

TAFT STREET AND VAN BUREN STREET IMPROVEMENTS

**Public Meeting #2
April 17, 2008**



Introductions

Municipality of Anchorage

- **Russ Oswald, P.E., PLS**, Project Manager
- **Brooke Blessing**, Project Administrator

DOWL Engineers

- **Steve Noble, P.E., PTOE**, Project Manager
- **Aaron Christie, P.E.**, Project Engineer
- **Krista Bryant**, Public Involvement Coordinator



Project Area



Meeting Agenda

- Project Background
- Design and Landscaping
- Project Schedule
- Questions/Comments



Purpose & Need

- Provide paved access to commercial/trucking businesses to eliminate truck traffic adjacent to Northwood Elementary School and the Spenard Recreation Center
- Install street lighting to meet current MOA lighting standards
- Implement traffic calming measures to address public concerns regarding traffic speeds and cut-through volumes
- Relocate the soccer field to the west and add parking capacity at the existing soccer field location
- Separate commercial and residential traffic



Project Background

- Agency Scoping Meeting- September 5, 2002
- Initial Public Scoping Meeting- September 10, 2002
- Draft DSR complete- December 2002
- Final DSR and 35% Design- August 2003
- Public Meeting- August 13, 2003
- Project put on-hold due to high project cost and significant ROW acquisition
- Project Re-initiated- Fall 2007
- Design/ROW Acquisition in Progress



Past Improvements

Past Neighborhood Projects

Phase 1:

Northwood Drive Improvements

Constructed in 2006 & 2007

Phase 2:

Harding Drive & Tudor Road Intersection

Constructed in 2007



Evaluated Alternatives

- **Alternative A** – Harding Drive/Van Buren Extension
- **Alternative B** – Taft Street/Van Buren Extension
- **Alternative C** – Taft Street Extension



Alternative A

Harding Drive/Van Buren Extension



Alternative A

Why Dismissed?

- Higher construction cost
- Wetlands impacts
- Overhead utility conflicts
- Railroad ROW impacts
- Poor soil conditions
- Does not separate commercial and residential traffic



Alternative B

Taft Street/Van Buren Extension



Alternative B

Why Dismissed?

- Operational impacts to trucking activities
- Overhead utility conflicts
- Railroad ROW impacts



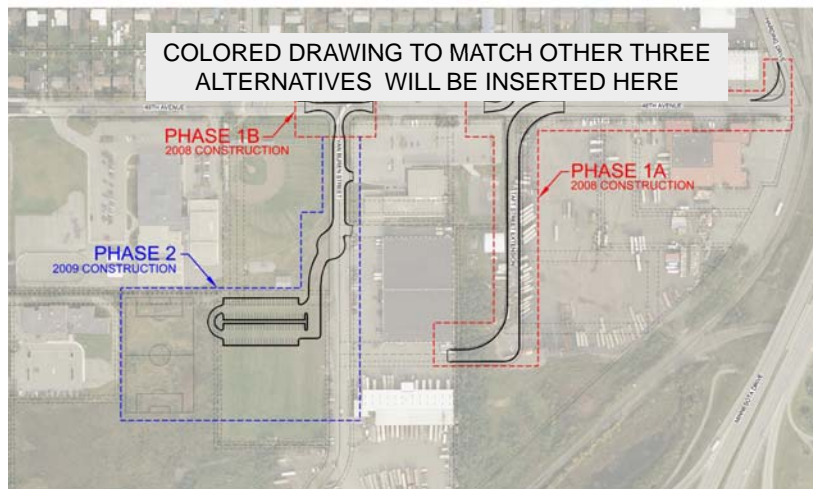
Alternative C

Taft Street Extension



Revised Alternative C

Taft Street Extension





Revised Alternative C

- Lowest construction cost
- Removes traffic from Van Buren/48th and in front of Spenard Recreation Center
- Keeps the road out of railroad ROW
- Limited overhead utility conflicts
- Separates commercial and residential traffic
- Broken into two phases



Project Phases

Phase 1: Summer 2008

- Extend Taft Street
- Install diverter at Taft Street and 48th Avenue
- Install choker at Van Buren Street and 48th Avenue
- Widen corner at Harding Street and 48th Avenue

Phase 2: Summer 2009

- Upgrade Van Buren Street
- Relocate soccer field
- Construct new parking lot



Choker Design

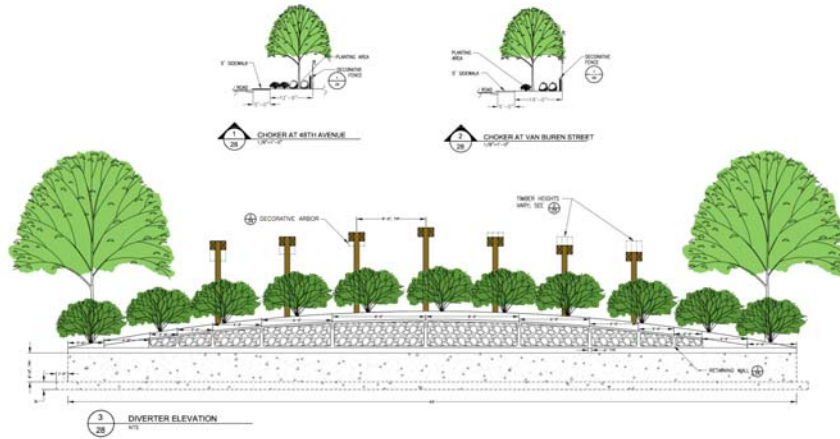


Diverter Design





Landscape Sections



Park Boundary Changes

IMAGE REFLECTING PROPOSED
P&R and AFF LAND EXCHANGE HERE



Next Steps

Phase 1

- Final Design Plans May 2008
- ROW Acquisition June 2008
- Bidding and Construction Summer 2008

Phase 2

- Final Design Plans Winter 2008
- Assembly Approval April 2009
- Bidding and Construction Summer 2009



Submit Comments

- Submit written comments to:
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907-562-2000
907-563-3953 (fax).

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Project e-mail: vanburen@dowl.com