE
 THROUGH THE INTERSECTION AND END UP IN THE WETLANDS AREA
 ON SOUTH SIDE OF GOLDSTREAM ROAD OR OFF ON THE WEST
 SIDE OF MURPHY DOME ROAD. IT IS MY OBSERVATION THAT
 VISIBILITY IS NOT THE PROBLEM BUT RATHER EXCESSIVE
 SPEED. OVER TO OTHER SIDE

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: AECHER@ALASKA.NET

NAME: WILLIAM McANIS

MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 81214 FAIRBANKS, AK 99708

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My suggestion is put warning lights which are hooded and directional facing toward oncoming traffic. Amber lights for Goldstream and Sheep Creek Roads and Red for Murphy Dome Road. This serves a dual purpose of warning traffic of an intersection and stop sign as well as not flooding the area with industrial type lighting found more often on major divided highway intersections.

I find it odd that DOT is not proposing similar lighting for the Goldstream/Ballaine intersection which has a high volume of traffic as well as an adjacent restaurant with a bar. Nor is any lighting proposed for Sheep Creek/Ester Dome Road intersection which has much poorer visibility, plus a couple of business establishments.

The accident data for the Murphy Dome intersection doesn't seem to justify the illumination proposal which most residents do not want.

If you really want to improve the safety of Murphy Dome Road intersection, put in a left turn lane so cars turning left from Sheep Creek Road onto Murphy Dome Rd will not be illegally passed on the right hand's shoulder at 40-55 mph. I have had this unsettling experience on several occasions. That is an accident waiting to happen.



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COMMENTS:

I am a resident of the area near the proposed project to add lighting to the Goldstream/Murphy Dome RD intersection. I oppose the project. My experience has been the only problem with the intersection is that it is often extremely icy. I am not convinced that lighting will ~~improve~~ reduce the accident rate. The data show that two accidents occurred during the day on a dry surface. Four of the accidents occurred on a road surface that was icy. While it may be true that lighting reduces accidents in general, the presenter had no evidence the lighting was effective in reducing crashes on icy surfaces. Unless the data show otherwise, it is not worth introducing more light pollution to the area (over)

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: hilmar_maier@gmail.com

NAME: Hilmar Maier

MAILING ADDRESS: 2140 Twin Flower DR, Fairbanks, AK 99709

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for a measure that will very likely NOT
result in reduced accidents.



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COMMENTS:

Accident data is suspect; all accidents occur on ice, no all-ice data to compare. No fatalities, minor injuries only!

Lights are expensive - we don't want to pay with our federal tax dollars for construction, we don't want to pay with our Mil rates for the electricity, we don't want to pay for maintenance.

The lights will shine in my bedroom window. They will dim the moon, stars, ^{and} northern lights which I currently enjoy. Lights will diminish my property values: "the beautiful velvet darkness of winter."

I moved out of town to enjoy a lifestyle that does not include sidewalks streetlights. Right now it's a country road I want to keep it that way. I don't want lights!

Rumble strips are noisy they only work in summer and are also unnecessary.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: wcamber@gmail.com

NAME: Wendy Camber

MAILING ADDRESS: 2935 Portillo Pl Fairbanks AK 99709

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Many bicyclists use Sheep Creek and Goldstream roads. The current bicycle path is great for kids but adults and road bikes use the roads. Spend hard earned Federal State and Borough money improving bike transportation routes.

Please cancel the lighting planned for Sheep Creek / Goldstream / Murphy Dome intersection. It's expensive, unnecessary and unwanted by the majority of property owners and commuters from this area of Fairbanks!

I believe the worst problem with this intersection is ice not darkness. You could raise the road grade to make sliding from Murphy Dome Rd on to Sheep Creek Road less likely.

Please be very careful with accident statistics. What makes sense in Minnesota may not make sense in Rural Goldstream Valley.

Don't wreck our viewscape with lights!



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COMMENTS:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTING AT THE INTERSECTIONS - ESPECIALLY SHEEP CREEK / MURPHY DOME RD INTERSECTION. THIS ACTION WILL CAUSE UNSIGHTLY NIGHTTIME LIGHT POLLUTION THAT WILL RUIN/NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE HIGH QUALITY NIGHTS W/ STARS / MOONLIGHT & AURORA THAT WE HAVE NOW. I SKI / JOE / MUSH / WALK AT NIGHT DURING THE WINTERS SOLELY BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON - AND ADDING TO LIGHT POLLUTION WILL OVER TIME RENDER THAT & OTHER ~~BE~~ NATURAL NIGHT VIEWING IMPOSSIBLE. ITS WHY I LIVE IN THE VALLEY. YOU PROPOSE TO DO THIS W/OUT ANY CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT THIS WILL MITIGATE ACCIDENTS - ESPECIALLY SINCE A MAJORITY OF ACCIDENTS INCLUDING 4 OF 7 FATALITIES OCCURED NOT AT THAT INTERSECTION - AND NOT DUE TO POOR →

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: mbacsujlaky@acsalaska.net

NAME: Mara Bacujlaky

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 80306 FBKS 99708

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LIGHTING. IN FACT - THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO ~~4~~ OR CAUSED THE FATALITIES WERE a) EXCESSIVE SPEEDS, DUI & FROST HEAVES.

I RUN/BIKE/WALK ALL YEAR ALONG GOLDSTREAM FROM WATERFORD TO AS FAR AS MURPHY DOME ROAD. I HAVE HAD AT LEAST 2 CLOSE CALLS BECAUSE SOMEONE HIT FROST HEAVES AT EXCESSIVE SPEED & NEARLY LOST CONTROL. I ROUTINELY SEE PEOPLE DRIVING AT RATES OF SPEED AND/OR UNSAFELY PASSING ON GOLDSTREAM. I ALSO DRIVE THAT ROAD (INCLUDING SHEEP CREEK) AND I DRIVE IT AT SPEEDS BETWEEN 40 & 50 MPH - DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS.

I AM ROUTINELY PASSED BY MOTORISTS FLYING ALONG AT SPEEDS > 65 MPH. THAT IS FAR TOO HIGH A SPEED FOR SUCH A FROST-HEAVED ROAD.

THE MONEY WOULD BE FAR BETTER SPENT W/ GREATER OVER ALL SAFETY EFFECT IF

a) YOU USED THE MONEY TO PUT IN BIKE LANES AND

b) TROOPERS WOULD ACTUALLY ENFORCE SPEED LIMITS.



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COMMENTS:

Thanks for listening! I oppose this lighting for the following reasons (1) \$300,000 is too expensive - some it's federal money, but it's our tax money. Round tree stump, vigilant grading, or warning signs of "STOP AHEAD" would do the job better - the overflow at the intersection of MD/GSA/SC Road ~~would~~ may make maintenance more expensive in the future.

(2) Greater safety needs our plan, better use of \$\$\$ for example - I came East of Happy Crossing and the blind approach to Irving Jack's from east - Lights is not the answer, but an enforced speed limit

(3) This was a "Topdown" decision - if residents who live here + use this intersection regularly feel their head lights are inadequate to travelers, we would be asking for lights, not asking for NO lights and (4) my trust reason is I see this as the beginning of more + more lights

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: MShields@mosquito.net.com

NAME: Mary Shields

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 80901 - Fairbanks, AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

more + more light pollution. ^{*} If one were returning home to the darkness - escaping the city lights, the sickly orange glow of Fairbanks' lights already steals some of our dark sky.

The humbling winter night sky is one of the reasons I've made my home in Goldstream Valley for the past 45 years.

In conclusion, I quote the winter orion.

"Take me to the places on the earth that teach me ^{clear} ~~today~~ the places where you can risk letting the world break your heart.

and I'll take you to the places where the earth beneath my feet and the stars overhead make my heart whole again and again."

Goldstream valley, my home, is a place where the stars make my heart whole again and again.

Please respect our home. We live there because we love the darkness.

Mary Mullen

455-4469

If you can't read this + I'll translate.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.

(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

Regarding Goldstream - Murphy Dome Rd. intersection:

① I oppose the proposed street lights because this is an "out-of-town" area and the intersection is adjacent to the natural undeveloped Goldstream Valley preserved area. This means there is relatively little light pollution. I recently pulled off the road here, on my way home, and turned off my headlights to watch a beautiful aurora display. When I moved to the Moose Mountain area, I never expected to have street lights so nearby. ~~I never expected~~ ^(to have urban street lights out there)

② The winter accidents appear to be caused by drivers going too fast for an intersection that has a ~~steep~~ downhill approach on Murphy Dome Rd. A better solution would be to have a more obvious sign warning drivers about

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: bpalaska@hotmail.com

NAME: Barbara Powell

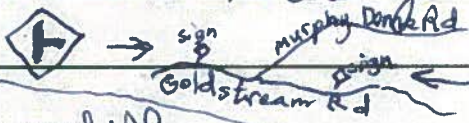
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 81254, Fairbanks, AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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the approaching stop sign PLUS a sign for winter warning about "ICY" conditions. A series of street lights on Goldstream Rd. will not solve the problem of drivers approaching the stop sign too fast. The money would be better spent on getting gravel out there more often.

③ Rather than putting up street lights, I would rather see a yellow intersection-warning sign on Goldstream Rd. on both sides of the

~~at~~ the intersection, i.e. 

④A 5 property damage only + 2 minor injury accidents seems minor - 4 street lights is overkill.

④B Apparently one accident was a vehicle-moose collision, but moose can suddenly pop out of the bushes even in daylight, so lights will not ~~help~~ necessarily prevent that type of accident.

