

AMATS: Downtown Trail Connection

Project Scope The Project will connect the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and the Ship Creek Trail in Downtown Anchorage to form a 14-mile continuous non-motorized, multi-use corridor. This over one-mile connection will complete the most high-profile missing link identified in the Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan (1997) and is supported by the MOA Non-Motorized Plan. The Project will provide ADA compliant non-motorized access to the small boat launch and maximize utility and safety. The Downtown Trail Connection project will go through the MOA's trail review process with community involvement, Parks and Recreation Commission and approval by the Urban Design Commission.

Project No. CFHWY00586

www.ConnectCoastalToShip.com

Schedule

Open House 1: Public Scoping

August 2022

Open House 2: Preferred Alternative

Winter 24/25

Parks and Recreation Commission Review

Winter 24/25

Urban Design Commission Trail Review at 65% design

Winter 24/25

Construction is anticipated to start in 2025 or 2026 depending on the completion date for the ARRC MP 114.3 Bridge Construction and availability of funding.



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. After construction, who will own and maintain the pathway?

This project was selected by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and funded by AMATS. The new non-motorized multi-use pathway will be owned and maintained by the MOA. The State is a partner in delivering this Municipal project.

2. The existing gravel trail under the bridges is frequently underwater at high tide. Will this project improve the flooding?

The design will be developed to reduce this situation as much as possible. There will be extreme weather events that will cause flooding.

3. What is the plan for winter maintenance of the new trail?

The Parks and Recreation Department is planning grooming in the winter between Kincaid Park and William Tyson Elementary School.

4. Was the no-build alternative looked at?

Yes, but it did not solve the problem of directly connecting the Coastal Trail to the Ship Creek Trail.

5. Why is the trail not more direct?

The alignment shown in the Fact Sheet graphic is the one that provides the fewest railroad crossings, provides a safe recreational experience for non-motorized users, and causes the least impact on the railroad's plans and existing facilities.

6. Is the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) supportive of the project and this route?

Yes, ARRC is supportive of this alignment. The design team is working closely with ARRC on design and permitting.

7. The current proposed alignment only connects in 2 places: at 5th Avenue near Elderberry Park and at Ship Creek Trail entrance. Were other access points considered?

Additional access points will be considered with future projects.

8. Will the project upgrade other side streets such as 2nd Ave or Christianson Drive?

No, this project only includes a new trail along the coast and adjacent to Ship Creek.

9. What is the schedule for construction?

Construction is anticipated to start in 2025 or 2026 if all funding is available and if the construction phasing works with the railroad's plans to replace their bridge over Ship Creek.

10. When can we submit comments on this project?

Comments can be submitted throughout the project. The project will go through the Municipal Trail Review Process as well as a review at the Parks and Recreation Commission.

A summary of formal project presentations and public engagement opportunities:

- AMATS Technical Advisory Committee & Policy Committee, May 2022
- South Addition Community Council, June 23, 2022
- Downtown Community Council, July 6, 2022.
- Open House #1, August 10, 2022. Open House 2 is planned for the winter of 2024/2025
- The Parks and Recreation Commission will review the project in the winter of 2024/2025
- The Urban Design Commission will hold a public hearing on the project in winter of 2024/2025