



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 30, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Upcoming Assembly Meeting Topics: On July 20, 2021 under Manager's Comments there will be updates on e-commerce and the West Susitna Access project. Legislation for the proposed transportation infrastructure package will be introduced as well accompanied by a discussion of a sales tax; public hearing will be scheduled for August 3, 2021. The proposed change to the ordinance for local education funding will be introduced on August 3, 2021 for public hearing on August 17, 2021.

Wildland Fire Risk Reduction: Borough staff continue to work on various fronts to address risk reduction measures for wildland fires. The past month or so, our Department of Emergency Services (DES) has been engaging with various communities to raise awareness of the Firewise program and offering free assessments for creating personal property defensible space. Additionally, efforts are underway with various community councils to develop Community Wildfire Prevention Plans (CWPPs). DES staff are preparing to support community councils with creating these plans. A CWPP provides communities with an opportunity to influence where and how agencies implement fuel reduction projects and potentially how additional funds might be distributed for projects. A CWPP supports collaboration between a community and local and State representatives, identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, and recommends measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan. Recently the Borough updated its [fire preparedness website](#) to include many efforts being undertaken to reduce wildfire risk in the Borough such as: expanding firewood collection opportunities; new personal harvest timber permits; a new policy allowing homeowners to protect their property from hazard trees on Borough land; Borough led fuel treatments and reductions; and free drop-off locations for woody debris.

Follow-Up to June 22, 2021 Special Assembly Meeting re Transportation Infrastructure: Attached are items requested during the June 22 Special Meeting:

- Maps of the 2018 Safe Routes to Schools Projects
- Debt Service Funds Summary

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

- This is a response to a question asked if any items from the 2018 Road Bond list are not on the current draft 2021 Transportation Infrastructure list. The only item from the 2018 Road Bond Projects list that was not on the current proposed transportation infrastructure list is the Aspen Ridge Road Extension project. The Engstrom Road Extension to Trunk that was selected by Mr. Sumner provides most of the same traffic relief that Aspen Ridge Road would entail.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Cities

- [Palmer passes trash ordinance](#)

Borough Services

- [Borough launches problem reporter app](#)

Assembly

- [Landfill Excavation Ordinance Postponed](#)
- [Mayor's veto on landfill rate decrease withstands vote to override](#)

State

- [State Government shutdown avoided with House Vote](#)

