



Whittier Moves

Transportation Master Plan and Safety Action Plan

TAC Meeting No. 3

JUNE 2026

Agenda



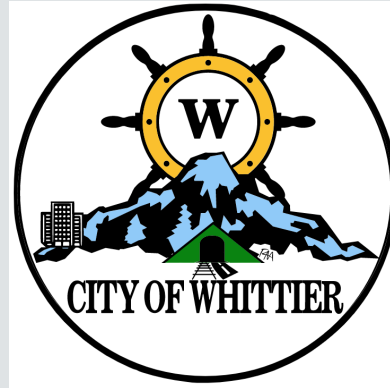
- ① **Introductions and TAC Roles**
- ② **Transportation Master Plan Overview**
- ③ **Transportation Master Plan Recommendations and Top 5 Projects**
- ④ **Transportation Master Plan Funding and Next Steps**
- ⑤ **Safety Action Plan Overview**
- ⑥ **Safety Action Plan Recommendations**
- ⑦ **Next Steps**

Planning Team Introductions



Judy Chapman, Project Manager

Gordon Burton, Tunnel Manager



Jackie Wilde, City Manager

Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager



Renee Whitesell, PTP, Project Manager

Marie Heidemann, Sr. Transportation Planner

Kendal Ramage, Transportation Planner

Grace Richards, Transportation Planner

Talli Vittetoe, Public Involvement



Maija DiSalvo, Staff Planner

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Introductions

Please share the following:

- Your Name
- Your Role
- One thing you've enjoyed about participating in the TAC or one thing we could improve for future TACs?



Your Role as a Technical Advisory Committee Member

Whittier Moves

A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is teal and labeled 'Transportation Master Plan (broad transportation focus)'. The right circle is red and labeled 'Safety Action Plan (local safety focus)'. The intersection of the two circles is outlined in teal and contains a list of shared responsibilities. The left circle only contains a list of responsibilities for the Transportation Master Plan, and the right circle only contains a list of responsibilities for the Safety Action Plan.

Transportation Master Plan (broad transportation focus)

- Advise development of the Transportation Master Plan
- Support prioritization of long-range improvements
- Role largely concludes once the plan is adopted

- Represent local and regional transportation interests
- Provide technical guidance and feedback
- Coordinate among agencies and partners
- Review goals, strategies, and project recommendations

Safety Action Plan (local safety focus)

- Some members invited to serve as Implementation Committee
- Consider a Safe Systems Approach
- Track progress toward safety goals
- Guide updates and future safety actions
- May maintain an ongoing role after plan adoption

Transportation Master Plan Overview



Transportation Master Plan Objectives



Establish a Transportation Vision: Define a clear and compelling vision for Whittier's future transportation system that aligns with the City's strategic goals and future land use.



Explore Funding Options: Identify and evaluate innovative funding opportunities to support the realization of transportation improvements.



Identify Incremental Improvements: Outline specific improvement projects that support future usage needs and improve movement to and between the various activities within the City of Whittier.



Practical Implementation: Provide an actionable plan that remains relevant and usable, with the use of short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5 years and beyond) timescales.



Incorporate Stakeholder Input: Incorporate a plan that actively gathers and uses feedback from a broad range of stakeholders and the public.



Promote Multimodal Transportation and Intermodal Connectivity: Create a plan that identifies and improves multimodal transportation and intermodal connectivity for the wide range of users.

Transportation Master Plan Needs Assessment

Category	Overall Need
Emergency Access, Safety, and Preparedness	Improve redundancy, emergency access, evacuation planning, and infrastructure resilience.
Traffic Operations and Vehicular Safety	Improve intersection safety, reduce congestion, and enhance traffic operations.
Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility	Create safe, accessible, and connected pedestrian facilities.
Tourism and Community Connections	Establish a clear, durable, and intuitive wayfinding system while improving connections between key destinations. Expand and formalize multimodal transportation options to reduce congestion, improve accessibility, and support community mobility.
Maintenance and Collaboration	Strengthen interagency coordination, clarify responsibilities, and establish proactive, shared maintenance and traffic management practices.
Facility Improvements	Rehabilitate and modernize transportation facilities and address future capacity needs.
Parking	Improve parking management, supply, and user experience.
Tunnel Infrastructure and Enhancements	Optimize tunnel operations to better serve residents, safely accommodate tourism growth, and provide long-term reliability.

