

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Project Title:****Project Type:** Planning and Research

Anchorage - East Anchorage Plan

State Funding Requested: \$80,000**House District: 19 / J**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Funding for an updated comprehensive development plan for East Anchorage.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project:** \$80,000*There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The East Anchorage Plan will provide an updated comprehensive development plan for East Anchorage. The plan will implement the goals of Anchorage 2020 while effectively guiding and encouraging future growth in East Anchorage. The plan will re-evaluate and revamp the land use regulatory structure for East Anchorage. The plan is intended to create an effective East Anchorage planning structure designed to guide public facilities development and to attract new residential and commercial investment.

Project Timeline:

FY2011 funds will be expended throughout the duration of the grant.

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

Anchorage Municipality - Department of Neighborhoods

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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

NECC NorthEast Community Council

Peggy Robinson, President
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March 20, 2008

Senator Bill Wielechowski
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

On behalf of the NorthEast Community Council, I request that you add funding for creation of an Eastside District Plan in the 2008 Capital Budget. This item was approved by the NECC at our meeting on June 21, 2007, as part of our Capital Improvement Project listings.

With all the development and redevelopment occurring in the East Anchorage area, it is critical that a district or area plan be created to help guide further changes to our land. Up to this point, zoning changes and special limitations have been site specific, creating controversy when previous unofficial plans for the land have not meshed with the current proposed used. We are also concerned with the increased traffic that will occur due to the two large retail developments just recently approved. The Muldoon business corridor and the Debarr corridor to the west of Muldoon have great potential for improved businesses, services, and appearances. It is our hope, that with good planning, that potential will be realized.

We have heard that Scenic Foothills, University, and Russian Jack Community Councils would like to participate in this planning with us. Those communities also use the businesses and services within our much larger community council area, and we would welcome their participation in the planning process to consider the whole east side of Anchorage.

Creating a district plan of this size, and doing it right, is a large undertaking that is best organized by professional planners. We have been informed that about \$160,000 is an approximate amount to dedicate to this task. We respectfully request that half that amount, \$80,000, be added to the Capital Budget for this year. One of our Assembly representatives will be requesting the other \$80,000 as a match during their first quarter budget revisions. The grant would be administered through MOA's Department of Neighborhoods.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peggy Robinson

East Anchorage Plan Fact Sheet

The Anchorage Comprehensive Plan has slated East Anchorage for the largest increase in population in the city.

East Anchorage has many healthy, quality, older and new neighborhoods that are under intense pressure due to the impacts associated with recent, poorly planned new development.

The district is home to many neighborhoods of intense poverty.

It includes many of Anchorage's oldest, poorest mobile home parks, and some of the worst, new site condo developments in the city.

Many East Anchorage neighborhoods have extremely low per capita income compared to other parts of the city.

East Anchorage holds the highest percentage of minorities per capita of any residential district in the city.

East Anchorage is facing critical challenges with youth gangs as well as a high crime rate as compared with other parts of Anchorage.

East Anchorage is experiencing a rapid build-out of both residential and commercial lands.

The area's transportation system serves as a critical East-West and North-South link from the Glenn Highway to the Seward Highway

The area's transportation system includes Tudor, Muldoon, Northern Lights Blvd., Boniface, and DeBarr Roads that all rank high in traffic and pedestrian accidents. Many of those accidents have resulted in deaths or major injuries to pedestrians.

Two major regional shopping centers- Walmart and Target are proposed for Muldoon Road.

The Target Shopping center is designed to be twice the size of the Dimond Mall.

These developments will further challenge the East Anchorage road system that is already recognized as congested.

Many East Anchorage neighborhoods are situated adjacent to public lands and open spaces. These Eastside neighborhoods have unresolved, complex trail and public access issues.

The Eastside District includes or abuts much of the University and Hospital (U-Med district). Rapid growth in the U-Med area relates to office and facility needs, which has created continued pressure on surrounding neighborhoods.