⑤ The slope leading to the stop sign at Murphy Dome Rd. could be greatly ameliorated by raising Goldstream Rd. slightly at that point. Perhaps this would also help with the overflow on the north side of Goldstream Rd. at that point.

⑥ Lights will not solve the causes of the accidents at this intersection.

⑦ Overall, I prefer, and it would be much cheaper, to install more signs and provide more gravel.

~~The public~~ The residents using the intersection and skiers + dog mushers using trails in Goldstream Valley at night will ~~be~~ appreciate ~~it~~ it if DOT doesn't add to light pollution.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

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Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

I am opposed to a streetlight at the corner of Murphy Dome Rd + Goldstream. There are fewer + fewer areas free of light pollution here. ^{+ we should preserve the ones we have}

There are some really nice trails / ice skating areas near this corner + the aurora viewing is wonderful.

I drive this route every day and have never felt like visibility was a problem. There is a long view~~s~~ looking both directions. icy conditions are a far more serious hazard + streetlight is just ~~an~~ something to slide into

Further, I suspect opposition is strong enough that ^{a light} ~~it~~ will be shot out faster than it can be fixed.

I just looked at the accident statistics + I don't think ^{that few} accidents in 5 years justifies this. Most →

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: linda defoliant@gmail.com

NAME: Linda DeFoliant

MAILING ADDRESS: 3908 Murphy Dome Rd.

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

of them were caused by ice/skidding. I'd rather see the money spent on increased gravel on intersection. Or spend the money to extend the bike path on Sheep Cr - this would be met with huge public approval.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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(If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

I have lived in Goldstream valley since 2005 + off goldpointe Drive - close to intersection of Ballaine + Goldstream Rd.

Over the years I've noted more speeding on Ballaine + Goldstream Roads, to include my neighbors and or visitors speeding up Cordes Road. I'm more concerned about the speed of drives and potential accidents that may incur because of speeding + do not see that lighting up particular intersections in the valley where visibility is clear would curtail my concern of speeding, and or lessen accidents.

I am not in agreement or convinced that lighting in particular on/at Murphy One is needed. Light pollution is of concern. We live in the valley + wnt of town for the quiet - unlit streets + yes to go out into the night to view the skies. I am not sure what would convince me of the need for lighting for safety (crash) reduction purposes. ^{I will keep myself informed}

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: linette@acsalaska.net

NAME: Linette Torres

MAILING ADDRESS: 1540 Goldpointe Drive FBK AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

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over →

Find some other method to address the issue; more "texture" on Road for friction + for noise; Road grade; maintenance of Road; more gravel in winter + snow + ice conditions.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

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Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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COMMENTS:

We do not want this!

As residents of Goldstream Valley who live on Alderberry Trail off of Murphy Dome, we are strongly opposed to the placement of those street lights. We can see the train lights from our home - the light enters into our living room and bedrooms - the addition of those lights would create light pollution that would enter our home. We chose to live in the Goldstream area because we wanted to be able to see stars and to see the northern lights - for the natural beauty of the night sky that can be seen when free from light pollution. ~~that living in a city~~

We feel that a turning lane would be a more logical and safe alternative to installing street lights, as well as better

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: Ksk.hilpert@gmail.com

NAME: Katherine Hilpert

MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 85100 Fairbanks, AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

signs indicating the intersection.

TURNING LANE!!

is the best answer = safest solution!

Thank you for listening!



COMMENT SHEET

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Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.



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COMMENTS:

I oppose the installation of STREET
Lights @ Murphy Dome/sheep CREEK.

I also oppose the installation of STREET
Lights @ Nordale/CHSR.

These Lights will be the only lighted
AREAS in miles of DARK ROADS. IN THE
WINTER the Lights will CAUSE GLARE
& Light POLLUTION. MOTORISTS will ADJUST
their vision in these short STRETCHES
of ROAD & THEN DRIVE INTO UNLIGHTED
AREAS:

THESE Lights will also CAUSE considerable
Light POLLUTION where very little

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: John Brown

MAILING ADDRESS: Box 81881 FAI AK 99708

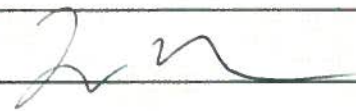
For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

EXISTS NOW. This will erode the RURAL NATURE of these AREAS ~~AS~~ well ~~AS~~ AND RUIN Aurora Viewing AND other NIGHT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

I also oppose Rumble STRIPS AT ALL INTERSECTIONS. IN the WINTER these FEATURES CAUSE VEHICLES TO DROP ACCUMULATED SNOW & will MAKE the INTERSECTIONS LESS SAFE. These AREAS will ALSO be MORE difficult TO CLEAN the SNOW & ICE from AS the STRIPS CAUSE SNOW PLOWS & BLADES TO RIDE OVER ACCUMULATED SNOW.

SPEND this MONEY CLEARING Right of ways TO AVOID MOOSE kills ALONG the ROADS.





COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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COMMENTS:

I do not think that the intersection of Murphy Dome Road & Goldstream Rd has severe enough accidents, nor a frequent number of accidents to justify the need for street lighting. This is almost a rural location & the residents of this area live there in part to be further away from city lights. I understand the lighting used is supposed to prevent light pollution, but if it is anything like the lighting at the intersection of Parks Hwy & Sheep Creek, then it will not prevent enough light pollution. I think increasing safety measures that make people reduce their speed such as rumble strips, blinking intersection signs, etc will help make people more cautious & reduce accidents. If the greater community doesn't agree with me, then

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: judithkaminski@yahoo.com

NAME: JUDITH GRUNAU

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 83177 FAIRBANKS, AK 99708

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

I would hope that other lighting will be chosen. This is not a large city, I would hope that we can maintain what makes Fairbanks beautiful & part of that is the feeling of this being a large village in a rural area.

I would also request that the public would be able to be more involved in this decision as it progresses. I would hope that we could continue to voice our opinions & be given more options to resolve this issue & more options for lighting, if you must place it. I would hope that the opinions against this lighting would be heard.



COMMENT SHEET

Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements

Project HHE-0002(253)/60264

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Noel Wien Library, 1215 Cowles Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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COMMENTS:

RE proposed "improvements" of MOR/Goldstream/Sheep Creek
please DO

- "tighten up" intersection i.e. better design edges/lanes etc.
- add noise strips for speed bumps
- increase/improve signage, maybe one including a solar powered flashing speed warning
- make ~~more~~ retain ~~the~~ ~~same~~ space for pedestrians & cyclists & include signs reminding drivers to be aware

~~also~~ See reverse for comments on Travis Alley

NO need to install sheet piling, as the visibility at that particular intersection = superb! Already wide open, can see for miles along GS + SC + for many yards up MOR

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: none! (no electricity/I-net) phone = 451 6414

NAME: Hilary Haxton

MAILING ADDRESS: 3031 Murphy Drive Fairbanks, AK 99709

For further information, please contact Colleen Ackiss, P.E., Traffic and Safety Chief, at (907) 451-5179 or email: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.

Please submit your comments by April 16, 2012.

PLEASE (d thank you, in educated for looking at 1st 1/2 mile MDR, incl. Trans

Please attend to numerous serious concerns related to 1st 1/2 mile MDR, incl. Dr. in Alley

- Several serious (multi-vehicle) accidents, including 2 this past wk: Sat 3/24 Evans, Wed 3/21 Aldersburg

- 0 deaths (yet) in large part b/c local (1/2 mile) residents = v. cautious

- accident due to combo:

speeding + poor visibility (hill, curves) + rock, shudder + (in winter) poor road conditions

- numerous requests over years to DOT by different locals. Usual DOT response has been "someone has to die 1st" - totally inappropriate & ridiculous. Pls be more proactive - & creative! ~~But~~ At v. least, plz come up & do an event(s) - on put, in real life e.g. observation, esp at "rush hour"

conversations w/ local residents

collect traffic reports

Use "how" (?) &/or counter &/or camera to collect

"hard" data about # vehicle, speed, frequency, driver behavior (illegal/dangerous passing before hills & around curves...!)

- ideas for "improvement's" - v. similar to what rec. for ^{as/scr} ~~other~~ MDR e.g. multiple stops (pls!!), better sign low speed limit, shudders, "DANGER" in yellow line. But 0 lights. unless maybe a flasher, one to alert drivers to problem spots &/or other drivers at night.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:38 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: FW: Goldstream and MDR lighting project

-----Original Message-----

From: Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:00 PM
To: Steve Levey
Cc: Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: RE: Goldstream and MDR lighting project

Steve Levey:

Thank you for your email dated March 10, regarding highway lighting at the intersection of Goldstream Road/Sheep Creek Road/Murphy Dome Road.

You asked if DOT&PF has considered other options and local knowledge that would negate the Minnesota study. DOT&PF is directed to abide by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) safety protocol, and implement their research which establishes improved safety. Minnesota DOT led the case study on nighttime illumination at rural intersections and concluded that improved lighting reduced crashes by 35%. You may find in-depth information at the following FHWA link: <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>

The Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvement Project was developed under the federally-mandated Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Alaska receives federal funding (through HSIP) to finance specific projects which will bring a reduction at sites with high crash statistics. The Department of Transportation annually screens all roadways for locations where crash rates are higher than the statewide average or where fatal/major injury crashes occurred. Evaluation of these locations determine if there is a crash pattern which can be mitigated through the implementation of a safety feature that has demonstrated a reduction in crashes (countermeasure).

Countermeasures (alternatives) for improving driver awareness at non-signalized intersections approaches are of two types, tried and proven.

