

From: Sandy Baker
To: melanie.nichols@alaska.gov; [Van Le](#)
Subject: Fwd: Big Lake Pedestrian Plan
Date: Monday, December 25, 2017 10:26:24 AM
Attachments: [BLCC response to ADOT 45 MPH on BL Road.docx](#)

At the December 12th, 2017 meeting of the Big Lake Community Council we discussed the Big Lake Pedestrian Plan as presented. A motion was made and passed to send a letter to recommend crossings between North Shore Drive and Hollywood Drive, signage, lighting and pathway extension to connect subdivisions on the east side of Big Lake Road, South Rec Site, East Lake Mall, Big Lake Rec Center, Fish Creek Bridge and intersection improvements accordingly. It was discussed there is a need for speed limit reassignment for this corridor to safely accommodate pedestrian-friendly/non-vehicle crosswalk traffic.

Please consider these suggestions. I have also attached a previous request from 2016.

Sincerely,

Sandy Baker
President
Big Lake Community Council

June 13, 2016

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Design and Engineering Services, Traffic Safety
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Attn: Scott Thomas, P.E., Regional Traffic Engineer

The Big Lake Community Council (BLCC) is in receipt of your letter dated March 14, 2016 along with the supporting documentation regarding the existing speed limit of 45 miles per hour on Big Lake Road between approximately Beaver Lake Road and Hughes Homestead Road and offers the following response.

Background

The BLCC and its Members is the entity that has requested the reduction of the speed limit from the current 45 mph to a new posted speed limit of 35 mph between the sections of State maintained road as outlined above. This was discussed initially with our local Representative, Mark Neuman who was able to further communicate our desires with then current ADOT Commissioner, Pat Kemp.

Reason for request

The section of road between the Post Office and Three Bears is a "Youth Activity Zone" during the summer break months and this request will undoubtedly increase the safety margin between drivers and our local youth who are frequently seen riding their bikes along the shoulders of this section of road. This section of road has become the core of the community of Big Lake and its residents and slowing the traffic makes economic sense. The community would like to see a crosswalk installed between the MSB Library on the South side of the road and the Fire Station located on the North side. The crosswalk would allow Big Lake Elementary students to safely transition from the South side of Big Lake Road to the North side in order to reach the newly constructed Big Lake Recreation Center. The 35 MPH speed limit would help facilitate the communities request for a crosswalk.

Action Taken by the BLCC

Upon receipt of your letter the BLCC formed a committee to further discuss with the local businesses the Councils desire to have the speed limit reduced within the core area of Big Lake to 35 MPH. Committee members spoke to six (8) randomly selected small businesses along both sides of Big Lake Road to make certain our business community were in support of the proposed changes. The businesses contacted were Big Lake Liquor, Big Lake Artic Cat, Floaters, Three Bears, Extreme Marine, The Super Store, Post Office (Fishers) and Doc Rockers. All businesses we contacted were in full support of the proposed change to 35 MPH. The committee did hear second hand that a single resident did voice concern over increased commute times but no formal opposition was raised and the actual increase in travel time on this short section of road if the speed limit was reduced by 10 MPH is negligible.

Conclusion and recommendation of BLCC Committee

The BLCC brought forward an agenda item at the regularly scheduled June 14, 2016 meeting to provide written support of changing the speed limit in the core are of Big Lake as described in your March 14, 2016 letter to 35 MPH. A proper motion was made and duly seconded that this letter be sent in response to your request. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Kane
Big Lake Community Council, President