



HUDDLE

Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements - Virtual Open House #1 Summary

Date: April 13, 2022

Attendees: Attendance List Attached

Reporter: Michelle Fehribach, Huddle AK

Location: Virtual – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Project: Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements

Subject: Virtual Open House #1 Meeting Summary

Summary

The first public open house for the Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, from 5:30-7pm using the virtual platform Microsoft Teams. Attendees viewed two presentations, one from the project team and one from the Mountain Park-Robin Hill Rural Road Service Area (RRSA). Participants then had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the project. Attendees could ask questions verbally or via the meeting's chat feature.

The presentations included:

- Project Scope & Background
- Project Purpose & Need
- Existing Conditions
- Design Concepts/Features
- Project Schedule
- Stay Involved & How to Comment

After the presentation, attendees were able to ask questions and comment on the project. A comment summary log is attached. Attendees were encouraged to contact the project team with comments and questions at any time.

Open House Advertising

Community Councils: A Federation of Community Councils email alert was sent to the Hillside and Huffman/O'Malley Community Councils on March 31, 2022. An email was sent to the Rabbit Creek Community Council leadership on March 30, 2022, since a small portion of the project is within that boundary as well.

Mailing: A mailer invitation announcing the project and inviting people to the open house was sent by postcard via the USPS on March 30, 2022.

Web: The project website (www.birchroadphase2.com) was updated with the open house meeting information, including the date, time, link, and call-in number on March 10, 2022.



HUDDLE

E-mail: A Constant Contact reminder email was sent to the project email list on April 11, 2022.

Open House Follow-up

An e-newsletter was sent out to the project email list on April 15, 2022, thanking those who were able to attend and providing updates to those who were not able to make it. All the open house materials were uploaded to the project website on April 15, 2022.

Attachments

1. Questions & Answers
2. Attendance List
3. Meeting Presentations
4. Open House Advertisements (Emails, Mailer)

Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements
Virtual Open House #1
Questions and Answers

| Question | Answer (if applicable) |
|--|---|
| <p>I would like to get in touch with you, Justin, and have a look at the 35% drawings. Birch Road is as bad as everyone says, if not worse. For people to access De Armoun Rd in winter, it's dangerous. Anything that can be done to access Huffman instead for those south of this area would be appreciated.</p> | <p>We would be happy to discuss the drawings in more detail. Thank you for your comment.</p> |
| <p>I live off of the side street Ridgeview. Are you planning to put ditches along the side streets too or just Birch Road?</p> | <p>The project is focusing on Birch Rd. However, when we install ditches or cross culverts, we may need to do some additional improvements to the side streets. We don't know the extent of that right now, but we will have to tie into the side streets for the roadway and ditch designs.</p> |
| <p>The first summer I moved into my house, I had a culvert installed to direct water away from my driveway. It is getting worse every year, and my concern is the options seem to be "do everything" or "do nothing". I don't see how that little section of road will even be there in another three years if the project timeline is so long. Is there anything that can be done in the interim to keep the existing road surface in place long enough to design and construct the ultimate solution?</p> | <p>As we did more comprehensive studies, we realized the whole project area ties together and we need a broader solution – not just a band aid fix in the low area. We've been thinking about solutions for years because it is very challenging to redirect the water. An interim solution is to do more grading. Until we fix the drainage holistically, there will continue to be issues and potholes.</p> |
| <p>I use Birch Rd instead of De Armoun and I can remember when that spot was a bog and you couldn't go through it. It's a lot better than it was a long time ago. I have concerns about safety and traffic flow. Phase 1 constructed a nice, paved road, but the project removed all the vegetation. New trees were planted, however I'm not sure they are surviving. Do we really have to destroy the flora to build a road that will likely be a speedway? How does the project plan to address speeding? I agree that the drainage issue needs to be addressed but are we creating another safety issue? 2.7 million sounds like a lot but I feel like it will be more money than that.</p> | <p>One of the biggest drawbacks to improving road surfaces is the subsequent speeding issue. There's no easy solution and we are thinking about traffic calming measures throughout the development of the project. In order to provide ditching as shown in the cross section, we will likely have to remove vegetation. This project is a continuation of Phase 1 going south. We will replant as best as we can but to improve the road, we will have to widen the road.</p> |
| <p>I would just like to note that right now, on that worst part of Birch between Bristol and Ridgeview, trucks are running full speed, literally flying over all of the potholes. A nice road is not going to make this worse.</p> | <p><i>Comment noted.</i></p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>What if the pathway was constructed on the west side with a ditch and the entire road surface was graded to slope to the west, so the water would run down to the ditch? It could be an intermediary step to fix some drainage before the entire roadway is done.</p> | <p>We'll talk with RRSA about this concept in more detail.</p> |
| <p>The gravel road needs improvement. My problem with it is destroying the rest of the landscape. Phase 1 is a mess. Why destroy vegetation that's been around for years, and it will never be back once it's taken away. I would like this road to be constructed in the same place it is now, considering the easement needs to be moved in a few feet. The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) needs to change its procedure not to put a 24' road in there. I oppose most of the development you mentioned.</p> | <p>If we want to fix this section of road, we have to build to MOA standards. Those standards include ditching for drainage and widening the road. The design standards are fairly specific about what we are required to build. If we want to fix the drainage and potholes, we need a more comprehensive design solution for the entire road. We will look at creative ways to save as much of the trees and vegetation as possible.</p> |
| <p>Is this going to be funded with grants?</p> | <p>This project is way beyond what we can afford to fund ourselves as a service area. It would likely be funded with a grant or we're looking at the new Infrastructure Bill and how we might get funding from that. We're talking to legislators and state representatives and looking at state and federal government for ways to find funding.</p> |
| <p>Are you definitely moving the trail from the east to the west side?</p> | <p>Nothing at this point is for sure. Realistically, if we keep the trail on the east side we would lose 20' of Right-of-Way south of Bristol Dr due to the trail easement. There's not enough space to fit the road and trail so we're looking at taking advantage of the trail easement and have continuity of the trail since a portion of it is already on the west side of Birch Rd. We'll continue to look at solutions, and at this point moving the trail seems like the best option.</p> |
| <p>Will you be posting what the roadway design will look like shortly?</p> | <p>The diagram tonight showed all the features that current existing. We don't have a road designed yet. We're currently moving from 35% to 65% design and the 65% design documents will be posted to the website and shared publicly when they're completed.</p> |

**Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements
Virtual Open House #1
Attendance List**

| Name | Role |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gail Hoefler | Guest |
| Bob | Guest |
| Elizabeth Munter | Guest |
| Stephanie & Neil Koeniger | Guest |
| Chris W. Yelverton | Guest |
| Eric Emerton | Guest |
| Craig | Guest |
| Thomas | Guest |
| Joan Burnett | Guest |
| Getu Hailu | Guest |
| Warren | Guest |
| Maria Gemzicka | Guest |
| Katia Pronzati | Guest |
| John Hester | Guest |
| John & Nancy Todd | Guest |
| Jim & Kim Smith | Guest |
| 2 Unidentified call-ins | Guest |
| Brian Hoefler | Mt. Park-Robin Hill RRSA |
| Justin Keene | CRW Engineering Group LLC |
| Rob Burdick | CRW Engineering Group LLC |
| Holly Spoth-Torres | Huddle AK |
| Michelle Fehribach | Huddle AK |



Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

Public Open House #1

Wednesday, April 13, 2022



Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Sign In
- Meeting Procedures & Etiquette
- Road Board Presentation – Context & Background
- Project Presentation
- Questions & Answers
- How to Stay Involved & Submit Comments



BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

PROJECT TEAM

Municipality of Anchorage Public Works Administration

Project Manager: Maury Robinson

Mountain Park-Robin Hill Rural Road Service Area

Chair Board of Supervisors: Brian Hoefler

Design Team – CRW Engineering Group, LLC

Project Manager: Justin Keene, PE

Project Engineer: Rob Burdick, PE

Public Involvement: Holly Spoth-Torres & Michelle Fehribach (Huddle AK)

Website: birchroadphase2.com



Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

SIGN IN



BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

MEETING PROCEDURES & ETIQUETTE

- During the presentation please:
 - Keep your microphone muted
 - Keep your camera turned off
 - Use the chat window if you have questions
- Please keep in mind, the meeting and the chat are being recorded



Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

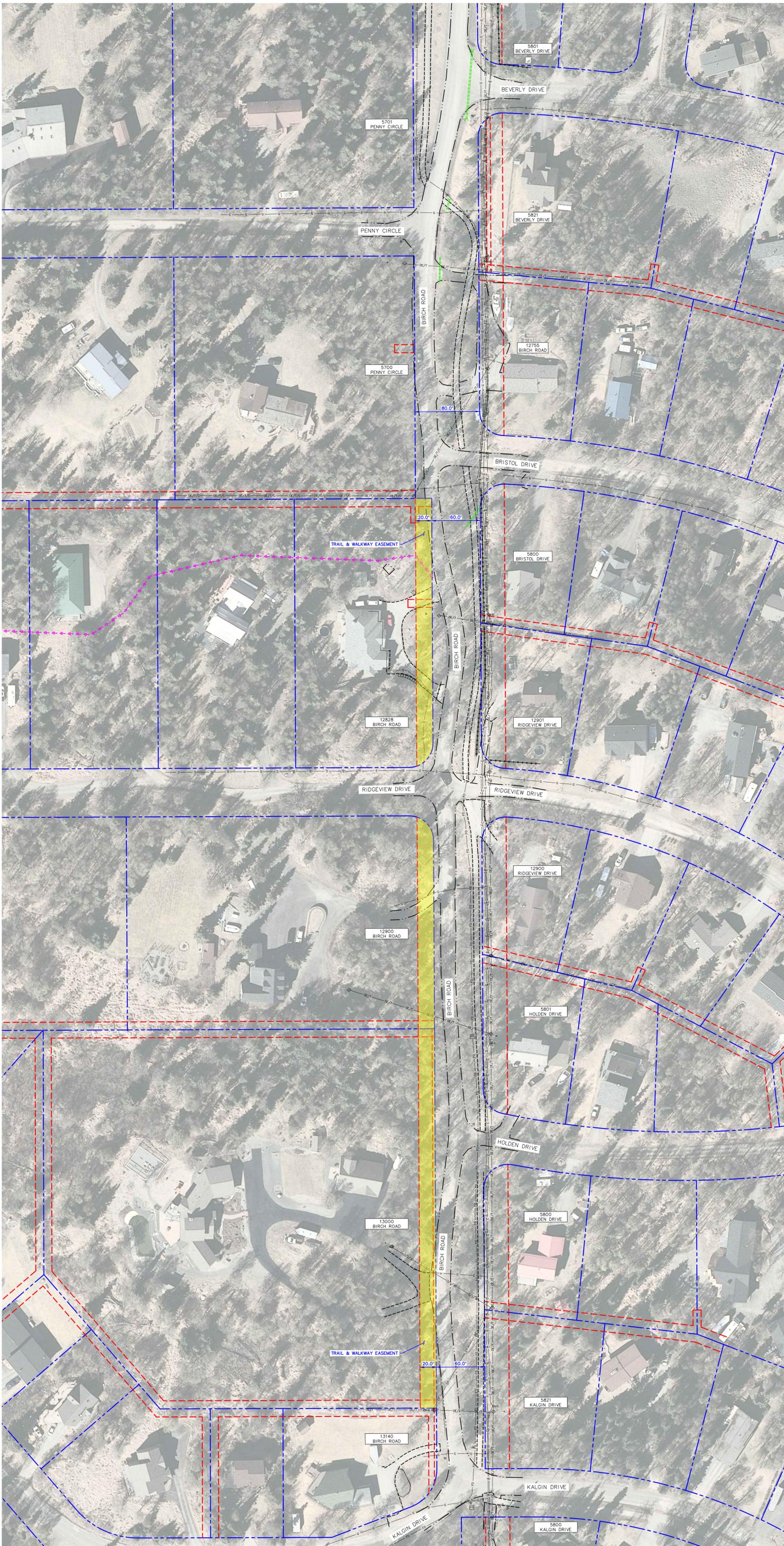
BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

IMPROVEMENTS BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDE:

- New road foundation and paved surface
- Modified roadway alignment
- New drainage ditches and culverts
- Reconstructed paved pathway