A tried countermeasure is an implemented safety feature that has either not been evaluated for effectiveness or found to have no influence on the frequency of crashes occurring at the location. A proven countermeasure establishes that a safety feature is effective in reducing crashes after has implementation. Each of the countermeasures noted below have target crashes and expected effectiveness.

Tried countermeasures include:

- Improve visibility of intersection by providing enhanced signing and delineation.
- Install splitter island on the minor-road approach to an intersection.
- Provide a stop bar (or provide a wider stop bar) on minor-road approaches.
- Install larger regulatory and warning signs at intersections.
- Call attention to the intersection by installing rumble strips on intersection approaches.
- Provide dashed markings (extended left edgelines) for major-road continuity across the median opening at divided highway intersections.
- Provide supplementary stop signs mounted over the roadway.

- Provide pavement markings with supplementary messages, such as STOP AHEAD.
- Provide improved maintenance of stop signs.
- Install flashing beacons at stop-controlled intersections.

Proven countermeasure is:

- Improve visibility of the intersection by providing lighting.

Pertaining to the intersection of Goldstream Road/Sheep Creek Road/Murphy Dome Road, the only proven countermeasure for the type of crashes at this intersection is to provide highway lighting. There are also tried countermeasures which will be implemented that are not expected to negatively impact the safety of this intersection. They are as follows: provide a stop bar, install transverse rumble strips, provide enhanced signing, and install larger regulatory and warning signs.

The DOT&PF must weigh the responsibility of enhanced safety at documented high crash locations versus the desires of citizens within the neighborhood. Although the department consistently strives to balance both needs, in some cases, tough, unpopular decisions must be implemented to assure safety of all motorists on state roadways.

The Department will hold an Open House on Thursday, March 29th to receive input and answer questions from the public with regards to all the proposed projects. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Thursday, 3/29/12.

Steve Titus, P.E.
Regional Director
Northern Region

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Levey [<mailto:steve.levey@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 7:35 AM
To: Titus, James Stephen (DOT)
Subject: Goldstream and MDR lighting project

Dear Director Titus,

I am interested in the current DOT position on the lighting plan at Goldstream and Murphey Dome Roads. Have you considered other options and the local knowledge on conditions that make the Minnesota study not a good parallel study? If you are looking at alternatives, what are they? If DOT is still going forward with lights, what are the arguments and for it other than the Minnesota study?

I am deeply opposed to this lighting project since it will illuminate my property, reduce my family's quality of life and our property value. People do not live here to be in city lights.

Sincerely,
Steve Levey

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:33 AM
To: 'Mary Lynch'
Subject: RE: Comments on street improvements

Ms. Lynch -

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will take these into consideration as we further develop this highway safety improvement project.

Your comments will be included in the public record. However, in order to complete the public record would you please send me your physical address.

Thank you. Colleen Ackiss

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Lynch [<mailto:maryandlindsey@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:22 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Comments on street improvements

In particular the Murphy Dome intersection - please no lights.
Better, larger, reflective signing would be the best choice.

I live in that area and drive through that intersection every day. The view from my picture window includes that intersection. Lights, caps or no caps, would degrade the living environment which I treasure -the open spaces, the quietness and the darkness that allows the stars to shine.

Mary Lynch
Box 82086
Fairbanks, AK 99708

email: maryandlindsey@gmail.com

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:30 AM
To: 'Paul Costello'
Subject: RE: Goldstream Murphy dome intersection

Mr. Costello-

Thank you for your comments on the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will add these to the public record, however in order to complete the public record would you please send me your physical address.

Colleen Ackiss

From: Paul Costello [<mailto:cmates@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:37 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Goldstream Murphy dome intersection

Coleen, as a charter member of the "Slide through the Intersection Club" I support the project. There used to be a warning sign on Murphy Dome road just prior to the intersection that helped, but then it became overgrown and DOT took it down. We tend to drive too fast on MDR and lights and warning signs will help to avoid collisions, so I think the project is a good one and should be done.

Thank you.

Paul Costello

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:27 AM
To: 'Frank Keim'
Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA); mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us
Subject: RE: lights at intersection of Murphy Dome Rd.

Mr. Keim -

Thank you for sharing your concerns and offering an alternative solution for the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will take these into consideration as we further develop this highway safety improvement project.

Your comments and suggestion will be included in the public record. In order to complete our public record, would you please send me your physical address.

Thank you. Colleen Ackiss

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Keim [<mailto:frankkeim@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 5:43 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA); mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us
Subject: lights at intersection of Murphy Dome Rd.

Hi Colleen,

Just a short note to say I agree with my neighbors that those expensive and bright lights you are proposing for the Murphy Dome intersection are not necessary. Why not at least try something less obtrusive first, like lighted warning signs that there is an intersection/stop sign ahead. These have worked in other areas.

Thanks.

Frank Keim

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:23 AM
To: 'K.Lenniger/ Sled Dog Adventures'
Subject: RE: Goldstream Rd. light

Ms. Lenniger -

Thank you for sharing your comments regarding the Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will take these into consideration as we further develop this highway safety improvement project.

Your comments will be added to the public record. In order to complete the public record, would you please send me your physical address.

Colleen Ackiss

-----Original Message-----

From: K.Lenniger/ Sled Dog Adventures [<mailto:dogmushing@mosquitonet.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Goldstream Rd. light

Colleen,

I live in the area of Goldstream and Murphy Dome and DO NOT want a street light there. Those of us who live rurally choose this for a reason.

I do not feel it is effective or cost efficient. If anything, put a sign before the stop sign saying the stop sign is ahead. Everyone who goes up that road knows it is there. It's a dead end.

This is MY neighborhood, and we do not want it.

Kathy Lenniger

--

Kathy Lenniger, owner Sled Dog Adventures P.O.Box 83601 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
907 479-5090
www.sleddogadventures.com

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:52 AM
To: 'foxjones@acsalaska.net'
Subject: RE: Intersection Improvements

Mr. Jones,

Thank you for sharing your comments, concerns and observations. We will consider these as we further develop the project and will include them into the public record.

I look forward to meeting with you tomorrow night at the Open House.

Colleen Ackiss

-----Original Message-----

From: foxjones@acsalaska.net [<mailto:foxjones@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:56 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Intersection Improvements

I am Wayne Jones residing at 1866 Old Steese Hwy or the SE corner of the Old Steese and Goldstream intersection. I do plan on attending the meeting this Thursday but wished to forward some comments to you.

I base my comments on the fact that I can see this intersection from almost every window in my home and the driving habits of folks passing through this intersection. I have also been on scene for at least four major accidents, with injuries, at this corner, a couple which had fatalities.

Although additional lighting may provide more light, I do not believe that this intersection will be safer. Most of the accidents I have observed happened during daylight hours and not in the dead of night or middle of the winter. These accidents are caused by two factors; speed of traffic eastbound on Goldstream and failure to stop on the Steese on both the North and South stop signs. Goldstream eastbound traffic colliding with North or Southbound Steese traffic. I believe that speed is also a major factor at the New Steese intersection based upon the accidents and the number of cars that cross the New Steese and end up in the bushes, usually in the winter with slick road conditions. Additional lighting may help some there but I doubt it. There has to be a way to slow folks down prior to the Goldstream transfer site to the New Steese and as much as I dislike roundabouts, maybe that is the answer for some of these intersections that could be included in the Goldstream upgrade.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts.
Wayne Jones
479-9133 or 388-2379 (cell)

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: ravensandy@mosquitonet.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:34 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: RE: Goldstream lighting

>My physical address is 930 Richards Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]
Sandy

*personal information
deleted - cma*

Ms. Dauenhauer-

>
> Thank you for your comments regarding the upcoming highway safety
> improvement program project. We will take these into consideration as
> we proceed with the project development. Your comments will be added
> to the public record.
>
> In order to have a complete public record, would you please send me
> your physical address so that it can be included into the record as well.
>
> Thank you.

> Colleen Ackiss

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [ravensandy@mosquitonet.com](mailto:ravsandy@mosquitonet.com) [<mailto:ravsandy@mosquitonet.com>]
> Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 9:17 PM
> To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
> Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA); Thomas, Joe (LAA)
> Subject: Goldstream lighting

> As a Fairbanks resident who lives in the hills out of town, I am very
> much against the proposed lights at Goldstream/Sheep Creek and Murphy
> Dome Roads.

> The new
> lights in the Ester area on the Parks Highway that were put in about 4
> years ago are very distracting and create considerable light
> pollution. I hate to see the same pollution creeping into the
> outlying areas in any direction. These isolated groupings of lights
> obscure the aurora and the night sky, and cause a temporary loss of
> dark adaptation for the drivers, who are suddenly enveloped in glare
> and then instantly plunged back into darkness.

> If drivers are missing this intersection, they are driving too fast.
> And they are obviously able to make their other turns to find their
> way home without the aid of lights, so they should be able to find
> this large intersection equally well. Some simple signage changes
> should take care of them, such as a "Stop Ahead"
> sign on
> Murphy Dome before the intersection, and a second set of signs on both

> Goldstream and Sheep Creek advertising the intersection with Murphy
> Dome. We do not have to give up the glories of our winter skies for a
> handful of inattentive drivers.
>
> Thank you.
>
> Sandy Dauenhauer POB 418 Ester, AK 99725
>
>

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 12:06 PM
To: 'O'Neill Family'
Subject: RE: Department of Transportation to install streetlights in the Goldstream area

Hello O'Neill Family-

Thank you for your comments. We will add them to the record with the other comments we have received and take them into consideration as we further develop the project.

Again, thank you for taking the time to comment on the upcoming highway safety project.

