

**Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities****Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

# Chena Small Tracts Road Bicycle & Pedestrian Facility

**State Funding Requested: \$298,000****House District:** Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Construct a facility along Chena Small Tracts Road from the existing Chena Pump Road path to the FNSB Chena Kiwanis Park to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$2,391,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$570,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$298,000)
Project Deficit:	\$1,523,000

*Funding Details:*

*FY11 State of Alaska Capital Budget Funding - \$150,000. FY12 FMATs Funding - \$420,000*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The proposed facility runs alongside Chena Small Tracts Road, a busy residential thoroughfare that runs from a main traffic artery (Chena Pump Road), to a popular borough maintained park on the Chena River (Kiwanis River Park). The road currently has no shoulder or sidewalk and the current speed limit is 40 miles per hour. The construction of a facility would allow non-motorized traffic to travel safely along the road.

Currently in Fairbanks there is no school bus service from the Chena Small Tracts area to Woodriver Elementary School, because it falls within a half-mile radius. This absence of bus service forces many students to walk along Chena Small Tracts Road to school posing a significant danger to them due to the lack of pedestrian facilities. Chena Small Tracts Road also has a higher than average occurrence of ice fog, due to geographical location, further reducing the visibility. In the winter months the danger to bicyclists and pedestrians is increased because of a snow constricted roadway surface along with increased traffic due to the frozen Chena River crossing. Since 2004 there have been three recorded accidents on Chena Small Tracts Road.

This project would significantly improve the health and quality of life for local residents and visitors alike. This facility would allow for multi-modal transportation options in the area while providing an aesthetically pleasing transportation corridor. A connection would also be provided by this facility linking the community and the existing Kiwanis River Park. Over the past few years the area served by this road has grown tremendously, now serving a large residential population, as well as Woodriver Elementary School. This facility would provide students with safe access to the Chena River allowing for ample scientific and ecological learning opportunities.

The DOT has agreed to commit to the post-construction maintenance of the facility.

**Project Timeline:**

As funds are available. FY13 funding would go towards environmental studies, utility relocation and right of way.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities - Northern Region

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Steve Titus  
Title: Northern Region Director  
Address: 2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
Phone Number: (907)452-2210  
Email: steve.titus@alaska.gov

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Dear Senator Thomas:

This letter is in support of funding for the Chena Small Tracks pedestrian pathway on behalf of the Woodriver PTA. We are concerned about unsafe road conditions for children who have to walk along this road to get to/from Woodriver Elementary school. It is especially unsafe in winter time, i.e. 2/3 of the school year. There is no bus service for the area south of the Chena Small Tracks road, so families have to either let their children walk/bike in unsafe conditions or drive them to/from school. Unnecessary driving adds to the winter air pollution problem in Fairbanks. Also, in recent years one of the focus areas of the Natioanl PTA is the fight against obesity epidemic among children. We encourage children to stay active, and one way for them to do it is to walk/bike to school. Making Chena Small Tracks road safe for children to walk/bike will help children to be more active. This project will greatly benefit community as a whole. We request continuing funding for this project.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Natalsha Ruppert  
President  
Woodriver Elementary School PTA

## INTRODUCTION

Woodriver Elementary is located off Chena Pump Road between Palo Verde and Amherst streets. There were 446 students enrolled for the 2010-2011 school year. The walk-zone encompasses the University West subdivision between Chena Pump Road, the Parks Highway and the Chena River (Figure 1). The walk-zone is a residential area with a mix of single- and multi-family dwellings.

