



Draft Purpose and Need

Need – identifies the problem

Purpose – proposed solution to the problem

Need:

Wasilla has a poor circulation grid due in part to limited north-south connections between arterials resulting in traffic congestion at major arterial intersections, increased vehicle miles traveled, and safety concerns. The City of Wasilla and the Knik-Goose Bay area south of Wasilla has grown rapidly over the past decade and although growth has slowed, the trend is expected to continue as large tracts of land are converted into residential and commercial subdivisions. Currently, Knik Goose Bay (KGB) Road and South Vine Road provide the most direct routes for residents traveling between the Knik-Fairview area and Wasilla and points to the north. However, the connection points of these routes to the Parks Highway are more than five miles apart.

Purpose:

The City of Wasilla Transportation Plan, City of Wasilla Official Streets & Highways Plan (OSHP) FY 2005-2025, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's 2007 Long-Range Transportation Plan (MSB LRTP) recommend extending South Mack Drive as a major collector road from the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center to KGB Road.

Extending South Mack Drive and facilitating a realignment of the Fairview Loop-KGB intersection will provide the important north-south link. It will:

- Provide movement between residential areas (including the Knik-Fairview area), the City of Wasilla and points north and south on the Parks Highway
- Expand mobility while providing access between the Parks Highway and KGB Road
- Reduce congestion on Parks Highway (a national highway system route) and KGB Road (a significant arterial)
- Provide crash-reduction benefit due to reduced volumes on two area highway safety corridors: Parks Highway and KGB Road
- Increase route options and reduce vehicle travel time
- Provide multiple points of access for emergency services and school bus routes to adjacent residential and commercial properties
- Improve trip distribution by providing a new link in the transportation network

Wasilla has a poor circulation grid due in part to limited north-south connections between arterials. Poor circulation results in traffic congestion, increased vehicle miles traveled, and safety concerns. Connecting South Mack Drive from the Sports Center to Knik-Goose Bay (KGB) Road and providing for future realignment of Fairview Loop will link local streets and arterials. This major collection will:

- Expand mobility while providing access
- Reduce congestion on the Parks Highway and KGB Road
- Decrease traffic volumes and improve crash rates on Parks Highway and KGB Road
- Reduce vehicle travel time and improve trip distribution