Recommendations



Plans and Studies

RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME	IDENTIFIER
Helipad: Evaluate feasibility to support emergency response and tour operations.	Mid-to-Long Term	 
Whittier Airport: Evaluate alternative sites for a standard airport to serve Whittier. This is recommended to be completed in conjunction with the Prince William Sound Transportation Plan Update	Mid-to-Long Term	
Ferry Terminal Relocation: Explore the relocation of the ferry terminal to Emerald Cove to reduce potential conflicts in the Harbor Triangle	Mid-to-Long Term	
Tunnel Traffic Study and Glacier Creek Terminal Intersection Impact: Conduct a detailed study focusing on the movement of vehicles exiting the Tunnel into Whittier to analyze the impacts of the current and future developments at the Head of the Bay	Near Term	 
Pavement and Snow Management: Develop a coordinated annual maintenance approach that includes pavement management, routine maintenance, snow removal responsibilities, and designated snow storage areas.	Near Term	
Traffic Management Plan: Develop and maintain an annual Traffic Management Plan addressing tunnel hours, routes, signage, parking, pedestrian paths, and enforcement.	Near Term	 
Resident-Focused Tunnel Operations: Evaluate ways to better serve Whittier residents, including adjusted tunnel hours and the feasibility of free or reduced tunnel fares.	Mid-to-Long Term	  

IDENTIFIER

 Emergency Access, Safety, and Preparedness

 Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

 Maintenance and Collaboration

 Facility Improvements

 Top Five Project

 Traffic Operations and Vehicular Safety

 Tourism and Community Connections

 Tunnel Infrastructure and Enhancements

 Parking

 Included in the SAP

Policy Updates, Education, and Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME	IDENTIFIER
Cruise Origin and Destination Identity: Strengthen Whittier’s role as a cruise origin and destination, distinct from Anchorage.	Mid-to-Long Term	
Visitor Education and Wayfinding: Use high-visibility locations such as the tunnel, cruise docks, ferry terminal, and train platform to conduct outreach to educate visitors and support wayfinding and pedestrian safety.	Mid-to-Long Term	
Interagency Coordination: Strengthen coordination between Whittier, ARRC, and DOT&PF to address land ownership and management challenges.	Near Term	
Parking Payment and Signage: Improve parking signage and evaluate mobile payment options.	Near Term	
Visitor and Oversized Vehicle Parking: Identify additional parking locations for visitors and designate spaces for trailers, snow machines, and other oversized vehicles.	Near Term	
Motorcoach and Shuttle Parking: Designate parking and waiting areas for motorcoaches and shuttle buses.	Near Term	

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Capital Improvement Recommendations: Quick Wins – Part 1

RECOMMENDATION	IMPACT	EFFORT	IDENTIFIER
Head of the Bay Terminal Road: Pave Gateway Road and Prince William Sound Drive address rutting from RV and bus traffic. Effort: HIGH Impact	HIGH	LOW	  
Harbor Triangle Business Parking: Designate parking and access in the Harbor Triangle for business use only.	HIGH	LOW	
Whittier Street Turning Movements: Add a turning lane(s) to mitigate congestion from boat/trailer traffic on Whittier St/Harbor Dr.	HIGH	LOW	  
Near-Term Intersection Sight Distance Improvements: Clear vegetation at Gateway Road/Portage Glacier Drive and Blackstone Road/Depot Road to improve intersection sight distance	HIGH	LOW	 
Harbor Area Pedestrian Access: Focused pedestrian, wayfinding, and signage improvements in Whittier's Harbor Area, including: ▪ The conversion of angled parking on Harbor View Drive/ Camp Road to parallel parking to increase sidewalk width and space for furnishings and landscaping. ▪ Restricting or removing parking at the Harbor Triangle to improve pedestrian access. ▪ Consideration of converting the Harbor Triangle to a pedestrian only park or visitor space.	HIGH	LOW	 

IDENTIFIER

 Emergency Access, Safety, and Preparedness
  Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility
  Maintenance and Collaboration
  Facility Improvements
  Top Five Project

 Traffic Operations and Vehicular Safety
  Tourism and Community Connections
  Tunnel Infrastructure and Enhancements
  Parking
  Included in the SAP