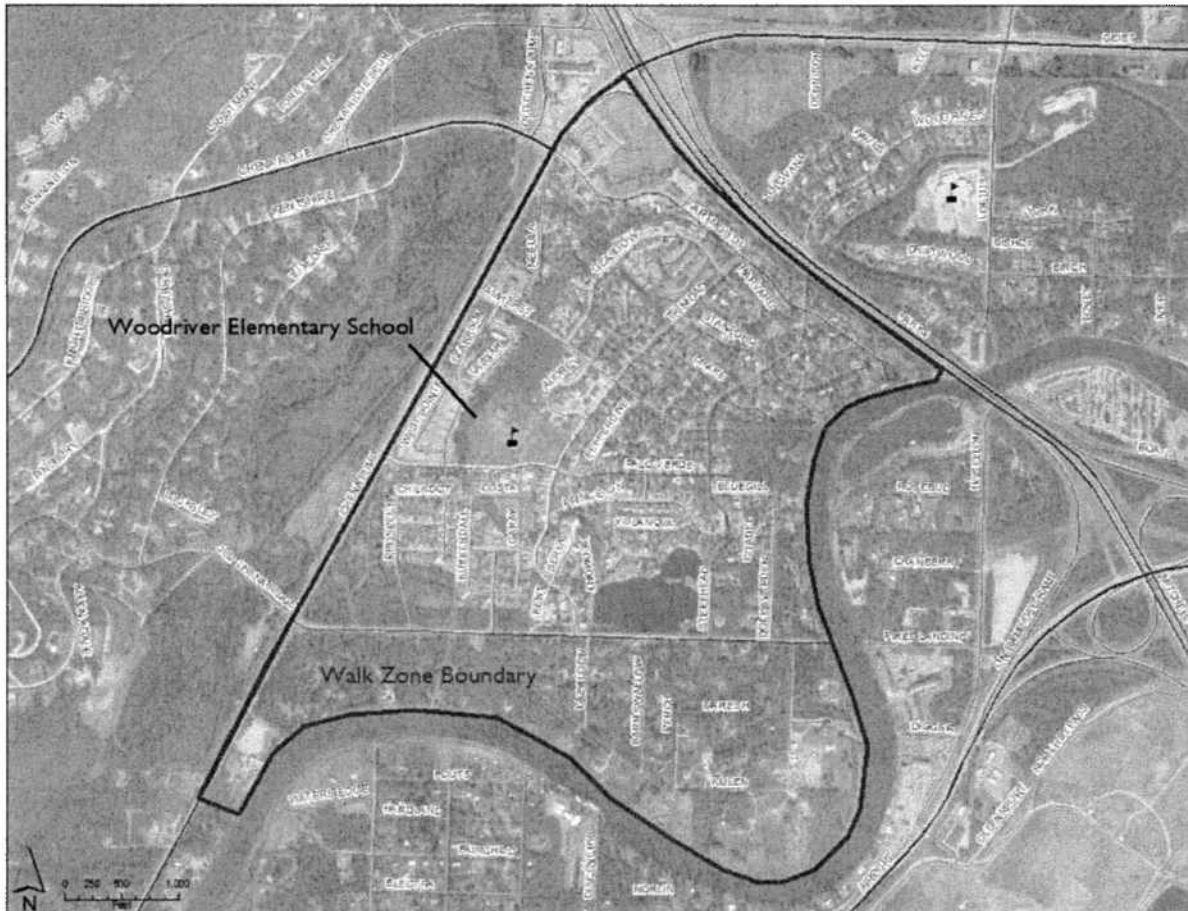


Figure 1 - Woodriver Elementary Walk Zone

## SITE CHARACTERISTICS

- There are separate loading/unloading zones for buses and parents, each with one-way traffic flow. The school property is fenced with four gates, two each on the north and east sides.
- There are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Students use a network of informal trails on the north and west sides of the school to access school property from Vassar, Amherst and Audrey streets. Another informal trail connects the Gold Rush and Kuykendall area with Palo Verde. The only crosswalks in the walk-zone are located at the intersection of Palo Verde and Trinidad.

- Palo Verde is illuminated with street lights from Chena Pump Road to the intersection with Trinidad. Trinidad has streetlights from Chena Small Tracts to Amherst. Streetlights are generally limited to intersections throughout the rest of the walk-zone.
- The speed limit for most streets in the walk-zone is 20 mph. Chena Small Tracts Road is posted at 40 mph.
- School zone signs are posted appropriately in the neighborhood.