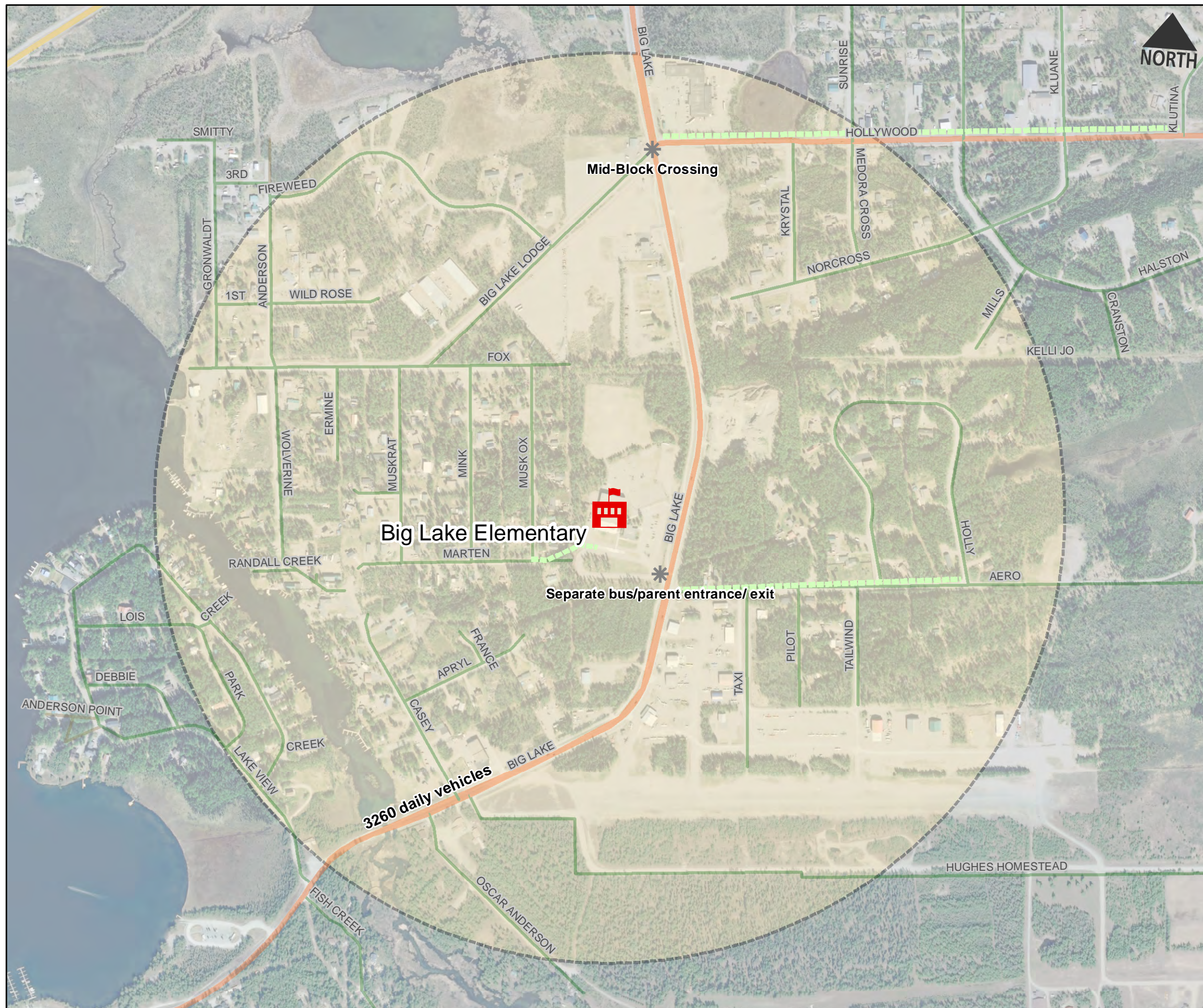
Notable MSB Facebook Posts for June

- [Last Alarm and Bell Ceremony for Battalion Chief, Allen James Swett. \(25.5k reached\)](#)
- [Transportation 21 post\) \(17K reached\)](#)

Public Affairs Videos

- [Shirley Towne Bridge Ribbon Cutting Video \(Viewed 2.8K times on Facebook\)](#)
- [Port MacKenzie - Cruz Construction loads 1000 tons of Cargo on Metarvik bound barge](#)

ATTACHMENTS

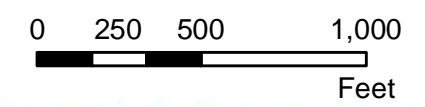


Recommendations

Big Lake Elementary

Matanuska - Susitna Borough

-  Schools
- Traffic Class**
-  HIGHWAY
-  MAJOR
-  MEDIUM
-  MINOR
-  PRIMITIVE
-  PRIVATE
-  Walk Zones
- recommendations**
-  Multi-Use Path
-  Sidewalk
-  Add Lighting
-  Make Connection
-  Sidewalk and Lighting
-  Widen Path and Lighting
-  Point Recommendations



SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School

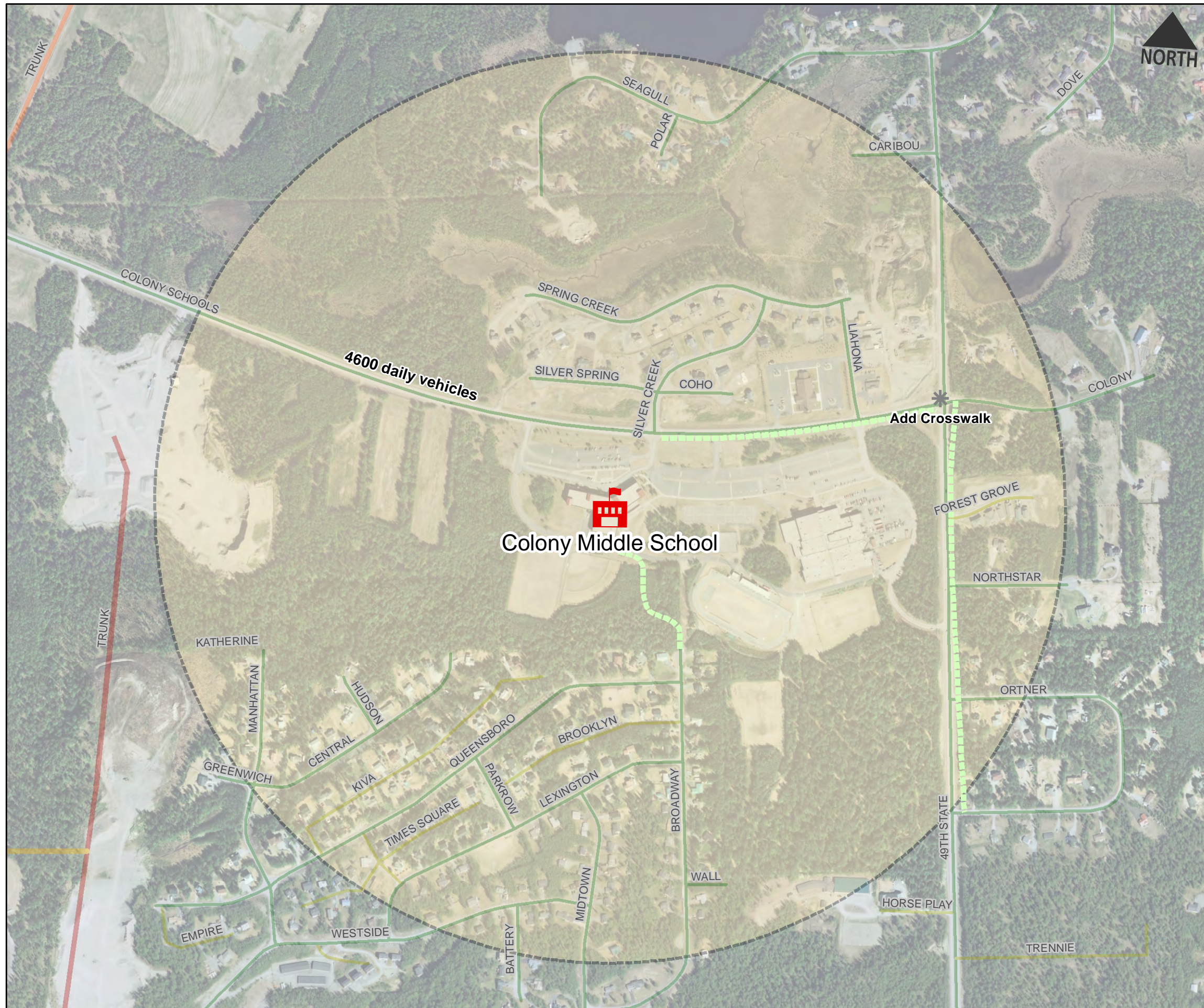



Figure 5 - 2

Recommendations








Colony Middle School

Matanuska - Susitna Borough










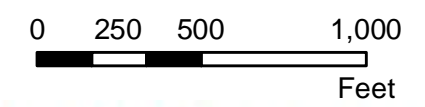
-  Schools

Traffic Class

-  HIGHWAY
-  MAJOR
-  MEDIUM
-  MINOR
-  PRIMITIVE
-  PRIVATE
-  Walk Zones

recommendations

-  Multi-Use Path
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-  Widen Path and Lighting
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SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School


















Figure 18- 2

Recommendations
Dena'ina Elementary and Reddington Sr. Jr/Sr High School
Matanuska - Susitna Borough



Legend

-  Schools
- Traffic Class**
-  HIGHWAY
-  MAJOR
-  MEDIUM
-  MINOR
-  PRIMITIVE
-  PRIVATE
- Recommendations**
-  Multi-Use Path
-  Sidewalk
-  Add Lighting
-  Make Connection
-  Sidewalk and Lighting
-  Widen Path and Lighting
-  Point_Recommendations
-  Walk_Zone