Colleen Ackiss

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Neill Family [<mailto:yanert.alaska@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:04 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: O'Neill Family
Subject: Department of Transportation to install streetlights in the Goldstream area

Hi Colleen:

We will not be able to participate in next week's public meeting regarding the proposed installation of street lights throughout the Goldstream Valley. We very much appreciate DOT improving the safety of Interior Alaska roads and arranging opportunity for public input. Please accept our public input provided below ahead of that meeting, thanks.

We live at 2960 Alderberry Trail, 99709 which is a stone's throw from the intersection of Murphy Dome Rd, Sheep Creek and Goldstream Valley Rds. We are opposed to artificial lighting in the Goldstream Valley.

We chose to live in northwest Fairbanks and the Goldstream area because it's rural. We have enjoyed traveling to town and work without a single stoplight for 10+ years.

The "visibly noisy" appearance of retail operations along Sheep Creek Road bothers us, but that's zoning. When Goldstream Sports began occupying the auto repair shop at the Ester Dome turn-off, thankfully they decided to maintain a muted presence, clearing few trees and limiting their 24x7 contribution to ambient light.

Then drive-up retail began to appear beginning with Ohns Egg Roll and now the Thai food shack at the Ester Dome Rd. intersection, followed by the coffee shack just around the bend from Murphy Dome Rd located in front of Kuykendall's construction headquarters. The drive-up business model is predicated on unplanned purchases so each business feels compelled to erect electrically-powered signage, improving discoverability of their name and menu offerings. As citizens of the Goldstream area they too could adopt a muted presence, however, describing the drive-up business model another way, fiscal survival depends on how many lumens of light they're pumping into the atmosphere.

We believe in data based decision making and vote that until the data indicates street lighting is warranted at Sheep Creek and Muprhy Dome Rds, definitely do not install it. We'd like to get 10 more years of noise-less-ness to / from home, and while we're at home. We treasure where we live because of its characteristics.

Thanks for accepting our input,
Rory & Colleen O'Neill and family

To: Carl Heim, Project Manager, DOT&PF

RE: Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection “Improvements”– Murphy Dome Road intersection

I’ve heard the rumors – now I’ve seen the proposed plan: OH MY!

This intersection is fundamentally different and less dangerous than Steese or Old Steese intersections (or CHSR ones). Let’s not pretend it needs “improvements” on par with those sites.

1. 90% of traffic is local: they know the intersection like the back of their hand.
2. Traffic volumes are significantly lower.
3. Visibility is excellent and there is plenty of room.
4. Traffic reports show minimal accidents here and no fatalities or injuries.
5. DOT traffic analysis shows this stretch of road to be safer than average.
6. There is not nearly the commercial/industrial element of Steese traffic.

To justify the cost of “improvements” there usually has to be a “problem”.
The public does not perceive a problem with this intersection because there isn’t one.

Frequent users of this intersection do not consider lights and cross-lane rumble strips an improvement. We would consider it annoying, irritating, a waste of money, obnoxious, and not justifiable in any way. Imagine the State installing rumble strips at the end of your driveway, telling you it’s for your own good. It is simply not fair to make the overwhelming majority of us suffer for a negligible increase in safety. On the other hand, installing four new large metal poles there will create a new safety hazard – one that *could* kill someone.

Of all the intersections out there to choose from, how did DOT Traffic Section decide this one is unsafe? What about Ballaine Rd, Jones Road, Ivory-O’brien, where are their “improvements”?

Bottom line: New signage is fine; cross-lane rumble strips and light poles are a lousy idea and need to be dropped from project plans. The sooner you drop them, the less backlash DOT will suffer.

The wrath of Goldstream Valley is about to be unleashed – this is just the kind of tempest-in-a-teapot the locals love to get all worked up about – you know it will get “interesting”. I thought DOT&PF was more averse to controversy than this and liked to be in-line with public opinion. And I almost forgot to mention that this is a waste of money in the short- and long-term.

Sincerely,


Juliet Breitenberger

3185 Monteverde Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

PS – I cannot attend the public meeting in late March. Please add my comments to the “Against” side.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:01 AM
To: 'David DeLong'
Subject: RE: Goldstream Lighting Project

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: David DeLong [<mailto:davedelong@mosquitonet.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:59 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Re: Goldstream Lighting Project

Colleen

My physical address is 2401 Cordes Road.

David DeLong

On Mar 19, 2012, at 8:56 AM, Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT) wrote:

> Mr. DeLong -

>

> Thank you for your comments.

>

> We will add them to the other comments we have received and take them
> into consideration as we further develop this highway safety project.

> Would you please forward me your physical address so that it can be
> included as part of the record as well.

>

> Thank you.

>

> Colleen Ackiss

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> **From:** David DeLong [<mailto:davedelong@mosquitonet.com>]
> **Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2012 8:53 AM
> **To:** Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
> **Subject:** Goldstream Lighting Project

>

> Colleen

> I am a Goldstream resident and i strongly object to the
> installation of lights at the intersections of Murphy Dome Roads and
> Goldstream and Ballaine and Goldstream. This lighting is not
> necessary, and there is good evidence that isolated lighting like
> these proposed can increase danger by creating blacked out zones just
> outside the lights.

> I will be traveling the day of the public meeting. I would like
> this correspondence to become part of the public record.

> Thank you

> David DeLong

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:01 AM
To: 'ridgelurker@gci.net'
Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA); mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us; Heim, Carl F (DOT)
Subject: RE: proposed lighting project, murphy dome intersection

Mr. Payer and Ms. Matz-

Thank you for commenting on the upcoming Fairbanks Area Spot Intersection Improvements project. We will take your comments into consideration as we further develop this highway safety project.

Colleen Ackiss, P.E.
Traffic & Safety Chief
Northern Region DOT&PF

-----Original Message-----

From: ridgelurker@gci.net [<mailto:ridgelurker@gci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 5:59 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Heim, Carl F (DOT)
Cc: Guttenberg, David (LAA); mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us
Subject: proposed lighting project, murphy dome intersection

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to urge you to re-consider the proposed installation of streetlights at the corner of Sheep Creek/Goldstream and Murphy Dome Roads. We live in the area, use the intersection on our daily commute, and find that the visibility here is already excellent. We believe that street lights are unnecessary, and would have the negative consequences of being an unwise expenditure of public funds and seriously detracting from the rural nature of our neighborhood. If the DOT still believes that some improvements at this intersection are necessary, please consider a less intrusive approach such as enhanced signage before lighting the area.

We would also like to take this opportunity to compliment you on good work you do. The road conditions have been excellent throughout this snowy winter. We appreciate that!

Thank you very much for considering our views on this matter affecting our neighborhood.

David Payer
Angela Matz
2945 Tekapo Court
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 6:55 AM
To: 'tparagi@alaska.net'
Subject: RE: Goldstream street lights

Tom-

You can contact the local Trooper Detachment at 451-5100, this is their business line. They should be able to direct you to a Trooper who can assist with your request.

Colleen

-----Original Message-----

From: tparagi@alaska.net [<mailto:tparagi@alaska.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 3:40 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: RE: Goldstream street lights

Who would be the best contact for the Troopers on speed changes?

> Tom-

>
> Thank you for your comments/observations/suggestions. The project
> improvements include installation of larger signs and transverse
> rumble strips with the addition of highway illumination to address the
> night time crashes, however we will consider your suggestion of
> deferring the lighting to a later date. As for reducing the speed
> limit, due to the high number of conflicting requests we receive for
> both raising and lowering of regulatory limits and in keeping with our
> policy and procedures we require that requests to modify the speed
> limits come from the local governing body or enforcement agency. In
> the case of Murphy Dome Road this would be either the Borough mayor or the Troopers.
> Before we can change a speed limit we are required to conduct a speed
> study which requires a significant amount of time and funding; this is
> why we take requests from the local governing bodies and law
> enforcement agencies only otherwise we would not have enough man-power
> or funding to complete all the requests we receive from the public.
>
> Again, thank you for taking the time to forward your observations and
> also providing suggestions on how to improve the safety of this
> intersection. We will keep these in mind as we further develop the
> project.

>
> Colleen

>
> -----Original Message-----
> **From:** tparagi@alaska.net [<mailto:tparagi@alaska.net>]
> **Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:47 PM
> **To:** Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
> **Subject:** Goldstream street lights

>
> Hi Colleen,
>
> I know you have a challenging position on the safety considerations

> for the intersection of Murphy Dome and Goldstream/Sheep Creek Roads.
> I live close to there and find the visibility very good approaching
> from either Sheep Creek or Goldstream directions. The problem I see
> is a primarily 50 mph (unposted nearby) Murphy Dome Road cresting a
> hill and bottoming out at a T-intersection in about 1/4 mile. When
> roads are slick it is common to see where people have slid across the
> intersection.
> People in a hurry often barely stop on a right turn onto Sheep Creek,
> as I have witnessed in broad daylight while on my bicycle heading west
> on Goldstream through that intersection. Too many people barely slow
> down for that right turn when in their morning rush, so I make eye
> contact before I proceed past the T on my bicycle during my commute to
> work in the summer.
>
> I wonder if the funding flexibility would allow evaluation of rumble
> strips and better warning signage in the last mile of Murphy Dome Road
> for 1-2 years to see if that reduces accident rate before going to
> lights. For example, slow to 30 or 40 mph before hill, then "stop
> ahead" with reflectors, finally rumble strips once the intersection
> level is reached. The rumble strips would be compromised with winter
> snow, but bright reflective signs would be of value on winter nights.
> DOT does a
> good job of keeping the culverts steamed open when the aufeis starts
> accumulating.
>
> Good luck with this!
>
> Tom Paragi
>
>
>
>
>
>

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 1:27 PM
To: 'david_daum@yahoo.com'
Subject: RE: goldstream lights

Good afternoon Dave –

Thank you for writing with regards to the upcoming project. We will take your comments into consideration as we further develop the project.