## **PARENT SURVEY RESULTS**

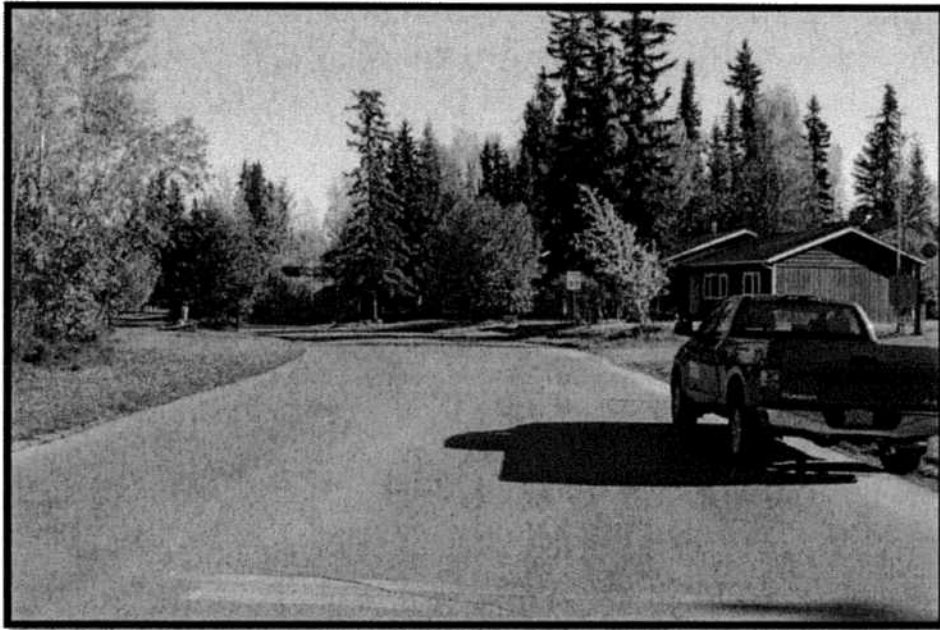
Up to 20% of children walk or bike to/from Woodriver Elementary, although those numbers fluctuate seasonally. A student tally conducted in early October, 2010 registered 58 students walking to school.

Parents in the Woodriver area identified the amount and speed of traffic along walking routes as the most influential factors in disallowing their children to walk or bike to school. Parents that allow their children to walk to school are most concerned about the weather. See the Appendix for complete results of the parent surveys.

Many respondents identified the lack of sidewalks, street lights and crossing guards as deficiencies in the walk-zone. Driver actions also influenced parents' perceptions of the safety of walking to school.

## **SUMMARY**

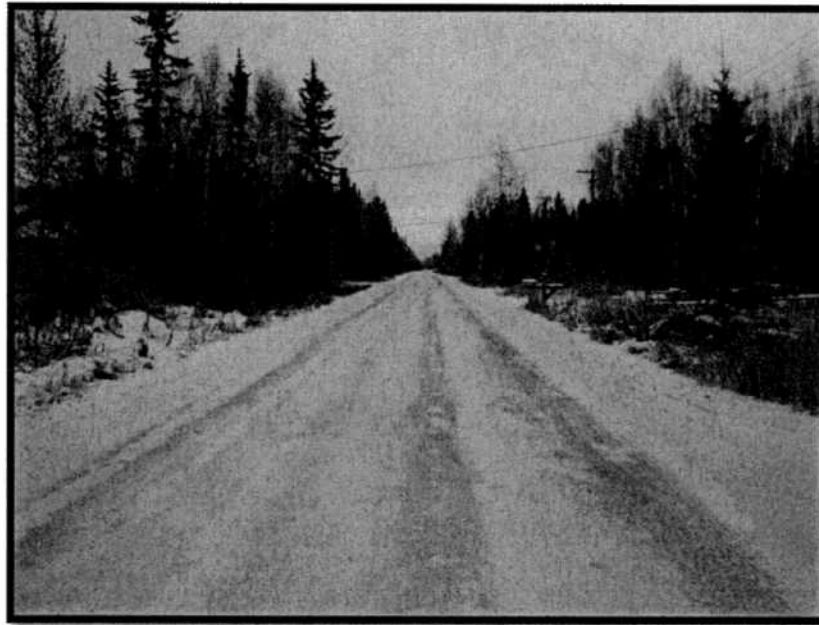
The Woodriver Elementary walk-zone is deficient in most areas. The absence of sidewalks forces students to walk in the roadway or on the limited road shoulder. This is particularly dangerous in winter when snow berms cover the shoulders. Likewise, there are insufficient streetlights and limited sight distances on several of the walk-zone streets (Figure 2).



**Figure 2 - Typical Woodriver area streets; note the limited sight distance and lack of sidewalks**

The prevalence of cul-de-sacs in the walk-zone contributes to the lack of connectivity. As a result, students are creating informal paths through wooded areas and across private property. These informal paths are unlighted and unmaintained, and often force kids to cross the street at undesirable and unmarked mid-block locations.