Capital Improvement Recommendations: Quick Wins – Part 2

RECOMMENDATION	IMPACT	EFFORT	IDENTIFIER
Pedestrian Crossing and Safety Improvements: Improvements at Blackstone Road/Deport Road and the Pedestrian Tunnel Pathway - Add pedestrian warning signage at Blackstone Road/Depot Road. - Relocate the stop bar and add a marked crosswalk at the pedestrian tunnel pathway crossing.	HIGH	LOW	 
Wayfinding and Directional Signage: Implement the Economic Development Corporation Wayfinding Plan to improve directional signage and support pedestrian safety for key destinations, parking areas, access points, and year-round users, using durable signage suitable for coastal conditions.	HIGH	LOW	  
Shuttle Connections: Create shuttle services to better connect cruise docks, harbor, train, trailheads, airport, and town, and pursue grant funding for implementation.	HIGH	LOW	 
Tunnel Staging Area Congestion Management: Add more lanes to the Tunnel staging area at the Tunnel entrance in Whittier to reduce congestion and improve emergency response times.	HIGH	LOW	 
Covered Sand and Gravel Storage: Provide covered sand and gravel storage at the boat ramp to make sure that sand and gravel are available for use on pedestrian walkways throughout the winter.	HIGH	LOW	 
Intersection Safety Improvements: Replace the yield signs with stop signs at Gateway Road/Portage Glacier Road and Blackstone Road/Depot Road	HIGH	LOW	 

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 Emergency Access, Safety, and Preparedness	 Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility	 Maintenance and Collaboration	 Facility Improvements	 Top Five Project
 Traffic Operations and Vehicular Safety	 Tourism and Community Connections	 Tunnel Infrastructure and Enhancements	 Parking	 Included in the SAP

Capital Improvement Recommendations: Major Projects – Part 1

RECOMMENDATION	IMPACT	EFFORT	IDENTIFIER
Visitor Information Services: Add a visitor center or expand public information signage.	HIGH	HIGH	
Harbor and Core Area Roadway Improvements: Rehabilitate or replace roads and sidewalks.	HIGH	HIGH	
Small boat harbor development: Develop a small boat harbor at Shotgun Cove.	HIGH	HIGH	
Head of the Bay Boat Launch and Parking: Develop a boat launch facility with large-scale parking to reduce congestion and transportation conflicts.	HIGH	HIGH	
Replace DeLong Dock*	HIGH	HIGH	
Tunnel Capacity for Tourism Growth: Improve tunnel infrastructure and services to support future tourism growth, including upgrades to ventilation, lighting, and safe houses to increase vehicle throughput during tunnel openings.	HIGH	HIGH	 
Pedestrian Tunnel Upgrades: Improve lighting and drainage in the pedestrian tunnel that runs underneath the train tracks.	HIGH	HIGH	 

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Capital Improvement Recommendations: Major Projects – Part 2

RECOMMENDATION	IMPACT	EFFORT	IDENTIFIER
ADA Sidewalk Compliance: Identify and reconstruct sidewalks that do not meet ADA accessibility standards.	HIGH	HIGH	 
West Camp/Whittier Access Road Lighting: Additional street lighting to provide increased visibility along this high-use corridor.	HIGH	HIGH	 
ARRC Passenger Platform Crossing Improvements: Improve railroad and pedestrian safety at the ARRC Passenger Platform through enhanced crosswalks, ADA-compliant ramps, advance stop bars, and improved warning signage.	HIGH	HIGH	  
Enhance Multi-Use Pathway Network: Provide a continuous multi-use pathway from the Glacier Bay Terminal area to Ferry Terminal Road and the Harbor Triangle, including the Whittier Creek Bridge and north side of Harbor Road and Whittier Street from Harbor Road to Glacier Street. Consider connection to Portage Pass Trailhead and covered walkways in town to improve year-round pedestrian comfort.	HIGH	HIGH	  

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Capital Improvement Recommendations: Fill-Ins

RECOMMENDATION	IMPACT	EFFORT	IDENTIFIER
Public Kayak Launches: Install public kayak launches with parking and kayak racks between Head of the Bay and Smitty’s Cove.	LOW	LOW	
Ferry Terminal Parking: Provide additional parking for city use at the ferry terminal.	LOW	LOW	