As for your recommendation to lower the posted speed limit on Murphy Dome Road, the Department receives many, often conflicting, requests/recommendations from the public to both increase and reduce posted speed limits. In order to change a posted speed limit, the Department must complete a speed study which requires personnel time and funding. Our policy and procedures also requires that we confer with the local governing body and enforcement agency. Due to the high number of requests that we receive and limited resources we do not accept requests from the public but instead request that they come directly from the local governing body (in this case the Borough Mayor) or the local enforcement agency (Troopers). You may work with either of these entities to see if they support and will forward your request to our Department to initiate a speed study.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Colleen

From: Golden, Pamela K (DOT)
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 7:07 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Heim, Carl F (DOT)
Subject: FW: goldstream lights

fyi

From: david daum [mailto:david_daum@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Golden, Pamela K (DOT)
Subject: goldstream lights

Please pass this on to the appropriate person. Thank you. I am strongly against putting up street lights at the intersection of Goldstream and Murphy Dome Road. I have lived 1/2 mile from this intersection for over 30 years and stop there twice daily. I have never seen a vehicle accident in the 30 years I have lived here. Sometime people traveling on Murphy Dome Road slide through the intersection when there is no gravel applied, but the visibility is excellent in all directions which explains why there are no collisions with other vehicle. Please do not put the lights in here. They are not needed and please use the money in another area, such as in front of Goldstream Store. There is a safety issue on Murphy Dome Road though. The speed limit should be reduced for the last 1 mile before the intersection. There are numerous hidden driveways, a blind curve and hill which makes pulling into traffic very dangerous. There has been numerous accident there (Coyote Trail, Ivans Alley) and the speed limit should be reduced to 40 MPH, just like at the section of Ballaine Road that passes through a residencial area with hidden driveways because of the curvy nature of the road. There it is posted at 40 MPH and should be likewise at the last 1 mile of Murphy Dome.

Thanks you,
Dave Daum

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:48 AM
To: 'Kathryn Dietrich'
Subject: RE: Goldstream Road

Good morning Kathy –

Thank you for writing with regards to the upcoming project, I look forward to meeting with you at the open house on March 29th.

Colleen

From: Kathryn Dietrich [<mailto:dietrichak@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 3:49 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Goldstream Road

Hi Colleen,

I read the article in the paper today about Goldstream Rd. lighting. I have no problem with the lighting and would welcome them. I drive regularly between my house off Tall Timbers and my daughter's house which is off the Old Steese and the lack of lighting and number of moose is treacherous. I would also welcome a widening of Goldstream Road with a bike lane on the road (as opposed to separate from the road. All summer long I see people riding passed as I work in my garden and know it would be so much safer if there were a wider lane for them. I will try to make the meeting March 29.

Sincerely,

Kathy Dietrich
1977 Tall Timbers Drive
Fairbanks AK 99709

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 9:50 AM
To: 'ruby baxter'
Subject: RE: murphy dome/sheep creek light plan

Good morning Ruby -

Thank you for writing with regards to the upcoming project. The lighting fixtures that DOT proposes to use are cut-off fixtures which direct the light downward onto the roadway.

Colleen

-----Original Message-----

From: ruby baxter [<mailto:rarbubarby@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 6:34 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: murphy dome/sheep creek light plan

Hello-

I'm writing to oppose the planned installation of lights at the Murphy Dome/Sheep Creek intersection. I grew up on Murphy Dome Road and still use the road a lot, and have never seen an accident caused by that intersection; I doubt that any accidents that do occur are a result of insufficient lighting. Given the speed at which people travel on Sheep Creek Rd, it seems unlikely that the addition of lights would give people significantly more ability to react.

If lights do end up being installed, I do hope they will be LEDs, and will be the kind that are directed downward.

Thanks for your time,
Ruby

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Lien, Lindsey C [llien@blm.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 1:28 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: RE: Goldstream/Murphy dome stop lights

Thank you for your response and clarification.

Based on that though, I wish to comment that illumination is not an answer...the problem is that drivers coming down Murphy dome underestimate the (literal) impact of Murphy Dome "T"ing into Goldstream/Sheep Creek, and that drivers waiting to turn west onto Murphy Dome from Sheep Creek are creating an obstacle for drivers coming up behind them...everybody sees each other just fine, there is just no safe avoidance. Give reflective warning signs and a passing shoulder, and we will do just fine.

Any, regarding quality of life, we don't want lights in the valley: this is Alaska, not Anchorage.

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT) [mailto:colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Lien, Lindsey C
Subject: RE: Goldstream/Murphy dome stop lights

Lindsey-

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns. However, we are not proposing to install three color stoplights at this intersection instead we are proposing to install highway illumination at this intersection. We will take your suggestions into consideration as we further develop the project.

Colleen

From: Lien, Lindsey C [mailto:llien@blm.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Goldstream/Murphy dome stop lights

Bottom line...Stop the Stoplights at Goldstream and Murphy Dome...we don't need them, don't want them. People in the valley will end up ignoring them and the solution will become the problem.

I've lived in this area for almost 30 years, and for the last 20 I've gone through that intersection an average of twice a day, everyday. The accidents I've seen come from drivers going east on Murphy Dome not knowing the stop/end of road in coming at them (ending up either in the ditch across the road or out in the intersection), cars jumping out from Murphy Dome Road into oncoming traffic headed south, or from cars stopped in the middle of the intersection before turning left into Murphy Dome Road and other cars trying/having to pass on the graveled right shoulder.

If you want a safer environment, consider better signage, a turn lane to allow cars to separate from the main flow as they await the safe opportunity to make a left turn, or – to me the best route – let's not fall back to 1920's conceptual technology of three color stoplights, let's look at putting in a large scale traffic circle that will allow multiple car traffic flow while avoiding the need to come to complete stops at all.

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 4:04 PM
To: Heim, Carl F (DOT); Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Bailey, Meadow P (DOT); Ohalloran, William (DOT)
Subject: FW: Planned Luminaire at Murphy Dome/Sheep Ck intersection

fyi

From: Peggy Raybeck [<mailto:paycheck39@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 1:23 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: RE: Planned Luminaire at Murphy Dome/Sheep Ck intersection

Greetings Colleen,

I really appreciate your taking the time to respond, and especially your willingness to consider our comments.

I'm still hoping that you come up with a way to provide a safer intersection without the light pollution that concerns many Goldstream/Sheep Creek residents. I know there's lots of constraints, and the luminaire is probably most cost effective. Anyway, that's your area of expertise.

Again, thanks for your consideration and continued work DOT/PF.

Peggy

Subject: RE: Planned Luminaire at Murphy Dome/Sheep Ck intersection
Date: Tue, 15 Nov 2011 08:05:35 -0900
From: colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov
To: paycheck39@hotmail.com
CC: steve.potter@alaska.gov

Good morning Peggy-

Thank you for expressing your concerns with regards to the upcoming Highway Safety Improvement Program project.

Your comments regarding reduced speed limits and inclusion of a left turn lane were evaluated during project scoping, but were found to be ineffective countermeasures for the types of crashes occurring at this intersection. The safety improvements selected are proven countermeasures that will help to mitigate the types of crashes which have occurred while promoting additional safety at the intersection in an effort to reduce the future number of crashes.

A public meeting has not been scheduled for this project. It is federally funded and therefore must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the process has been complied with. Dependent upon the type of improvements which are planned varying levels of public involvement are required – due to the nature of the safety improvements of this spot intersection improvement project public involvement is not required. However, we welcome all public comments such as yours and will consider them as we develop the project.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns.

Colleen

From: Peggy Raybeck [<mailto:paycheck39@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 03, 2011 9:33 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: Planned Luminaire at Murphy Dome/Sheep Ck intersection

Dear Mrs. Ackiss and Mr. Potter,

I'm concerned with this proposed installation because of the impact of light pollution in "rural" Goldstream valley. Also, it appears unlikely to address the problem of fatal accidents on Sheep Ck and Goldstream roads (based on my partial knowledge of such accidents). Besides alcohol, there are many worse road sections, notably the curve by Anns greenhouse,"bump" at RR xing in same area on sheep Creek and numerous rough and broken up sections Sheep Ck and Goldstream. Maintenance has been diligent repairing them every summer. Thank you for repairs, increased efficiency and traffic control.

Rather than installing a light, I favor reduced speed limit both sides of the intersection and turn lanes for left turn off Sheep Creek and right turn off Murphy Dome Rd. If it meets standards, perhaps this could be incorporated into the next maintenance or construction job in the area.

I haven't seen any notices at the store of hearings on this issue. Will there be any?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peggy Raybeck

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 8:30 AM
To: Heim, Carl F (DOT); Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT); Bailey, Meadow P (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Ohalloran, William (DOT)
Subject: FW: DOT plans for Murphy Dome/Goldstream Intersection

fyi

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 8:18 AM
To: 'John Gaedeke'
Subject: RE: DOT plans for Murphy Dome/Goldstream Intersection

Mr. Gaedeke –

Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding the upcoming Highway Safety Improvement Program project.

You have quoted an earlier email from me correctly, my word choice was improper and I apologize. I should have stated Due to the nature of the safety improvements of this spot intersection improvement project public involvement is not required. (This statement is based on complying with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act) However, I did further state that the Department welcomes all public comments and concerns and we will take yours into consideration as we develop the safety project.