- LEGEND**
- EXISTING EASEMENTS
 - EXISTING ROW/PROPERTY LINES
 - EXISTING EDGE OF PAVEMENT
 - EXISTING EDGE OF GRAVEL
 - EXISTING FENCE
 - EXISTING DRAINAGEWAY
 - EXISTING CULVERT
 - EXISTING GAS LINE
 - EXISTING CABLE LINE
 - EXISTING CABLE PEDESTAL
 - EXISTING TELEPHONE LINE
 - EXISTING TELEPHONE PEDESTAL
 - EXISTING FIBER OPTIC LINE
 - EXISTING FIBER OPTIC VAULT
 - EXISTING OVERHEAD TELEPHONE LINE
 - EXISTING OVERHEAD ELECTRIC/TELEPHONE/CABLE LINE
 - EXISTING OVERHEAD ELECTRIC/TELEPHONE LINE
 - EXISTING UTILITY POLE





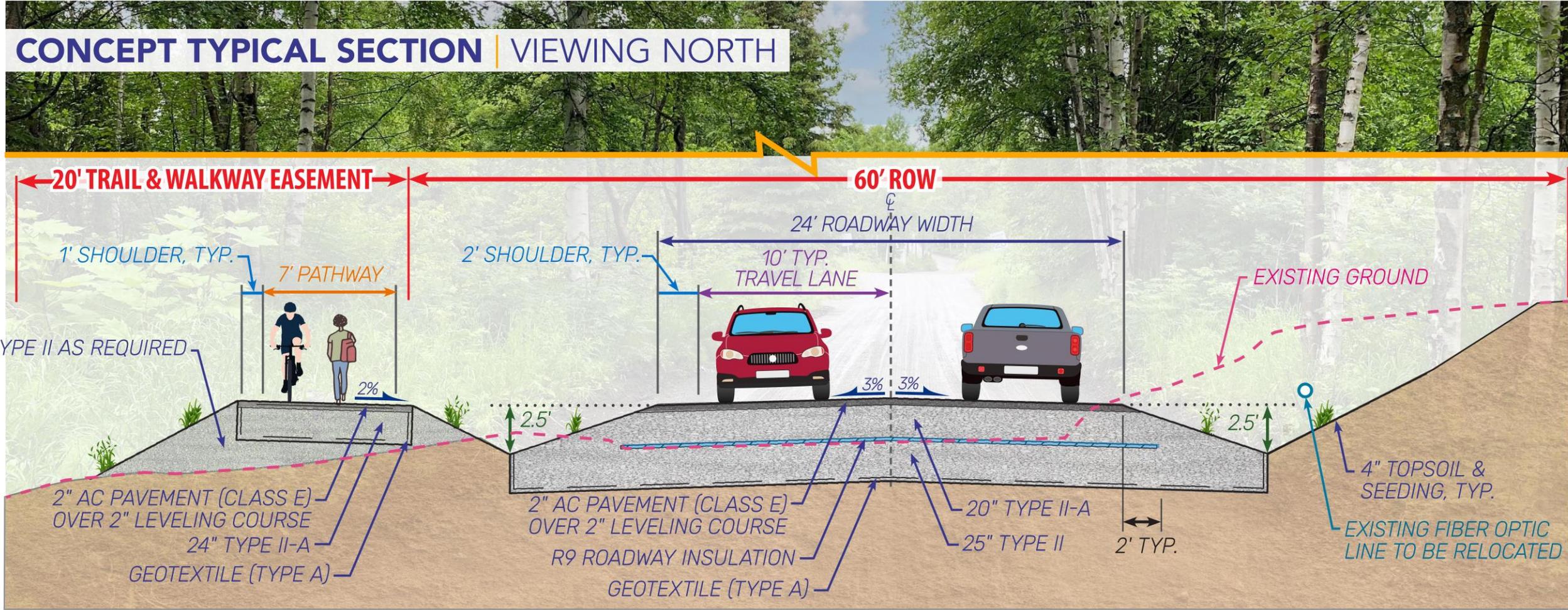
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Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

CONCEPT TYPICAL SECTION | VIEWING NORTH





Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

DESIGN CONCEPTS/FEATURES:

- Relocate pathway from east side to west side of roadway.
- Low point between Ridgeview Drive and Bristol Drive:
 - Option 1 (Preferred): Install infiltration trenches or chamber system at the low point to allow drainage to infiltrate into subgrade.
 - Option 2 (Not preferred): Installation of a cross culvert would direct drainage onto private property and would require securing easements all along downstream drainageway on 7 properties.
- Driveway reconstruction to match into proposed roadway grade.
- Utility relocation



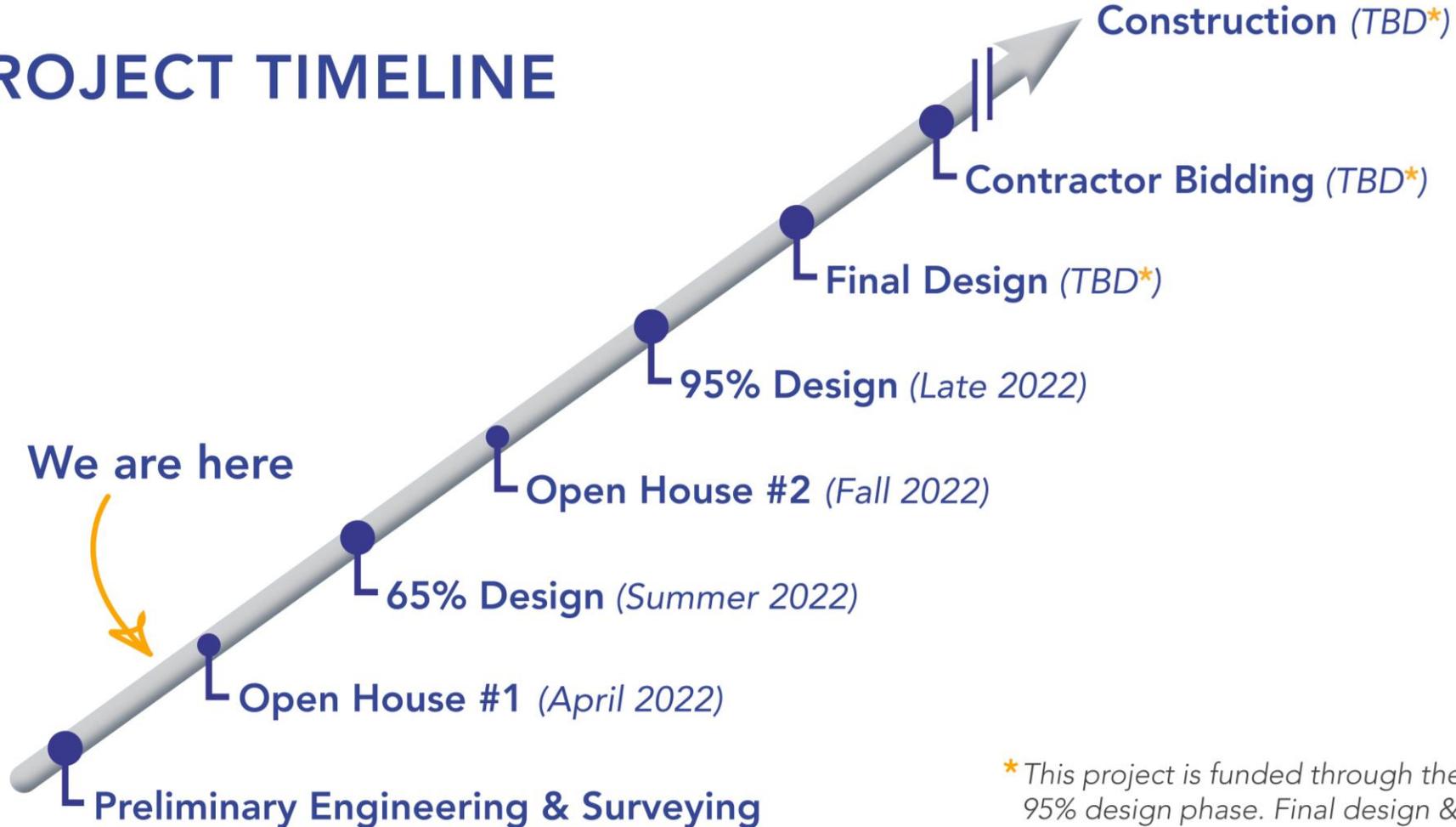
Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