A portion of the walk-zone is located south of Chena Small Tracts road. This road is unlighted, lacks any marked crosswalks or sidewalks, has narrow shoulders and is posted as 40 mph (Figure 3).
















**Figure 3 - Chena Small Tracts Road in October**

In addition to the infrastructure deficiencies described above, Woodriver Elementary faces the seasonal issue of substantial wood smoke in the walk-zone and particularly around the school. Smoke from outdoor wood boilers on private property in the neighborhood stays close to the ground during temperature inversions. Not only is this smoke unhealthy, it makes it difficult for motorists to see children walking along neighborhood streets.

3, NORTH POLE

Petition: We the undersigned are concerned citizens of Fairbanks, Alaska who urge our leaders and legislators to make the safety of our children, elderly, disabled and community members a priority by continuing to fund a pedestrian pathway along Chena Small Tracks. This project will also allow community members and students safe access to enjoy and study the Chena River, the borough park and the natural resources that Alaska has to offer. We urge our leaders and legislators to act now by requesting funding and support for this important project.

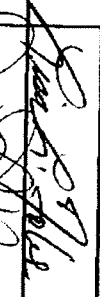






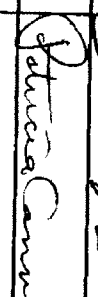

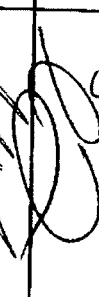




	Name	Signature	Address	Email	Date
1	Tami Seekins		44033 Marsh Ave F85, AK 99709	tamiseekins@hotmail.com	2/2/11
2	Melissa Sikes		PO Box 10243 Fairbanks, AK 99709	MelSikes5@gmail.com	2/2/11
3	Renee Rosier		503 Ridgeway Rd. N.P. AK.	ridgeway@ci.net	2/2/11
4	Hatheryn Hayden		Cabin #B Fairbroom, Fairbanks, AK 99709	hates.hayden@gmail.com	2/2/11
5	George Hitz		3124 UFW St. N.P., AK	georgehitz@gmail.com	2/2/11
6	Taane Kuykendall		PO Box 61405 Fairbanks, AK 99706	dink@accalaska.net	2/3/11
7	Ten Oestreich		2510 Alton Rd. Unit B Fairbanks, AK 99709	joestreich5@yahoo.com	2/3/11
8	Carla Kuykendall		5059 Murphy Drive rd. Fairbanks, AK 99709	cippy@acetek.com	2/3/11
9	Bryon Lopez		2481 Clonds Rd North Pole, AK 99705		2/3/2011
10	Rodney Everett		2308 Johnson Ln N.P. AK 99705	everett@ci.net	2/3/11
11	Jessica Lucitz		1819 Norway Lane F865 AK 99709	xlucitz@gmail.com	2/4/11
12	ARIL MOORE		925 3rd Ave Fairbanks, AK 99701	arilmoores@gmail.com	2/4/11
13	Jeffrey Mann		125 Charles St.	Mann@alaskang.com	2/4/11

u



1022M POU

Petition: We the undersigned are concerned citizens of Fairbanks, Alaska who urge our leaders and legislators to make the safety of our children, elderly, disabled and community members a priority by continuing to fund a pedestrian pathway along Chena Small Tracks. This project will also allow community members and students safe access to enjoy and study the Chena river, the borough park and the natural resources that Alaska has to offer. We urge our leaders and legislators to act now by requesting funding and support for this important project.

14	Lisa Forbes		3162 Roden Lane	lisa_forbes@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
15	Diana Hawkins		855 Canterbury Dr	diana.hawkins@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
16	Kimi Martinson		208 Chena Forest Ave	mykimbartinson@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
17	Moderne Stanger		2887 Chief Alexander Dr	moderne.stanger@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
18	Nancy Viale		105 Maple Dr.	nancy.viale@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
19	Joy Grubis		1601 Hans way F&Ks.	joy.grubis@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
20	Hannibal Grubis		1601 Hans way F&Ks.	hannibal.grubis@k12northstar.org	2/4/11
21	SARA J. JENSEN		1590 Jonathan way		2/4/11
22	Patricia Cannon		2307 Cordas Dr.		2/4/11
23	Kelly S. Jordan		3200 Hillary Ave	chelly@qci.net	2/4/11
24	Amy Lanam		5002 Dartmouth #17		2/4/11
25	Jack Lanam		5002 Dartmouth #17		2/4/11
26	Chris Sanborn		3999 Olympic Terrace Cir Anchorage AK 99507		2/4/11
27	Eric Stone		550 Remington Dr. Fairbanks AK 99701	eric.stone@k12northstar.org	2-4-11

