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Date: June 18, 2023

Re: Proposed Reconstruction New Seward & O'Malley (Double Diverging Diamonds)

WHEREAS the Hillside-Area Home And LandOwners Organization, Inc "HALO" was formed to protect the rights of the residents of the Anchorage Hillside prior to incorporation into the Municipality of Anchorage, and

WHEREAS viable solutions to traffic issues must include thought given to safety, usage and needs of pedestrians and bicyclists as well as vehicles, and in fact non-motorized use is encouraged throughout the Municipality, and

WHEREAS both roundabouts and double diverging diamond interchanges "DDDI" are considered more efficient for vehicle use but are difficult and often present dangerous challenges for use by both pedestrians and bicycle riders, and

WHEREAS drivers are stymied by both of these traffic solutions, but particularly by configuration of the DDDI where the proper lane is counter-intuitive, and merging measures difficult to understand, and

WHEREAS, while in summer, use of both DDDI and roundabout traffic methods are confusing but doable, but wintertime use is difficult due to differing winter maintenance practices between

Municipal and State roads, complicated by reduced daylight, heavy snow berms impeding visibility, oncoming headlights and snow/ice conditions causing more driver consternation, and

WHEREAS the DDDI requires U-turns across multiple lanes of traffic in order to reach several family neighborhoods, requires U-turns for drivers who miss their correct exit, requires a U-turn for any oversized load needing to bypass a low bridge or any traffic attempting to bypass a crash at the bridge, and in addition, the configuration of the interchanges forces off-ramp traffic to either turn left or right, and

WHEREAS no standards currently exist for this design, as the design depends on site-specific conditions, with additional signage, lighting and pavement markings needed beyond levels used by a standard interchange, and signage and pavement markings are difficult or impossible to see in winter conditions, and

WHEREAS pedestrians and bicyclists are conditioned to look left, then right, then left before crossing the street, and these must now learn to look right, then left, then right at these crossings, and

WHEREAS the greatest majority of the Hillside properties that would normally use O'Malley Road as access have already been built, with extremely few remaining properties available for new construction, resulting in traffic already at a probable lifetime maximum, and

WHEREAS overbuilding this particular intersection in this proposal is not necessary and it is highly unlikely that traffic using this segment will ever increase due to the lack of buildable land in this area of Hillside,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Home And LandOwners Organization, Inc respectfully pleads that the plans for a Double Diverging Diamond Interchange be removed from the potential options for this intersection, and that the traditional option which respects and protects both motorized and non-motorized local traffic be created.

Thank you.

Katie Nolan, President
Home And LandOwners Organization, Inc.