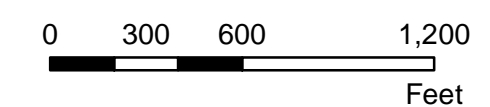

















Figure 22-2

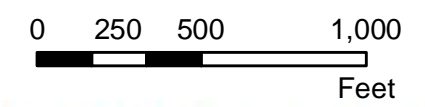


Recommendations

Larson Elementary

Matanuska - Susitna Borough

-  Schools
- Traffic Class**
-  HIGHWAY
-  MAJOR
-  MEDIUM
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-  Walk Zones
- recommendations**
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-  Point Recommendations



SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



Figure 9 - 2



Recommendations

Fred and Sara Machetanz Elementary
Matanuska - Susitna Borough

Legend



Schools

Traffic Class

HIGHWAY

MAJOR

MEDIUM

MINOR

PRIMITIVE

PRIVATE

Recommendations

Multi-Use Path

Sidewalk

Add Lighting

Make Connection

Sidewalk and Lighting

Widen Path and Lighting

Point Recommendations

Walk_Zone

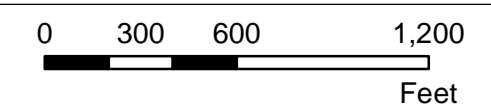
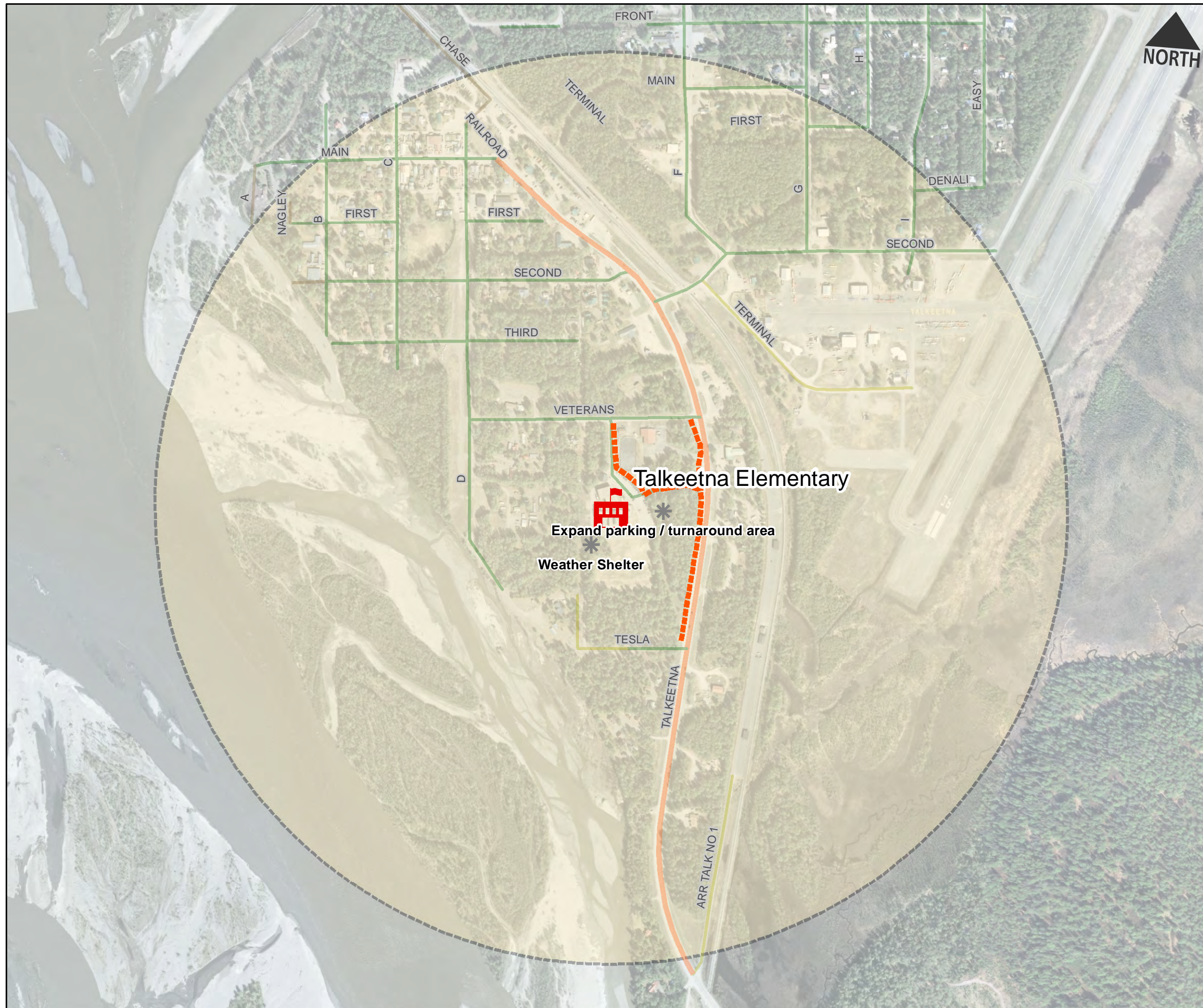



