

DOT&PF BIG LAKE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS STUDY

Project No. Z58972000

PRELIMINARY ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS: December 2017



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PURPOSE

The Big Lake Pedestrian Improvements Study Online Community Survey was administered to collect data on the draft recommendations for improving pedestrian safety on Big Lake Road. While the draft recommendations were presented at the second public open house for the project and are available for review on the website, the online community survey provides an opportunity for area residents to engage in less time consuming, direct way.

SURVEY DISTRIBUTION & OUTREACH

The online survey was created using Constant Contact and was shared through the following ways:

- Constant Contact email notification
- Website posting
- Ad in the online news forum *The Big Lake Times*
- Facebook advertisement from the Big Lake Community Recreation Center
- Flyer postings Advisory Group members at popular spots in Big Lake

As of December 12, 2017 there were 32 unique responses to the survey. Seven of the 32 responses were from people who have been past participants in the project and whose contact information we have obtained through this project. This would suggest that 25 new or unrecognized Big Lake area residents or users have been engaged in the Big Lake Pedestrian Improvements Study.

RESULTS

The online survey included nine questions asking respondents to rate statements on their level of agreeableness or support and indicate their preferences on multiple design or facility based recommendations. The draft recommendations were also shared at Workshop/Open House number 2 on October 12, 2017. Each question had the option of providing additional open ended comments.

Based on the questions presented and comments received, respondents generally fell into one of two overall positions on pedestrian safety recommendations in Big Lake. The first position generally agreed that there is a need for improvements and support pedestrian safety in Big Lake. The second position generally disagreed that there is a need for pedestrian safety improvement.

The open ended comment section of each question provided opportunity for respondents to clarify or further explain their answer. Some respondents used this space to voice their opinion or disagreement with the pedestrian oriented study, expressing that the existing off-road motorized users is a primary user group that should be receiving more attention. This is reflected in the multiple choice style questions asked in the survey, where consistently approximately 25% of respondents “*disagreed or strongly disagreed*” with statements supporting the draft recommendations. Light teal highlights in the responses identified recommendations that received more than 55% response ratio.

QUESTION 1. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

A pedestrian crossing is recommended on Big Lake Road between North Shore Drive and Hollywood Road to improve pedestrian safety. Please select below if you agree or disagree.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, a crossing would improve pedestrian safety	23	71.8%
No, a crossing is not needed	6	18.7%
No Responses	3	9.3%
Total	32	100%
6 Comment(s)		

COMMENTS

1. A crossing at the fire station with a light to stop traffic when emergency vehicles are exiting. And a crossing to the mall or Hollywood Road or the Three Bears Shell Station area.
2. Many people cross from the bike path to the mall. As it is, one has to dodge vehicles on Big Lake Road.
3. At the library and at the community center would be appropriate.
4. Yes, as long as it has a multiuse crossing. Winter especially needs designated places for snowmobiles and dog teams and horses to cross safely.
5. How hard is it to cross a road? We don't want Big Lake to turn into another mini-city.
6. The Safety walk zone would need a street light added to make it easier to help make Hollywood and Big Lake Road safer for using the crosswalk

QUESTION 2. SIGNAGE AND EDUCATION

Please rate the following signage and education recommendation.

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Score
Signage prohibiting motorized vehicles on the multi-use pathway is needed.	8 25%	3 9%	1 3%	11 34%	9 28%	3.3
Signage prohibiting motorized vehicles on the multi-use pathway will effectively reduce pedestrian and motorized vehicle conflicts.	10 31%	5 16%	3 9%	7 22%	7 22%	2.9
Stop signs on the multi-use pathway at driveways are needed.	8 25%	5 16%	5 16%	8 25%	6 19%	3.0
Stop signs on driveways for vehicles approaching Big Lake Road are needed.	7 22%	8 25%	5 16%	4 13%	8 25%	2.9
Increased signage will improve user awareness and educate the public.	8 25%	1 3%	6 19%	12 38%	5 16%	3.2

COMMENTS

1. It's sometimes downright dangerous to use the paved bike path because of 4 wheelers, side-by-sides, and snowmachines. They need to use the other side of the road, and they make things tough for us responsible motorized users.
2. Winter use of walkways should allow snowmachines.
3. People don't read
4. There is far more motorized use year round than there is non-motorized use. Designated motorized only pathways corridors need desperately to be designed and implemented. Big Lake is well known for its vast multi use trail system established through the borough back in 1991 by Wes Hamrick and Doug Fisher. This type of positive cooperation needs to be continued.
5. This survey is clearly written with undertones against motorized vehicles. Again, Big Lake motorized trails have been around before pedestrian joy walking. Big lake needs to cater to motorized vehicles first, and pedestrians secondary.
6. A Stop light at the four-way is needed