Upper management is taking into consideration all comments received to date and will make a determination if a formal public meeting will be held. As an alternative until that decision has been made if you would like to meet with us to discuss your concerns please call me at 451-5179 to arrange a meeting.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and I apologize for my poor word selection in previous correspondence with the residents of the Goldstream/Moose Mountain areas.

Colleen Ackiss, P.E.
Traffic & Safety Chief
Alaska DOT&PF – Northern Region

From: John Gaedeke [<mailto:jgaedeke@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2011 4:45 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: DOT plans for Murphy Dome/Goldstream Intersection

To whom it may concern:

As a property owner on both Moose Mountain Road and Snow Basin I would like to voice my opposition to the proposed street lights at the intersection of Murphy Dome Road and Goldstream Rd. As a lifelong resident of Fairbanks I believe there are better ways to increase safety on our roads. The ensuing light pollution and waste of energy associated with street lighting detracts from the natural beauty of the area. I grew up on Farmer's Loop Road and witnessed the installation of street lights there and the associated light pollution without an appreciable increase in road safety. I respectfully request a public meeting to discuss this matter, the Ken Kunkel Community Center is just a few miles from the intersection in question and would make a fine meeting place.

DOT has stated "*Due to the nature of the safety improvements of this spot intersection improvement **project public involvement is not necessary.***" Blatant disregard for public input when spending public funds does not make for good public policy or public relations. I trust this oversight will not go unnoticed.

Thank you for responding to this matter,

Sincerely,

John Gaedeke
Fairbanks, AK

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 7:45 AM
To: Heim, Carl F (DOT); Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Cc: Bailey, Meadow P (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Ohalloran, William (DOT)
Subject: FW: Proposed street lights at Sheep Cr & Murphy Dome Rd intersection

FYI

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 7:42 AM
To: 'mara.bacsujlaky@alaska.edu'
Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: RE: Proposed street lights at Sheep Cr & Murphy Dome Rd intersection

Mara-

Thank you for your comments with regards to this Highway Safety Improvement Program Project. The Highway Safety Improvement Program is a federally mandated program with the mission to reduce the number of crashes along our highways with an emphasis on the reduction of fatal and major injury crashes. During the project scoping phase it was determined that the installation of highway lighting at this intersection would help to mitigate the types of crashes which have occurred while promoting additional safety at the intersection in the effort to reduce the future number of crashes.

This project is federally funded and therefore must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the policy has been complied with. Dependent upon the type of improvements which are planned varying levels of public involvement are required – due to the nature of the safety improvements at this spot intersection improvement project public involvement is not required. However, we welcome all public comments and concerns such as yours and will consider them during design development.

If you would like to meet to discuss your concerns, please give me a call at 451-5179 to set up a meeting time.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns.

Colleen Ackiss, P.E.
Traffic & Safety Chief
Alaska DOT&PF – Northern Region

From: Mara Bacsujlaky [mailto:mcbacsujlaky@alaska.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: Proposed street lights at Sheep Cr & Murphy Dome Rd intersection

I recently became aware of DOT's plans to install street lighting at the intersection of Murphy Dome Road and Sheep Cree Goldstream Valley for 20 years (6 of those years within a 1/4 mile of that intersection) that has driven past and through that strenuously object to the installation of street lights there. It is my opinion that they will do nothing to reduce accidents and increased light pollution of our night skies. In the 20 years I have lived out here I have already seen the decrease in clear of Fairbanks get brighter and more and more street lights are placed outside the core of the city. I used to run dogs in Golc dark; the shift of the sky - due to the light pollution from Fairbanks proper - from dark to orange grey has been noticeable.

I grew up in the East Coast Corridor and within a large city. The heavy use of street lights largely, I understand, arises out from vandalism, theft and assault. In my driving experience here in Alaska and in other rural areas where there are no street intersections I have found the intermittent lighting to cause moments of temporary night blindness as I transition from the even on Ballaine where there are the perplexing street lights at Kittiwake, Raven and Kingfisher (I can't imagine that these accidents that they merited street lamps) - where it is really difficult to see moose or anything on the sides of the road as immediately thereafter. I am a good driver with good eye sight, so I am guessing this type of night blindness is likely expected where we have dark so much of the year during normal commuting and business hours, I think this issue is significant.

In fact, if it is the issue of safety and accident reduction that is the underlying justification for this installation, then I am real street to be created at the very top of Ballaine - where there is clearly not sufficient line of sight for people coming up Ballaine someone pulling out and/or stop in time if there is a school bus picking up children there - as has been the case for most cases. In winter conditions - it is virtually impossible to stop in time if that intersection is not clear - which is often the case during countless other (undoubtedly more expensive) areas of true hazard to drivers than the intersection of Murphy Dome and S

I learned of your intention through an email chain of concerned residents in this valley. This is NOT a good way to begin to impact residents living near the proposed street lights (which will destroy their enjoyment of dark nights, stars, aurora view not to live directly in town or in a lighted sub-division) and people who live in the general vicinity and want to keep their night there had been a similar plan afoot to place one at Ballaine and Goldstream which is very close to me - I never heard about it. Fortunately others learned about it and did so on my behalf. Regardless of statute and regulation, it behooves DOT to inform changes and improvements and additions that they plan. To not do so results in angry residents who feel blind-sided, as if any public agency's work easier or better. Often the public has some good insights as to why a planned operation may not be the people who live, work and recreate in the targeted area.

The cause of accidents and fatalities on Ballaine, Sheep Creek and Goldstream come from two factors: drunk driving (which is people driving way too fast. I have run and biked these roads (again for 20 years) and have noticed as cars got faster and not unusual to have someone blow by me (in my truck) at 65 mph. On these curving frost heaved roads that is much too fast for those of us who like to use the shoulders for alternate means of transportation. I would suggest that you use your position as troopers a need for speed control and enforcement on these roads - rather than pursuing superficial sops to public safety out here - not light pollution.

Sincerely,

Mara Bacsujlaky
1807 Woodbine Dr
Fairbanks AK 99709
479-3096

I recently became aware of DOT's plans to install street lighting at the intersection of Murphy Dome Road and Sheep Creek/Goldstream Road. As a resident of Goldstream Valley for 20 years (6 of those years within a 1/4 mile of that intersection) that has driven past and through that intersection more times than I can count, I strenuously object to the installation of street lights there. It is my opinion that they will do nothing to reduce accidents and that the only outcome of their installation is increased light pollution of our night skies. In the 20 years I have lived out here - I have already seen the decrease in clear night skies (and aurora viewing) as the lights of Fairbanks get brighter and more and more street lights are placed outside the core of the city. I used to run dogs in Goldstream Valley in the late 80s and the sky was dark; the shift of the sky - due to the light pollution from Fairbanks proper - from dark to orange grey has been noticeable.

I grew up in the East Coast Corridor and within a large city. The heavy use of street lights largely, I understand, arises out of a need to keep property and people safe from vandalism, theft and assault. In my driving experience here in Alaska and in other rural areas where there are no street lights - except an occasional few at random intersections I have found the intermittent lighting to cause moments of temporary night blindness as I transition from the lighted portion to the unlit. This is the case even on Ballaine where there are the perplexing street lights at Kittiwake, Raven and Kingfisher (I can't imagine that these small residential side streets had so many accidents that they merited street lamps) - where it is really difficult to see moose or anything on the sides of the road as one transitions from the lighted area to the dark immediately thereafter. I am a good driver with good eye sight, so I am guessing this type of night blindness is likely experienced also by other drivers. And in a place where we have dark so much of the year during normal commuting and business hours, I think this issue is significant.

In fact, if it is the issue of safety and accident reduction that is the underlying justification for this installation, then I am really puzzled as to why DOT even allowed a street to be created at the very top of Ballaine - where there is clearly not sufficient line of sight for people coming up Ballaine from the Goldstream Valley to see someone pulling out and/or stop in time if there is a school bus picking up children there - as has been the case for most of the years I have driven that route into town. In winter conditions - it is virtually impossible to stop in time if that intersection is not clear - which is often the case during the morning traffic. In short, there are countless other (undoubtedly more expensive) areas of true hazard to drivers than the intersection of Murphy Dome and Sheep Creek that could use DOT's attention.

I learned of your intention through an email chain of concerned residents in this valley. This is NOT a good way to begin public review of any work that is going to impact residents living near the proposed street lights (which will destroy their enjoyment of dark nights, stars, aurora viewing and much of the reasons why they chose not to live directly in town or in a lighted sub-division) and people who live in the general vicinity and want to keep their night dark. I also learned through this email that there had been a similar plan afoot to place one at Ballaine and Goldstream which is very close to me - I never heard about it and would have fiercely objected to it. Fortunately others learned about it and did so on my behalf.

Regardless of statute and regulation, it behooves DOT to inform and work with the public on any road changes and improvements and additions that they plan. To not do so results in angry residents who feel blind-sided, as I do now, and that does not enhance or make any public agency's work easier or better.

Often the public has some good insights as to why a planned operation may not work or might be improved - because they are the people who live, work and recreate in the targeted area.

The cause of accidents and fatalities on Ballaine, Sheep Creek and Goldstream come from two factors: drunk driving (which lighting is not going to alter a whit) and people driving way too fast. I have run and biked these roads (again for 20 years) and have noticed as cars got faster and heavier people driving faster and faster. It is not unusual to have someone blow by me (in my truck) at 65 mph. On these curving frost heaved roads that is much too fast. It is dangerous for all of us - especially those of us who like to use the shoulders for alternate means of transportation. I would suggest that you use your positions as agency people to communicate to the troopers a need for speed control and enforcement on these roads - rather than pursuing superficial sops to public safety such as this street light. We need enforcement out here - not light pollution.