PROJECT TIMELINE



* This project is funded through the 95% design phase. Final design & construction phase not yet funded.



Municipality of Anchorage
Public Works Administration

BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

QUESTIONS?



BIRCH ROAD

PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS

BEVERLY DRIVE TO KALGIN DRIVE

HOW TO STAY INVOLVED & SUBMIT COMMENTS

- Your questions and comments today will be factored into our design.
- Email future comments and questions to holly@huddleak.com
- All project documents & meeting materials will be available at <https://birchroadphase2.com/>



Birch Road Phase II Improvements

Brian Hoefler, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Mt Park/Robin Hill Rural Road Service Area

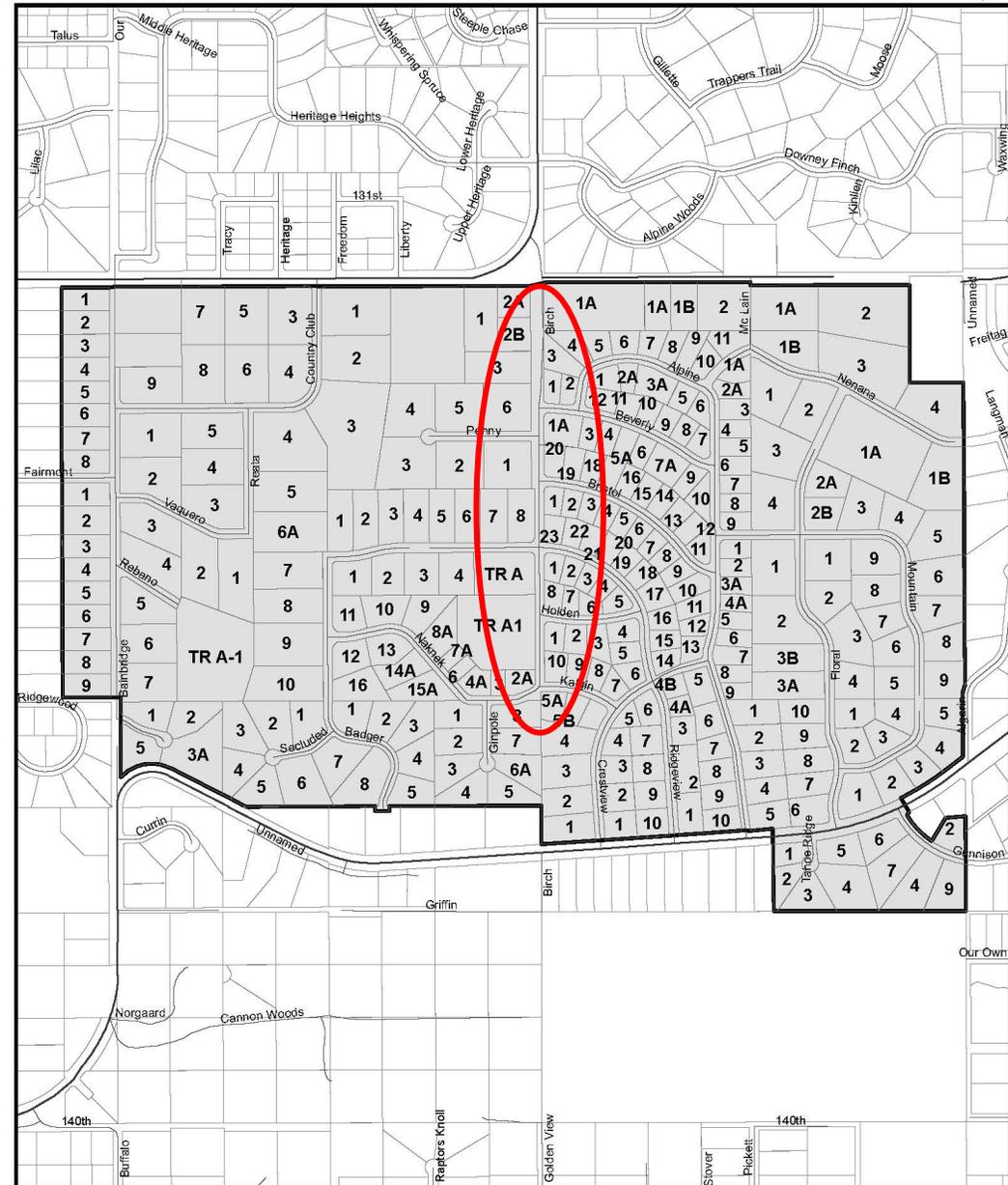
Our service area

- 5-member board (1 vacancy)
- Rural road service area
- Community councils: Hillside, Huffman/O'Malley, Rabbit Creek
- \$150K annual budget
- Long history of tackling issues with context-appropriate solutions