Figure 10 - 2










Recommendations

Talkeetna Elementary








Matanuska - Susitna Borough

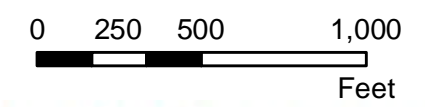
-  Schools

Traffic Class

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SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



Figure 15- 2



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Debt Service Funds

Summarization of Debt Capacity, Debt Levels, and the Effects on the Operating Budget

Regarding debt capacity, in accordance with Borough Code, 3.04.090(C), areawide general obligation bonds may only be issued if the principal amount of debt outstanding for areawide purposes after issuance does not exceed seven percent of the assessed valuation of the Borough for the current year. As of July 1, 2021, the outstanding principal amount of general obligation debt for areawide purposes, Schools, Parks & Recreation and Transportation is \$238,260,000. Our certified assessed value as of January 1, 2021 was \$10,651,609,926. Areawide general obligation debt as of January 1, 2021 is 2.24% of assessed valuation. Our legal capacity is \$745,612,694. We are well below our legal limit.

Our debt levels as of July 1, 2021 for general obligation bonds are as follows:

General Obligation Bonds	
School Construction	\$197,590,000
Parks and Recreation	18,230,000
Transportation Systems	22,440,000
Total General Obligation Bond Debt	\$238,260,000

With regards to Lease, Certificates of Participation (COP's) the amount outstanding as of July 1, 2021 is as follows.

Certificates of Participation (COP's)	
Public Safety Building Station 5-1	\$5,180,000
Public Safety Building Station 6-2	3,845,000
Public Safety Building Station 7-3	4,360,000
Animal Care Facility	1,015,000

USDA Fronteras Charter School

During Fiscal Year 2016, the Borough incurred a loan through USDA. This was done on behalf of Fronteras Charter School. The Charter Schools and the School District cannot incur debt. Basically the Charter School will pay a lease payment to a trustee who in turn will pay the Debt Service. The amount outstanding as of July 1, 2021 is as follows.

Fronteras Charter School	\$6,298,444
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The fiscal impact of ongoing maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. will be borne by Fronteras Charter School. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District allocates funds to Charter Schools on a set amount per pupil.



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Debt Service Funds

School Construction and Renovations

For School Construction and the renovations of School Facilities, the fiscal impact on the operating budget is borne by the School District. They pay all maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. for any new school buildings constructed and/or renovated.

Parks & Recreation Bonds

For the Parks and Recreation projects, the fiscal impact of the ongoing maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. is borne by the Areawide (General) Fund, and paid from the Community Development Department.

Transportation System Debt Service

With regards to the fiscal impact of the Transportation Systems such as ongoing maintenance, repairs, etc. is borne by the Road Service Area in which the Transportation System is located.

Station 5-1 Debt Service

For the Public Safety Building, Station 5-1, the fiscal impact of the ongoing maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. is paid 46% by Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area and 54% by the Areawide Fund, Ambulance Division.

Station 6-2 Debt Service

For the Public Safety Building, Station 6-2, the fiscal impact of the ongoing maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. is paid by Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area.

Station 7-3

For the Public Safety Building, Station 7-3, the fiscal impact of the ongoing maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. is paid 100% by West Lakes Fire Service Area.

Animal Care Debt Service

For the Animal Care Facility, the fiscal impact of the ongoing maintenance, insurance, repairs, etc. is paid by the Nonareawide Fund, Animal Care Division.