Sincerely,

Mara Bacsujlaky
1807 Woodbine Dr
Fairbanks AK 99709
479-3096

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Brown, Janet L (DOT); Heim, Carl F (DOT); Campbell, Bruce W (DOT)
Cc: Ohalloran, William (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Bailey, Meadow P (DOT)
Subject: FW: Murphy Dome Intersection

fyi

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 4:11 PM
To: 'Brad Clark'
Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: RE: Murphy Dome Intersection

Mr. Clark-

Thank you for expressing your concerns with regards to the upcoming safety project which will include the addition of highway lighting at the intersection of Murphy Dome Road/Goldstream Road. This project was initiated under the Highway Safety Improvement Program which is a federally mandated program with the mission to reduce the number of crashes along our highways with emphasis on the reduction of fatal and major injury crashes. During the project scoping phase it was determined that the installation of highway lighting at this intersection would help to mitigate the types of crashes which have occurred while promoting additional safety at the intersection in the effort to reduce future crashes.

This project is federally funded and therefore must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the process has been reviewed and followed. Dependent upon the type of improvements which are planned varying levels of public involvement are required. Due to the nature of the safety improvements this project entails, formal public involvement is not required. However, we welcome all public comments and concerns such as yours and will take them into consideration during project development.

I would like to offer you the opportunity to meet in-person and further discuss your concerns. I will be out of the office tomorrow for an all-day meeting but will return on Thursday November 3rd. Please call me at 451-5179 if you would like to accept the offer of an in-person meeting.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns with regards to this safety project.

Colleen Ackiss
Traffic & Safety Chief

From: Brad Clark [<mailto:borealbrad1@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: Murphy Dome Intersection

Dear Ms. Ackiss and Mr. Potter,

I have spent the majority of my 30 years in Fairbanks in the Goldstream area and I am writing to voice my concern regarding the proposed installation of a streetlight at the Murphy Dome/Goldstream intersection. This intersection is free and clear of any visual obstructions and I believe further research will provide solid evidence that the lack of a light is not the cause of any vehicular accidents.

I can appreciate the deluge of opinions that you each face with any new project but would strongly suggest an opportunity for community input. The addition of a streetlight would be a major detraction for many home owners. Please allow the residents of Goldstream a chance to come to the table and fully vet this porposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brad Clark
3000 Moose Mountain Rd
Fairbanks AK 99709

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 3:49 PM
To: Mary Shields
Cc: Shirley Liss; steve.levy@gmail.com; Brown, Janet L (DOT)
Subject: RE: Rural intersection lighting

Mary-

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us yesterday. You brought up some concerns that we will keep in mind and address as we develop the proposed project.

We are working on the crash data which you requested, but have run into a small problem with our database. We have found a workaround, but will not be able to retrieve the data until Thursday. The requested crash data will be provided before the end of the week.

As for your solution noted below. A sign, such as you are describing is included in the spot improvements project. The installation of this type of signing has not been demonstrated to effectively reduce nighttime crashes such as those recorded at this intersection. Even though the effectiveness of this type of sign has not been proven; we have included it in the project as well as the proven improvement of highway lighting.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to discuss your concerns and options for improving the safety of the intersection.

Colleen

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Shields [<mailto:mshields@mosquitonet.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 9:48 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Shirley Liss; steve.levy@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Rural intersection lighting

Good Morning Colleen and Janet,

I think I might have a solution to our problem at the intersection. Why not put up a sign on the south side of Goldstream, facing traffic coming down Murphy Dome Road, a big reflective sign that alerts drivers to the intersection. Their headlight should pick it up long before they arrive at the corner, giving them fair warning to slow down and stop at the stop sign. You would know the proper words to put on the sign.

What do you think? Worth a try? We could save some money and put it into the S- curve east of Ann's Greenhouse, and still protect people from a possible accident in the dark.

Sincerely, Mary Shields

On Oct 27, 2011, at 11:29 AM, Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT) wrote:

> Ma <<rural_lighting_T2.pdf>> ry <<fhwasa09017.pdf>> -
>
> As promised, here is a full study and a couple of shorter abstracts
> that discuss crash rates at intersections which are illuminated versus
> those that are not.
>
> I look forward to meeting with you on Monday at 3:00 pm to discuss
> your concerns.
>
> Colleen Ackiss
> Traffic & Safety Chief
> Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region
>
> (907) 479-7452

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Brown, Janet L (DOT); Heim, Carl F (DOT); Campbell, Bruce W (DOT)
Cc: Ohalloran, William (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Bailey, Meadow P (DOT)
Subject: FW: Murphy Dome Intersection

fyi

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 4:11 PM
To: 'Brad Clark'
Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: RE: Murphy Dome Intersection

Mr. Clark-

Thank you for expressing your concerns with regards to the upcoming safety project which will include the addition of highway lighting at the intersection of Murphy Dome Road/Goldstream Road. This project was initiated under the Highway Safety Improvement Program which is a federally mandated program with the mission to reduce the number of crashes along our highways with emphasis on the reduction of fatal and major injury crashes. During the project scoping phase it was determined that the installation of highway lighting at this intersection would help to mitigate the types of crashes which have occurred while promoting additional safety at the intersection in the effort to reduce future crashes.

This project is federally funded and therefore must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the process has been reviewed and followed. Dependent upon the type of improvements which are planned varying levels of public involvement are required. Due to the nature of the safety improvements this project entails, formal public involvement is not required. However, we welcome all public comments and concerns such as yours and will take them into consideration during project development.

I would like to offer you the opportunity to meet in-person and further discuss your concerns. I will be out of the office tomorrow for an all-day meeting but will return on Thursday November 3rd. Please call me at 451-5179 if you would like to accept the offer of an in-person meeting.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns with regards to this safety project.

Colleen Ackiss
Traffic & Safety Chief

From: Brad Clark [<mailto:borealbrad1@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT); Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: Murphy Dome Intersection

Dear Ms. Ackiss and Mr. Potter,

I have spent the majority of my 30 years in Fairbanks in the Goldstream area and I am writing to voice my concern regarding the proposed installation of a streetlight at the Murphy Dome/Goldstream intersection. This intersection is free and clear of any visual obstructions and I believe further research will provide solid evidence that the lack of a light is not the cause of any vehicular accidents.

I can appreciate the deluge of opinions that you each face with any new project but would strongly suggest an opportunity for community input. The addition of a streetlight would be a major detraction for many home owners. Please allow the residents of Goldstream a chance to come to the table and fully vet this porposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brad Clark
3000 Moose Mountain Rd
Fairbanks AK 99709

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Heim, Carl F (DOT); Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Brown, Janet L (DOT); Beck, Albert M L (DOT)
Cc: Ohalloran, William (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Golden, Pamela K (DOT); Bailey, Meadow P (DOT)
Subject: FW: Street light at Murphy dome and Goldstream

For your information.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 10:01 AM
To: 'Patrick Endres'
Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: RE: Street light at Murphy dome and Goldstream

Mr. Endres -

Thank you for expressing your concerns with regards to the upcoming safety project which will include illumination at the intersection of Goldstream Road/Murphy Dome Road.

This project was initiated under the Highway Safety Improvement Program which is a federally mandated program with the mission to reduce the number of crashes along our highways with an emphasis on the reduction of fatal and major injury crashes. The intersection of Goldstream Road, Sheep Creek Road and Murphy Dome Road was identified as a high crash location in which the addition of highway lighting at the intersection could help to mitigate the types of crashes which have occurred while promoting additional safety at the intersection in the effort to reduce the future number of crashes.

Highway lighting fixtures have changed over the years with improvements being made to both the lamp and optics to reduce the amount of errant light emitted. The fixtures that the Department has selected for use on this project have a flat glass lens and cut off optics. The cut off optics direct the light onto the roadway with very minimal errant light emitted above the horizon of the fixture. The flat glass lens also helps to direct the light downwards as well. There are many of these fixtures in use around Fairbanks and have been used successfully in rural areas to provide illumination on the roadway while minimizing the amount of errant light. When the project is completed, the improvements to the safety of the intersection of Goldstream Road, Sheep Creek Road and Murphy Dome Road should be greatly enhanced.

The pass no-pass markings at this intersection will be re-evaluated as part of the larger Goldstream Road Improvements project currently being designed.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns.

Colleen Ackiss
Traffic & Safety Chief

-----Original Message-----

From: Patrick Endres [<mailto:patrick@alaskaphotographics.com>]
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2011 9:02 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: Street light at Murphy dome and Goldstream

Hi Ms Ackiss,
Please accept my brief comments regarding the addition of a streetlight at Murphy Dome rd.

I very strongly disagree with a decision too include a street light at the above location. If safety is a motivation, I suggest spending those resources on a proper remapping of the pass and no passing center lines on Sheep Creek road. The said intersection is in an open area with plenty of visibility. Cars can be easily observed when approaching.

The general bulk of the goldstream valley residents enjoy the light pollution free region, offering beautiful views of the winter night sky. (i dont know a single one who feels the light is necessary, or would want it) In particular, as a photographer, the light pollution free skies are an asset to me, along with many other photo enthusiasts and star gazers who enjoy watching the night skies.

Please, please, redirect these funds to a more appropriate issue of safety concern.

Regards,
Patrick Endres
2923 moose Mountain Road

Sent from my iPhone
Website: www.alaskaphotographics.com
Blog: www.alaskaphotographyblog.com

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 8:58 AM
To: Steve Levey
Subject: RE: Street lighting in the Goldstream Valley

We are located at 2301 Peger Road. The complex is on the east side of Peger Road between Davis Road and the Mitchell Expressway. The meeting will be in Janet Brown's office; our receptionist at the front desk will help you out once you arrive.

