

**BIRCH HILL ROAD
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY
&
FARMERS LOOP TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS
ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION**

**Open House
Welcome**

Purpose of this Meeting:

To present project scope and status for the Birch Hill Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility and the Farmers Loop to Chena Hot Springs Road Trail Connection projects, and to receive your input regarding the six alternatives presented, issues, and/or concerns, as well as other options that we should consider.

Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility

Project Need:

There are no shoulders on Birch Hill Road which results in motorized and non-motorized users sharing the same road surface to travel.

Project Purpose:

To provide bicyclists and pedestrians with a dedicated facility, and to allow for more continuous trail networking within the Fairbanks area.

Project Scope:

Construct a bicycle/pedestrian path along Birch Hill Road to allow safe access to the Birch Hill Recreational Trail System.

Farmers Loop to Chena Hot Springs Road Trail Connection

Project Need:

The CHSR trail does not currently connect to the Fairbanks trail network. Frequent incursions into private property result from the lack of a defined connection.

Project Purpose:

To provide a public and defined route that connects these two trails.

Project Scope:

Provide an all season trail connection between Farmers Loop Road and Chena Hot Springs Road. This will connect the Farmers Loop Bike Trail and adjacent winter trails to the Chena Hot Springs multi-use trail.

ALTERNATIVE No. 1 – BIRCH HILL

(BIRCH HILL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY)

Pros

- Provides a separate route along Birch Hill Road to the local Recreation Area
- Provides a separate facility for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling in this area.
- Promotes non-motorized transportation in Fairbanks

Cons

- It will require small Right-of-Way acquisitions
- Trees providing a visual buffers may be removed
- As a stand-alone project, does not include a dedicated facility to connect with Farmers Loop Road path

ALTERNATIVE No. 1A – BIRCH HILL

(BIRCH HILL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilizes Birch Hill Road's Right-Of-Way• Does not alter existing "local" trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will remove some of the tree buffer between residences and Birch Hill Road• Longer path

ALTERNATIVE No. 1B – BIRCH HILL

(BIRCH HILL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May use existing Right-of-Way shown on FNSB Property GIS Database• Provides a short forested path section• Reduces length of path• Does not remove trees between Birch Hill Road and homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alters and increases bicycle/pedestrian use on existing “local” trail

ALTERNATIVE No. 2 – BIRCH HILL/STEESE EXPR.

(FARMERS LOOP TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The trail is accessible to the neighborhoods• Limited ROW acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improves access primarily on the East side of Steese Expressway• Requires users to cross the Steese Expressway, CHSR, and CHSR off-ramp

ALTERNATIVE No. 2A – BIRCH HILL/STEESE EXPR.

(FARMERS LOOP TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Utilizes Birch Hill Road's Right-Of-Way• Does not alter existing "local" trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It will remove some of the tree buffer between residences and Birch Hill Road• Longer path

ALTERNATIVE No. 2B – BIRCH HILL/STEESE EXPR.

(FARMERS LOOP TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May use existing Right-of-Way shown on FNSB Property GIS Database• Provides a short forested path section• Reduces length of path• Does not remove trees between Birch Hill Road and homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alters and increases bicycle/pedestrian use on existing “local” trail

ALTERNATIVE No. 3: SWAN LANE

(FARMERS LOOP TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remote trail (less traffic noise)• Does not require crossing of Steese Expressway at grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poor foundation soils, may require high level of maintenance• Requires major ROW acquisition• May promote users to cross Farmers Loop Road on a curve

ALTERNATIVE No. 4: OLD STEESE

(FARMERS LOOP TO CHENA HOT SPRINGS ROAD TRAIL CONNECTION)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides access to/from properties along Old Steese• Does not require crossing of Steese Expressway at grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires ROW acquisitions from most properties along the Old Steese• Entire route is adjacent to the Old Steese with little to no separation

ALTERNATIVE No. 5: COMBINE PROJECTS

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less overall impact while complying to both project scopes• Connects Birch Hill Rec. Area to CHSR trail and Farmers Loop Road path• Requires only limited ROW acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improves access primarily on the East side of Steese Expressway• Segments of route have little separation from traffic• Requires pedestrian crossing of Steese Expressway, CHSR, and CHSR off-ramp

ALTERNATIVE No. 5A – COMBINE PROJECTS

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Utilizes Birch Hill Road's Right-Of-Way•Does not alter existing "local" trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•It will remove some of the tree buffer between residences and Birch Hill Road•Longer path

ALTERNATIVE NO. 5B – COMBINE PROJECTS

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May use existing Right-of-Way shown on FNSB Property GIS Database• Provides a short forested path section• Reduces length of path• Does not remove trees between Birch Hill Road and homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alters and increases bicycle/pedestrian use on existing “local” trail

ALTERNATIVE No. 6: NO-BUILD

(NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE IS FOR EITHER OR BOTH PROJECTS)

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No new clearing, land disturbance, or highway crossings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not increase safety for users or promote non-motorized transportation• Does not improve access to Birch Hill Recreation Area• Does not provide a trail connection from CHSR trail to Fairbanks Trail Network