QUESTION 3. STREET LIGHTING

Additional street lighting should be installed along Big Lake Road to improve visibility of pedestrian and bicycles. Please select if you agree.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes, additional street lighting is needed	24	75.0%
No, Big Lake does not need more street lighting	7	21.8%
No Responses	1	3.1%
Total	32	100%
7 Comment(s)		

COMMENTS

1. Make the street lighting be non-light polluting like they have on the island of Kona. You can still see the night sky, but the roads are lit.
2. Just look how dark it is for 15 hours of the day.
3. Light pollution interferes with the rural character of Big Lake.
4. Might also slow of crime
5. There is just not enough of that activity at the time lights are needed except winter. And then it's almost exclusively motorized use. So NO. Not at this time.
6. This I absurd. If you want to live in a city, move to Wasilla or better yet – Anchorage.
7. There are kids walking this path to get to the school, so yes additional lighting is needed

QUESTION 4. NEW PATHWAYS

Where would new pathways be the most beneficial to pedestrian and bicyclists? (Select all that apply)
 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Add a pathway at the Fish Creek bridge	21	65.6%
Extend pathway south to Big Lake South Recreation Site and South Port Marina	17	53.1%
Add a pathway on the east side of Big Lake Road from the roundabout to Norcross Street, providing a connection to the East Lake Mall	15	46.8%
Add a pathway on West Hollywood Road (at least from Big Lake Road to the Church)	21	65.6%
Pathway connection to Big Lake Recreation Center (from a new crossing on Big Lake Road or from new pathway on east side of Big Lake Road)	14	43.7%
No new pathway are needed in Big Lake	5	15.6%
Total	32	100%
7 Comment(s)		

COMMENTS

1. These proposed pathways would be used by a wide variety of Residents. Currently for most of the year residents are forced to walk beside the road, with very little clearance from vehicles. It also forces the vehicles to slow down or stop to let other vehicles pass.
2. More multiuse pathways are needed throughout the borough. In America, especially Arizona, most all motorized are allowed on the streets. Motorized is the main mode of transportation everywhere. Concentrated on make it a better and a safer experience for everyone.
3. Hollywood pathway needs to extend to Klutina
4. I think a pathway along south BL road from the Three Bears to Susitna Parkway intersection is needed.
5. It would be nice to have a path that goes down Hollywood to Johnson, down Johnson to Parks, to make a big loop path.
6. There's a pathway from Houston to Wasilla that is never used, but was absolutely "essential." If you want a pathway, go to where the pathways are @!
7. Need pathway on W Susitna Boulevard from School to Burma Rd/S Big Lake Road intersection

QUESTION 5. CHANGES TO INTERSECTIONS

What changes would you support to improve pedestrian safety at intersections on Big Lake Road?
(Select all that apply)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Use reflectors, landscaping and grading to better define driveways	21	67.7%
Realign skewed driveways	7	22.5%
Reduce the number of driveways onto Big Lake Road (driveway consolidation)	4	12.9%
No changes are needed, driveways on Big Lake Road are not a problem	9	29.0%
Total	31	100%
4 Comment(s)		

*Orange highlight identified recommendations that received more than 55% response ratio

COMMENTS

1. Add a crossing signal at fire station, with a stop light to stop the traffic when emergency vehicles are leaving the station on a call.
2. People need to stop and look before just pulling onto the road
3. Just not enough usage to warrant the money. Especially on these trying time of no state funding available without an income tax. Work within a budget of logic.
4. Remove freedom under the guise of Safety. Cater to motorized vehicles first, they are the ones that have established the trails first, and they are the ones that use the trails everyday – NOT PEDESTRIANS.

QUESTION 6. MAINTENANCE

Please rate the following recommendations.