EXHIBIT A

Mountain Park/Robin Hill

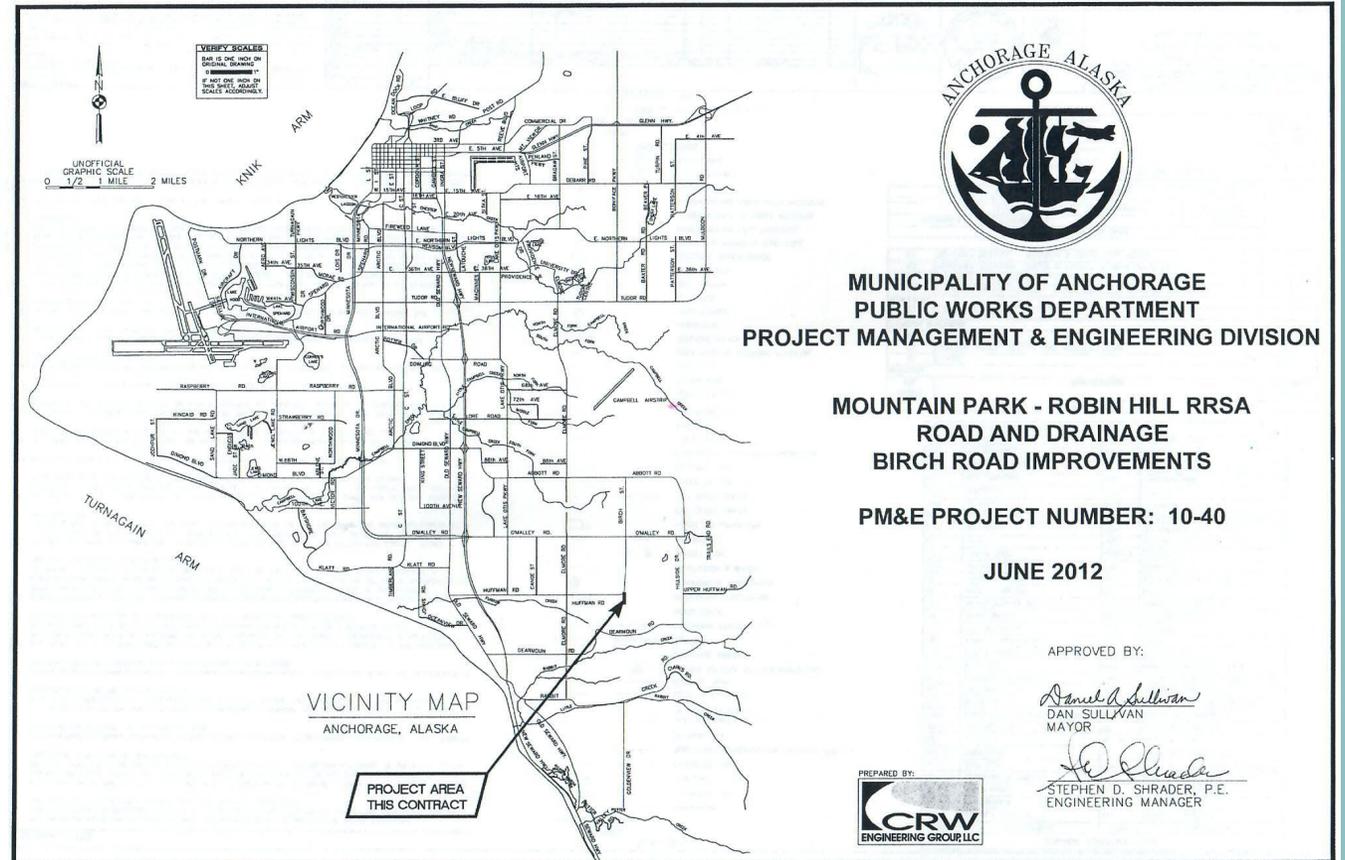
Rural Road Service Area



Map produced by: Land Records, ROWSurvey, PM&E, Municipality of Anchorage; Feb 2022