I look forward to meeting with you and Charlie Thursday at 9:00 am.

From: Steve Levey [mailto:steve.levy@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 8:44 AM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: alaskachimney@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Street lighting in the Goldstream Valley

Thank you Colleen, Let's plan on that and I will call if it doesn't work for Charlie. How do I find your office?
Steve

On Mon, Oct 31, 2011 at 8:32 AM, Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT) <colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov> wrote:

Steve-

Are both you and Charlie available to meet Thursday morning at 9:00 am? Janet Brown, our Preconstruction Engineer and Al Beck, Project manager for the Goldstream Road project will be in attendance as well.

If this time does not work for you, please call me at 451-5179 so that we can coordinate a new day/time.

Colleen

From: Steve Levey [mailto:steve.levy@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 7:09 PM

To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: Re: Street lighting in the Goldstream Valley

Hi Colleen, Thank you. I will take you up on this invitation. Tuesday morning or anytime later in the week would work for me. I would like to bring Charlie Whitaker with me since he has more experience with these issues and shares my concern for lighting up the Valley. Would this be acceptable? Just send a note if you would prefer a call.

Thank you,

Steve

On Wed, Oct 26, 2011 at 12:35 PM, Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT) <colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov> wrote:

Steve-

I am available to meet with you to discuss your concerns. Please call me at 451-5179 to set up an appointment.

Colleen

From: Steve Levey [<mailto:steve.levey@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 9:11 AM

To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

Cc: Potter, Steve B (DOT)

Subject: Re: Street lighting in the Goldstream Valley

Hi Ms. Ackiss, Thank you for the explanation. I understand there was a similar effort to install lighting at Ballaine and Goldstream and local outpouring of objection nixed that project. Your letter basically says it is a done deal. There is no way that lighting will not have a large and negative impact on the neighborhood's rural character and quality of life. Development of this sort without public input does not make sense and my understanding of the "federal mandate" includes local decisionmaking. In other words, the Federal Government did not make this decision, DOT did. The decision comes from your office. Please correct me if I am wrong.

Your use the passive voice at a crucial junctures of your letter, " this project has been reviewed," hides responsibility for the decision and makes it tough for me to know who to speak with or who is responsible for the decision. I know this is not what you or any public servant intends but it makes some of us crazy. In our neighborhood there was first train noise, then road noise, now lights.

Every single person I have asked says the same thing... "are you kidding?"

I think if you took a look at the record on accidents at this intersection, you would find they come from alcohol, excessive speed, and general incompetence. If you look at road fatalities in the area, they have been caused by alcohol, poor road surfaces, perhaps mistakes in marking passing zones, and poor road engineering near the tracks by Anne's Greenhouse, not darkness at this intersection. That turn by Anne's has 3 times as many wrecks as the intersection of Murphey Dome and Goldstream. The decision is not particularly scientific or well thought out based on an understanding of our neighborhood.

Please explain the process for meeting with you or anyone in planning to get at the bottom of this insensitive decision.

Thank you for taking time to address our concern and for the explanations.

Sincerely,

Steve

On Wed, Oct 26, 2011 at 7:35 AM, Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT) <colleen.ackiss@alaska.gov> wrote:

Mr. Levey,

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns. The Design section of DOT is indeed planning a project at the intersection of Sheep Creek and Murphy Dome Road. The proposed project was initiated under the Highway Safety Improvement Program which is a federally mandated program with the mission to reduce the number of crashes along our highways with emphasis on the reduction of fatal and major injury crashes. During the project scoping phase it was determined that the installation of highway lighting at this intersection would help to mitigate the types of crashes which have occurred while promoting additional safety at the intersection in the effort to reduce the future number of crashes.

There is not a process for "legally preventing" the project from occurring. This project is federally funded and therefore must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the process has been reviewed and addressed. Dependent upon the type of improvements which are planned varying levels of public involvement are required – due to the nature of the safety improvements of this spot intersection improvement project public involvement is not necessary. However, we welcome all public comments and concerns such as yours.

Highway lighting fixtures have changed over the years with improvements being made to both the lamp and optics to reduce the amount of errant light emitted. The fixtures that the Department has selected for use on this project have a flat glass lens and cut off optics. The cut off optics direct the light onto the roadway with very minimal errant light emitted above the horizon of the fixture. The flat glass lens also helps to direct the light downward as well. There are many of these fixtures in use around Fairbanks and have been used successfully in rural areas to provide illumination on the roadway while minimizing the amount of errant light. When the project is completed, the improvements to the safety of the intersection and Goldstream Road, Sheep Creek Road and Murphy Dome Road should be greatly enhanced.

Again, thank you for expressing your concerns.

Colleen Ackiss, P.E.

Traffic & Safety Chief

Alaska DOT&PF – Northern Region

From: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 10:02 AM
To: Steve Levey
Cc: Fehrenbacher, Jim (DOT); Ohalloran, William (DOT); Titus, James Stephen (DOT); Bailey, Meadow P (DOT); Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Subject: RE: Street lighting in the Goldstream Valley

Mr. Levey,

As far as installing street lights in that intersection I am not sure what is being planned. I will forward your e-mail to the planning department and they should be in touch with you.

I can speak to the chip patches that we do out on all roads around Fairbanks to fix bad spots. As you know our roads do a lot of moving due to the permafrost. We are given a budget every year that we have to stay within so we have to find the most cost effective way to fix as many road issues that we can. As for fixing the road surface its self we do a couple of maintenance fixes in those areas. On short sections (normally no more then 200') we use a grader to spread asphalt to level the road back up. This method is fast and the most cost effective for that short of spot. The second way is to use chips seals. We use this method for patches over 200'. Yes I agree they are more noisy then asphalt but again for spots that we have to repair every year or at the most three years it is the most cost effective so we have to go that way to get as many repairs done as we can. This year we have added another option. In places that we rarely fix that are longer then 200' we used a paving machine(rented from a contractor). This is pretty close to the same cost as chipping but is stronger and last longer than chips seals and quieter. The only problem with this method is that it takes a lot longer to prep so we can't use it on spots that need more constant repairs because of time. I know this is a quick overview of what we do and I know this does not fix the noise issues for you but I hope you can understand a little bit better why we are doing the types of repairs we are doing.

Thanks for taking the time to let us know what your concerns are and feel free to contacted me anytime.

Steve Potter

Fairbanks District Superintendent

State of Alaska Department of Transportation

Maintenance & Operations Division

(907) 451-5276 office

(907) 978-0432 cell

(907) 451-5131 fax

From: Steve Levey [<mailto:steve.levey@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 3:07 AM
To: Potter, Steve B (DOT)
Subject: Street lighting in the Goldstream Valley

Dear Mr. Potter,

A friend mentioned that DOT is planning street lights at the intersection of Sheep Creek and Murphey Dome Roads. I need to know what the process is for legally preventing this. The other issue of concern is noise pollution caused by skim coating quieter surfaces with chips. I know that building roads and installing lights is your job and that I may be asking the wrong guy to lower road caused stress in my neighborhood, but this project will massively change the character of the Valley. This is a residential and rural area, light pollution has already eliminated nearly all viewing of night skies to in the direction of Fairbanks to the South.

I understand the need for safety but lighting is not the answer here. Posted speed limits are well in excess of what the roads are engineered and maintained for. Rutting in Sheep Creek road killed a man a few years ago when his car changed lanes going up a hill causing a front end collision. The ruts hold ice. A car shot off what we call the "Woahsht" turn at the tracks by Anne's Green Houses killing a man a few years ago. Crashes are common there. 55mph is a crazy speed coming out Murphey Dome road, especially at the hill by Ivan's Alley. Speed (even the legal ones out here) and alcohol kills, not peaceful darkness. Development is not the answer here. Another sign warning of the stop sign as folks blast out Murphey Dome, significantly more enforcement of speed laws, and reduced speed limits are low budget, low impact options that improve quality of life.

Please advise me on the process for public input and I will do my part to help you spend your budget elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Steve Levey

2866 Monarch Road

Fairbanks, AK 99709

455-7473

Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)

From: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 7:46 AM
To: Suzanne Bishop
Subject: RE: Lights on Goldstream Road -- YES!

Suzanne-

Thank you for your comments. The federally mandated Highway Safety Improvement Program tasks states with reviewing high accident locations and addressing those locations with proven countermeasures to reduce the types of crashes we are experiencing on our roadways. As part of this program, the intersection of Murphy Dome/Sheep Creek was identified as a location where the installation of highway lighting would mitigate the number of crashes occurring. The intersection of Ballaine Road/Goldstream Road has not been identified as a high crash location but is reviewed each year during the screening process for the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Thank you for your support. Safety is a high priority for the Department of Transportation and small improvements such as highway lighting can have a large impact on the overall safety of our roadways.

Colleen Ackiss
Traffic & Safety Chief

From: Suzanne Bishop [<mailto:sbishop2008@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2011 5:05 PM
To: Ackiss, Colleen M (DOT)
Cc: sbishop@newsminer.com
Subject: Lights on Goldstream Road -- YES!

I am in absolute FULL support of street lights on Goldstream Road, especially at the intersections of Murphy Dome/Sheep Creek and Ballaine Road/Goldstream. I live equidistant between the two intersections, so I use both routes to get to my work at UAF. Both intersections are a hazard, particularly in the winter. I would be most grateful for the light and be comforted to know my teenage driver has that additional safety measure to help keep her safe.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Bishop

1621 Howling Dog Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99709