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Score
Big Lake needs improved maintenance of roadside vegetation growth.	5 16%	3 10%	7 23%	11 35%	5 16%	3.3
Tree roots on the pathway are problematic and should be removed.	4 13%	4 13%	9 30%	12 40%	1 3%	3.1
A maintained vegetated separation between Big Lake Road and the pathway is preferred.	5 17%	2 7%	3 10%	13 45%	6 21%	3.4
Reduce dust on east side of Big Lake Road by maintaining the right-of-way with flatter slopes and better surface materials.	2 6%	1 3%	5 16%	12 39%	11 35%	3.9
4 Comment(s)						

COMMENTS

1. At intersections growth of vegetation gets in the way of viewing traffic coming.
2. If every business and property owner took care of their section of the road it would be kept neat and clean.
3. Pedestrian safety is very important, but Big Lake should remain friendly to 4-wheelers and snowmachiners in keeping with local custom and history
4. We don't need vegetation planted in Big Lake. If you want vegetation, to go the plethora of PARKS that have been put in to accommodate these minority needs.

QUESTION 7. CONNECTIVITY

New roadway connections help disperse traffic which can also help improve pedestrian connectivity. Select the recommendations below that you agree with.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
More connections to neighborhood and side streets onto Big Lake Road (generally increase connectivity)	3	10.7%
Extend S Beaver Lake Road to the south of Big Lake Road to meet with S Lions Court.	5	17.8%
No new roads are needed in Big Lake, connectivity is not an issue	19	67.8%
Total	28	100%
5 Comment(s)		

*Orange highlight identified recommendations that received more than 55% response ratio

COMMENTS

1. Unsure, would like to hold comment until the new subdivision by Lions Rec Center is built off Lions Ct. This new subdivision would determine traffic and if additional road is needed.
2. Unsure
3. I like to ride my bike and walk on these roads but sometimes the traffic is close
4. Who do you think is going to pay for these free roadways? I pay 6K in property taxes for a crappy 1 acre lot with airplanes flying overhead from the Big Lake Airport.
5. I am not a pedestrian in those areas

QUESTION 8. LAND USE

Please rate the following land use recommendations for new development to support non-motorized safety and walkability in the commercial core area of Big Lake.

1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Score
New development should support walkability in the Big Lake Commercial Core area.	5 16%	3 10%	1 3%	11 35%	11 35%	3.6
New development should consider parking behind buildings to improve the pedestrian environment.	7 23%	8 26%	5 16%	8 26%	3 10%	2.7
New development should have a limited set back from Big Lake Road to improve pedestrian scale and environment.	6 19%	7 23%	5 16%	8 26%	5 16%	3.0
New development should have limited driveway access onto Big Lake Road	8 26%	7 23%	7 23%	6 19%	3 10%	2.6
New development should use shared parking agreements for adjacent businesses to reduce the number of driveway access points onto Big Lake Road.	7 23%	5 16%	8 26%	7 23%	4 13%	2.9
4 Comment(s)						

COMMENTS

1. These are great ideas that will improve the walkability of the core area of Big Lake.
2. No pedestrian improvements should be paid for until ALL to roads in the Big Lake area are passable every day of the year (including break up) it is unconscionable that we are spending huge money for bike paths and walking paths when the roads needed for emergency equipment to access many families homes are impassible for several months of the year.
3. Pedestrians that want to live in a city need to move to the city. Big Lake is not for pedestrians. We need to set that precedent NOW!
4. Either all existing businesses along with new development or there is no point.

QUESTION 9. PEDESTRIAN AMENITIES

Pedestrian amenities can improve the use and enjoyment of Big Lake Road and the commercial core area. What amenities listed below would improve the pedestrian environment in Big Lake? (Select all that apply)

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Bike parking at major destinations including commercial retailers, Fish Creek and Jordan Lake Parks, and the Big Lake South State Recreation Site.	14	48.2%
Benches, signage (wayfinding), and viewpoints to make pathways more interesting and inviting.	10	34.4%
Bike shelter and seating areas at the Park and Ride	6	20.6%
No additional pedestrian amenities are needed on Big Lake Road or in the Big Lake core area.	11	37.9%
Other	1	3.4%
Other Response Comment: Bike path on W Susitna Road		
Total	29	100%
4 Comment(s)		

COMMENTS

1. Big Lake offers many opportunities for community improvement. Thank you for your effort in finding ways to improve our community
2. Sure, why not make a one stop area for thieves
3. Not enough users. No money. Concentrate on keeping the multiuse spirit of Big Lake and strive to improve it. Everyone can get along. This area has soundly voted down city status 4 times and it not really interested in the amenities of a city. They encourage anyone considering moving to the Big Lake to understand that and possibly consider another community if they want more city life here.
4. Pedestrians continue to take over established motorized vehicle trails, and we are getting sick and tired of it. This is Big Lake, not Wasilla and NOT Anchorage. If you want to live in a nice pedestrian friendly neighborhood, MOVE to one.