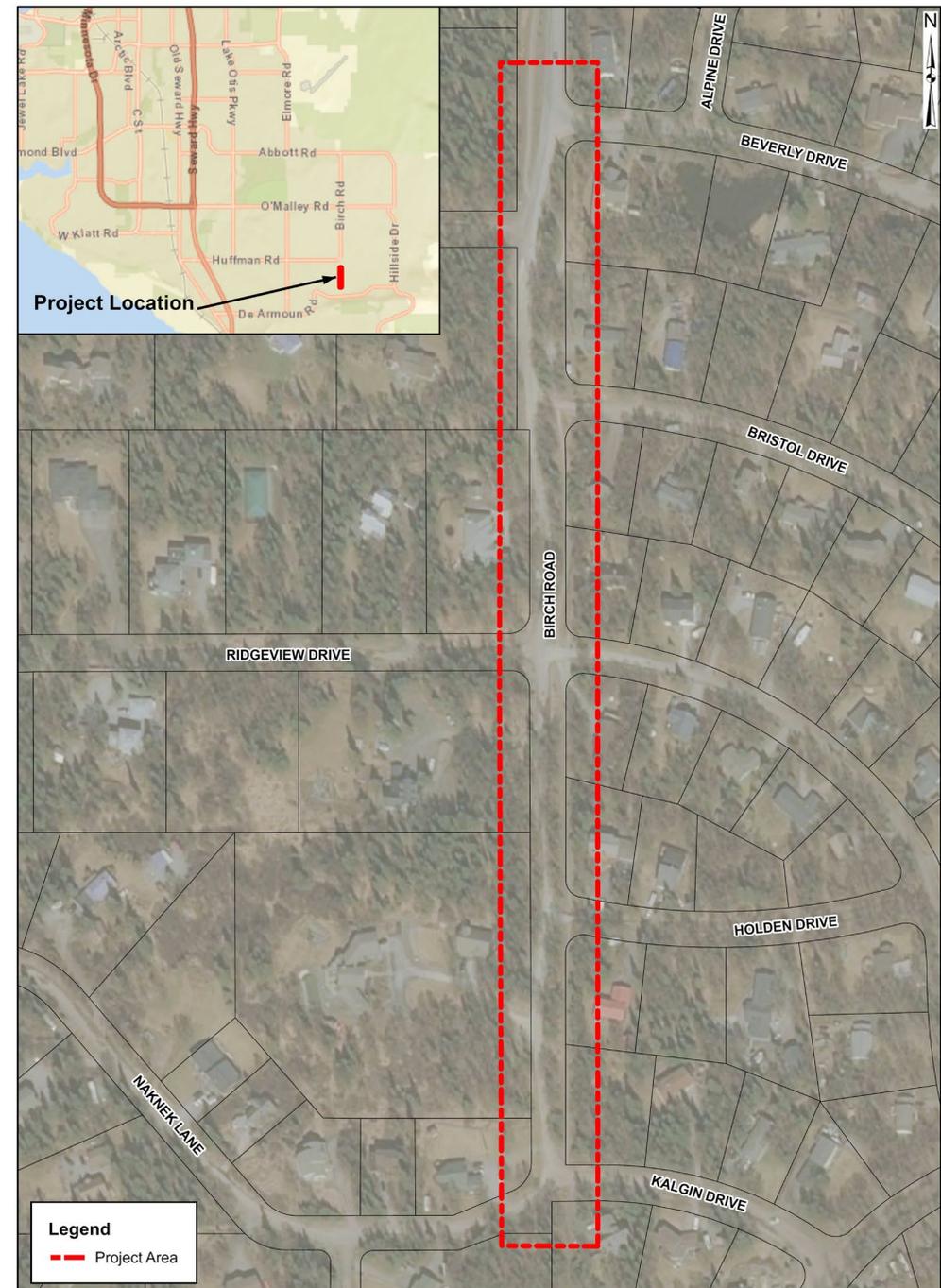
Birch Road Phase I Improvements

- Huffman Road to Beverly Drive (Penny Circle)
- Reconstructed 1,200 foot roadway
- Began planning in 2005
- Construction 2012-13
- Cost: ~\$1 million
- Phase II is a continuation



Phase II study area

- Continuation of Phase I
- Beverly Drive to Naknek Drive/Kalgin Lane
- 1,700 feet of roadway to be reconstructed
- Began planning in 2018



Purpose and Need

- Better road conditions and traffic flow
- Improved driving safety (sight distances, passing, etc)
- Emergency vehicle access
- Wildfire egress
- Drainage improvements
- Snow removal
- Trail connectivity and safety improvements

What has been accomplished so far?

- Studies completed:
 - Birch Road Drainage Evaluation (June 2018)
 - Birch Road Upgrade – Draft Design Study Memorandum (“35% Design”) (June 2020)
 - Birch Road Improvements – Geotechnical Engineering Report (May 2021)
 - Birch Road Upgrade – Draft Stormwater Management Report (May 2021)
- Early cost: ~\$2.7 million

Big Design/Cost Issues

- Road not constructed to modern standards (width, sight distances, ditches, etc)
- Poor road base
- Drainage solutions
- Utilities
- Road right-of-way narrows from 80' to 60'
- Elevation difference across the ROW

Way Forward

- Public outreach to receive comment
- Advance design to 65% - work through design issues; refine cost estimate
- More public outreach
- Move forward to 95% design – prep for construction
- Seek construction funding
- If everything aligns, move forward with construction (2023? 2024? 2025?)

Michelle Fehribach

From: Community Councils Center <info+communitycouncils.org@ccsend.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Michelle Fehribach
Subject: FCC Alert - Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements Virtual Open House – April 13th



FCC Informational Alert
Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements Virtual Open House –
April 13th

Join the project team at Virtual Open House #1 to learn more about the Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements project and provide comments to the project team.

Virtual Open House #1
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
5:30-7pm
Join with [Microsoft Teams](#)

Or call-in: (833) 452-0188
Conference ID: 955 500 149#

You do not need a Microsoft Teams account to participate. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the project team.

Project Background

The Mountain Park-Robin Hill Rural Road Service Area (RRSA) in coordination with the Municipality of Anchorage Public Works Administration (MOA PWA) is studying possible improvements to Birch Road between Beverly Drive and Kalgin Drive (see map below for project limits).

Improvements being considered include:

- New road foundation and paved surface
- Modified roadway alignment
- New drainage ditches and culverts
- Reconstructed paved pathway