*North Pole*  
 Petition: We the undersigned are concerned citizens of Fairbanks, Alaska who urge our leaders and legislators to make the safety of our children, elderly, disabled and community members a priority by continuing to fund a pedestrian pathway along Chena Small Tracks. This project will also allow community members and students safe access to enjoy and study the Chena river, the borough park and the natural resources that Alaska has to offer. We urge our leaders and legislators to act now by requesting funding and support for this important project.

28	Russell Hawkins	<i>[Signature]</i>	855 Centerway Dr. Fairbanks <sup>99709</sup>	hawkins@alaska.net	2/5/11
29	Erin O'Brien	<i>[Signature]</i>	1335 Pease Ct Fairbanks 99709	erinobrien@gmail.com	2/4/11
30	Bryoke Bruer	<i>[Signature]</i>	4482 Daitmuth 99709	brookesunday@yahoo.com	2/4/11
31	Joy Collison	<i>[Signature]</i>	140 Cornell Way 99709	joycollison@gmail.com	2/4/11
32	Leshle Dolan	<i>[Signature]</i>	193 Crest Dr. Fairbanks 99709		2/4/11
33	Amie Greer	<i>[Signature]</i>	12 1/2 N. 4th St Fairbanks 99701	amie@alaska.net	2/4/11
34	David Brashere	<i>[Signature]</i>	775 Merino Lane Fairbanks, AK 99709	dbrashere@alaska.net	2/4/11
35	Nicole Eisenman	<i>[Signature]</i>	40 Box 08 South 99708		2-4-11
36	James Brashere	<i>[Signature]</i>	775 Merlin Fbks 99709		2/4/11
37	Jenni Opp	<i>[Signature]</i>	2010 Stevestry Fbks <sup>99702</sup>		2/5/11
38	Keith Berrian	<i>[Signature]</i>	P.O. Box 80341 Fairbanks, AK 99708	berrian@alaska.net	2/5/11
39	Micki Bateman	<i>[Signature]</i>	1005 Trianon Dr. FB 99712	mickibateman@gmail.com	2/5/11
40	KATRINA BERGMAN	<i>[Signature]</i>	P.O. Box 85286 Fairbanks AK 99708	opac@ak.net	2/5/11
41	BRAD SMITH	<i>[Signature]</i>	2285 Shay Ct. Fairbanks 99712	brad@alaska.net	2/5/11

NV

AND NORTON RILEY

Petition: We the undersigned are concerned citizens of Fairbanks, Alaska who urge our leaders and legislators to make the safety of our children, elderly, disabled and community members a priority by continuing to fund a pedestrian pathway along Chena Small Tracks. This project will also allow community members and students safe access to enjoy and study the Chena river, the borough park and the natural resources that Alaska has to offer. We urge our leaders and legislators to act now by requesting funding and

PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	support for this important project.	Email	DATE
42 Kazumi Landis		1003 8th Ave. FBKS AK 99701		2/5/11
43 Rob Landis		1003 8th FBKS		2-5-11
44 Connie Seekins		4011 Muesel Ave. FBKS AK		2-5-11
45 Andrea Reinbelle		530 Knightbridge Rd FBKS 99709		2-5-11
46 Beth Austin		1821 Barn Swallow FBKS 99704	paulbeth.austine@gmail.com	2-5-11
47 Paul Austin		1821 Barn Swallow FBKS 99704		2-5-11
48 Eric Graham		2557 Micah Rd North Pole		2-5-11
49 Trudy Pink		3124 VFW Street, North Pole		2/8/11
50 Darcy Etcheverry		4900 Eielson Fm Rd North Pole, AK		2/9/11
51 Ben Seekins		4633 Manesh Ave	FBKS, AK 99709	2-9-11
52 Sherwin Umacher		1208 27th Ave FBKS, AK 99709	umachers@gmail.com	2-9-11
53 Dena Umacher		1208 27th Ave FBKS, AK 99709	umachers@gmail.com	2-9-11
54 Sheila Oden		1111 Concordia FBKS 99709		2-10-11
55 Kelly Seekins		3534 Holden Rd	Fairbanks, AK 99709	2-10-11