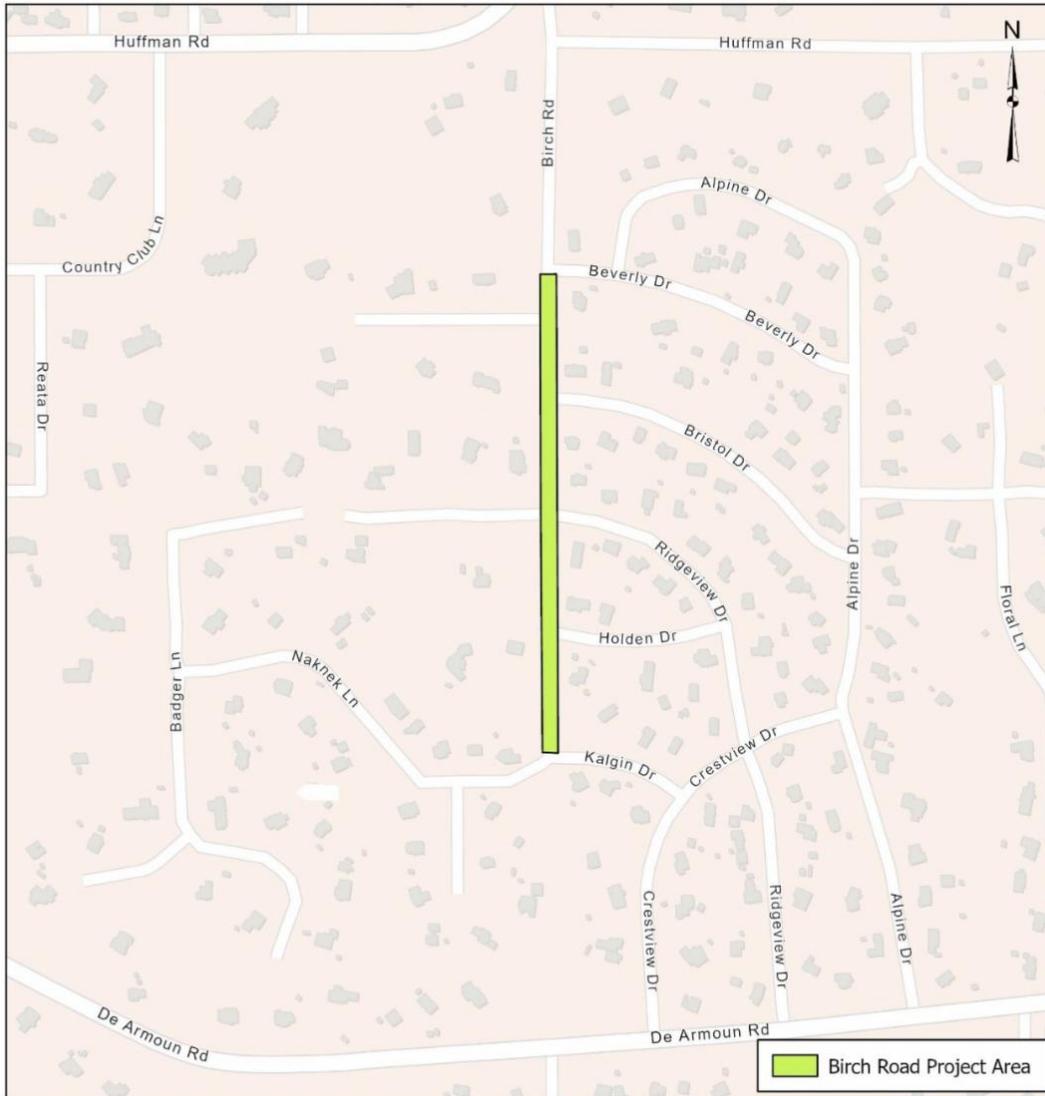
MOA PWA has contracted with CRW Engineering Group, LLC (CRW) to provide engineering and design services. The project is funded only through the pre-final design. No funding for construction has been received at this time.

How to Get Involved:

1. Attend the virtual open house.
2. Contact us anytime with comments or questions at jkeene@crweng.com and holly@huddleak.com
3. Sign up for email updates on the project website

[Visit the Project Website](#)

Project Area



This communication is being sent out by the Federation of Community Councils, Inc. on behalf of the Municipality of Anchorage. The contents of the communication are the responsibility of the Municipality of Anchorage, not of the Federation of Community Councils, Inc.

Community Councils Center
www.communitycouncils.org
info@communitycouncils.org
277-1977

/js

Federation of Community Councils | 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99503

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Michelle Fehribach

From: Michelle Fehribach
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Rabbit Creek Community Council
Cc: Holly Spoth-Torres
Subject: Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements - Upcoming Open House
Attachments: Mt Park-Robin Hill RRSA Roads Map_RCCCArea.pdf; BirchRdPhase2_OpenHouse&ProjectInfo.docx

Hi Rabbit Creek CC Leadership,

The Mountain Park-Robin Hill Rural Road Service Area (RRSA) in coordination with the Municipality of Anchorage Public Works Administration (MOA PWA) is studying possible improvements to Birch Road between Beverly Drive and Kalgin Drive. There are a small number of parcels in the RCCC boundary that are part of the project area. The attached RRSA Roads Map pdf shows the project area within the RCCC boundary in the red rectangular box.

Can you please share the attached information with anyone you may know in the project area to let them know about the upcoming open house? There's more information on the [project website](#) as well.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions!

Michelle Fehribach (she/her)

Huddle AK, P: 440-371-2646

[website](#) | [instagram](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#)

Michelle Fehribach

From: CRW Engineering Group LLC <comments@crweng.com>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 10:16 AM
To: Michelle Fehribach
Subject: REMINDER, Wednesday (4/13): Birch Road Phase 2 Virtual Open House #1



VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE - APRIL 13th

Join the project team at Virtual Open House #1 to learn more about the Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements project and provide comments to the project team.

Virtual Open House #1

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

5:30-7pm

Join with [Microsoft Teams](#)

Or call-in: (833) 452-0188

Conference ID: 955 500 149#

You do not need a Microsoft Teams account to participate. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the project team.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

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Improvements being considered include:

- New road foundation and paved surface
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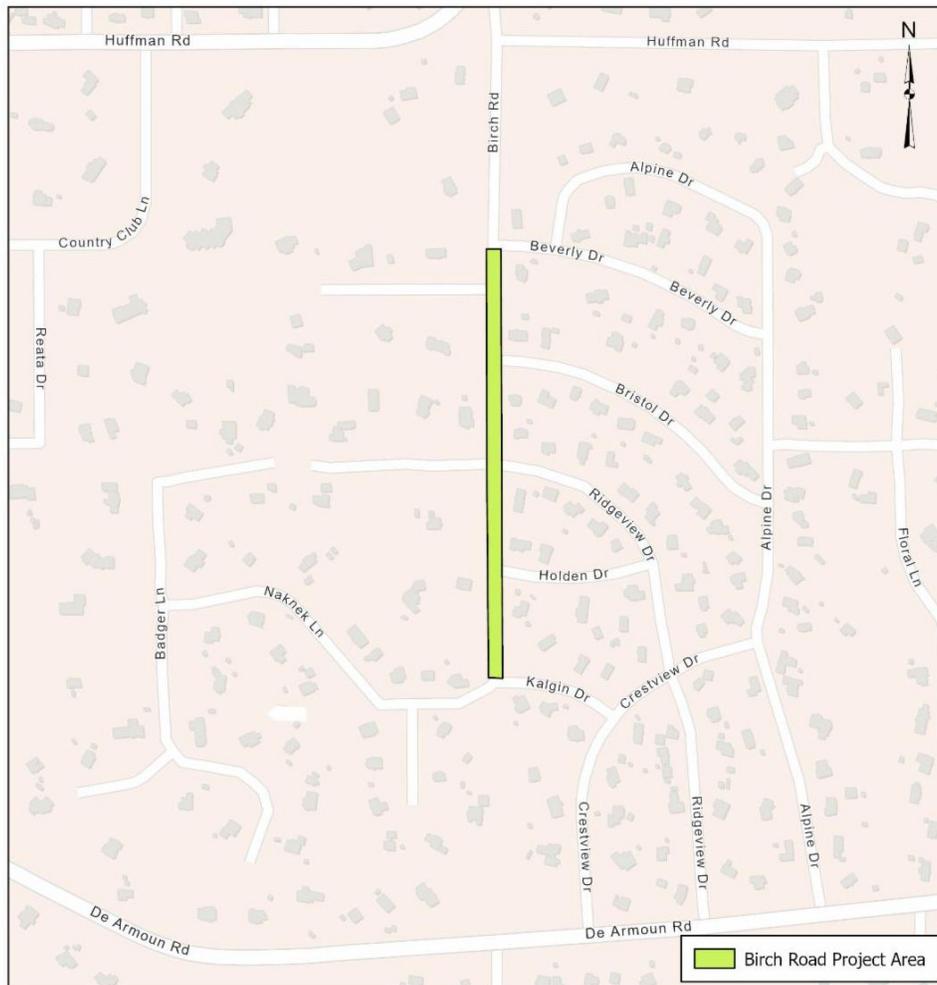
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How to Get Involved:

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PROJECT WEBSITE

PROJECT AREA



For more information, contact project staff or visit the project website.

[Email the project team.](#)



CRW Engineering Group LLC | 3940 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503

[Unsubscribe michelle@huddleak.com](mailto:michelle@huddleak.com)

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Sent by comments@crweng.com powered by



Michelle Fehribach

From: CRW Engineering Group LLC <comments@crweng.com>
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2022 9:30 AM
To: Michelle Fehribach
Subject: Thank You for Attending Birch Road Phase 2 Virtual Open House #1!



MEETING MATERIALS NOW ON THE WEBSITE

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend Virtual Open House #1! We appreciated your comments and feedback about the Birch Road Phase 2 Improvements project.

Missed the meeting? The meeting materials, including a recording of the meeting, are now available on the project website. The project team welcomes your comments or questions about the project at any time.

[PROJECT WEBSITE](#)

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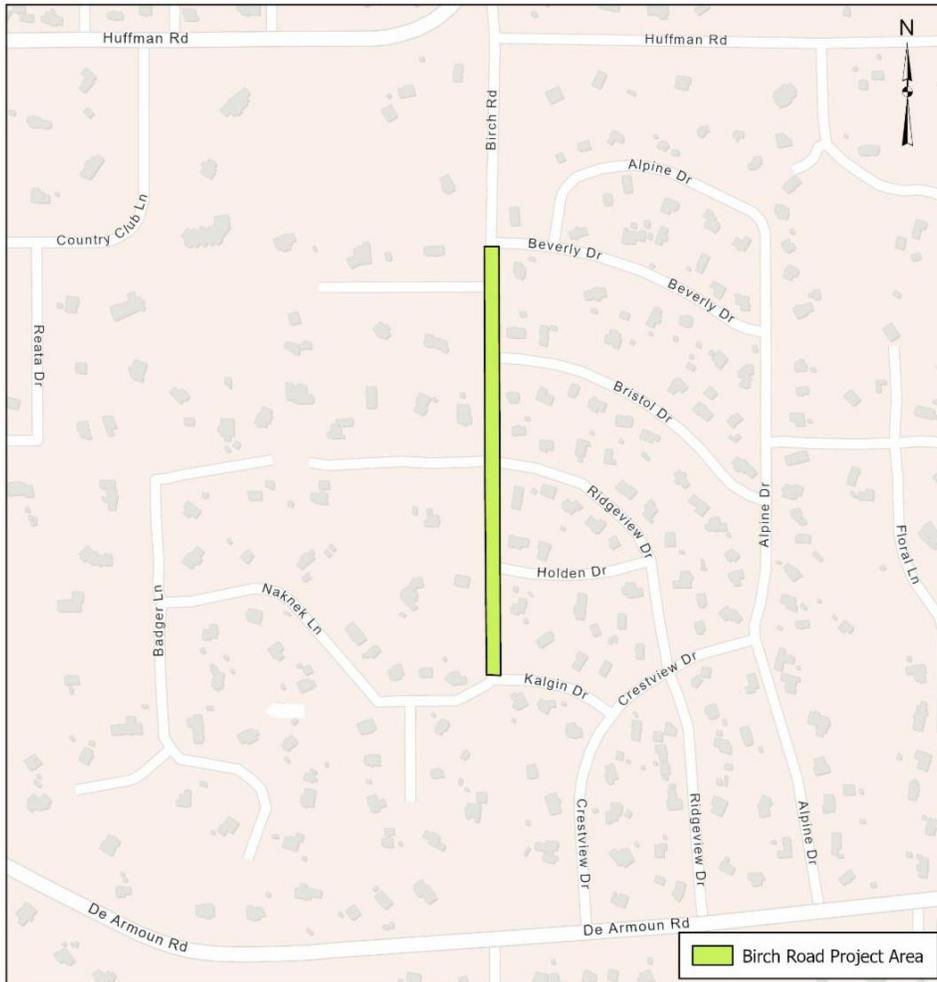
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PROJECT WEBSITE

PROJECT AREA



For more information, contact project staff or visit the project website.

[Email the project team.](#)



CRW Engineering Group LLC | 3940 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503

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Project Background

The Mountain Park-Robin Hill Rural Road Service Area (RRSA) in coordination with the Municipality of Anchorage Public Works Administration (MOA PWA) is studying possible improvements to Birch Road between Beverly Drive and Kalgin Drive (see map on back).

Improvements being considered include:

- New road foundation and paved surface
- Modified roadway alignment
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- Reconstructed paved pathway

YOU'RE INVITED: VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1

Join us at this virtual public meeting to learn more about the project and provide comments to the project team. The project is funded through the pre-final design. No funding for construction has been received at this time.

WHEN:

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
5:30-7pm

HOW TO JOIN:

Microsoft Teams: bit.ly/3J2UG9z
CALL-IN: (833) 452-0188
Conference ID: 955 500 149#



SCAN ME

You can logon with a computer, tablet, or smartphone, or you can call the teleconference line. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the project team.

For more information and to sign up for e-mail updates, please visit the project website. Contact the project team at:

jkeene@crweng.com

holly@huddleleak.com

907-223-0136



Learn more at: www.BirchRoadPhase2.com



3940 Arctic Blvd. Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



Birch Road Phase 2, Project Map