Capital Improvement Recommendations: Future Consideration

RECOMMENDATION	IMPACT	EFFORT	IDENTIFIER
Airport Infrastructure Improvements: Improve airport infrastructure to support emergency and weather-dependent operations, including runway extension, winter maintenance capability, a larger apron with aircraft tie-downs, upgraded weather equipment and windsock, and a small camping or lodging area. Explore the ability to provide aviation fuel at the airstrip.	LOW	HIGH	
Tunnel Staging Area Pavilion: Add a pavilion at the Tunnel staging area to provide a designated, safe waiting space for visitors outside their vehicles.	LOW	HIGH	

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Top Five Projects



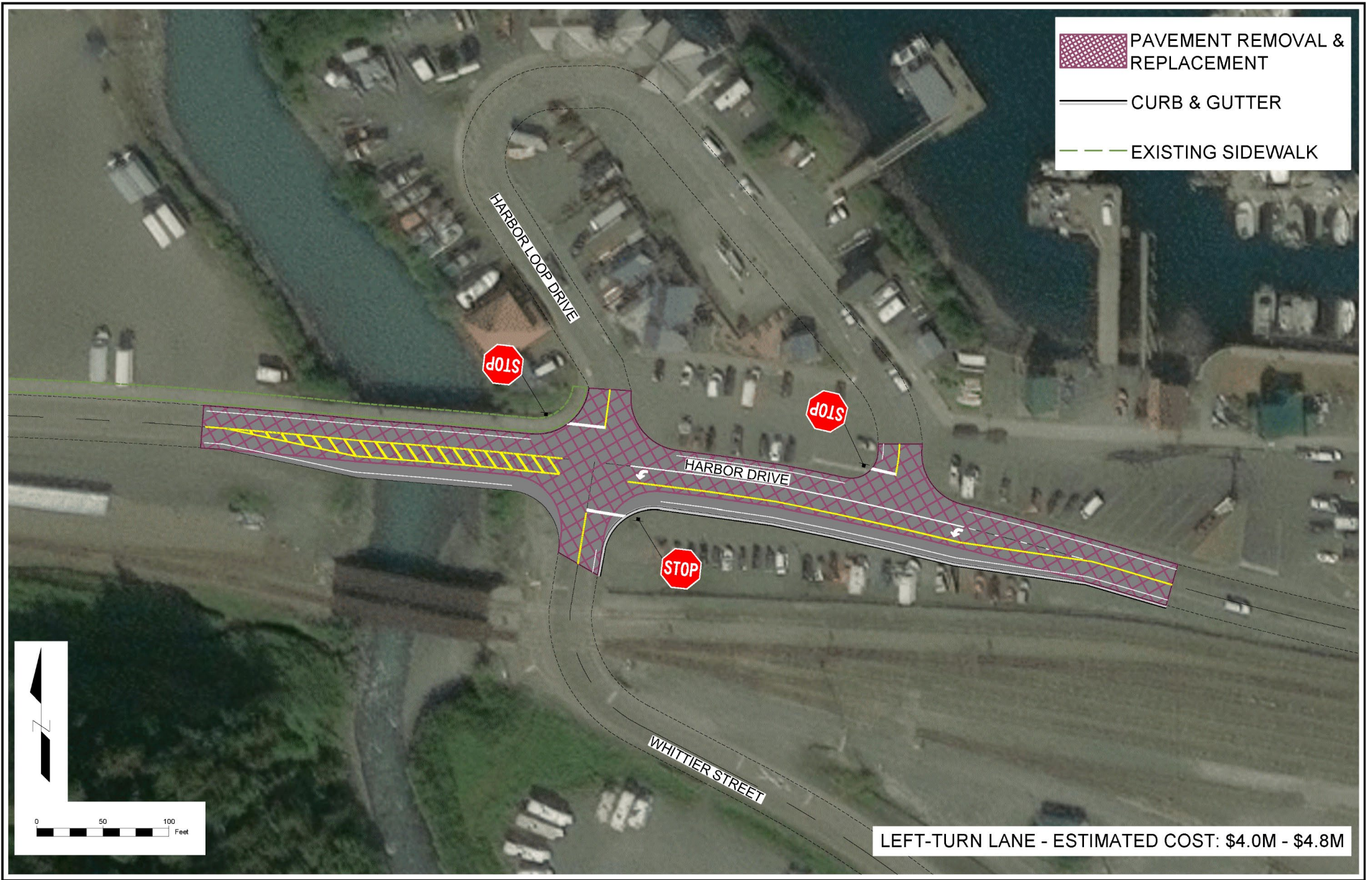


Head of the Bay Terminal Road





Whittier Street Turning Movements



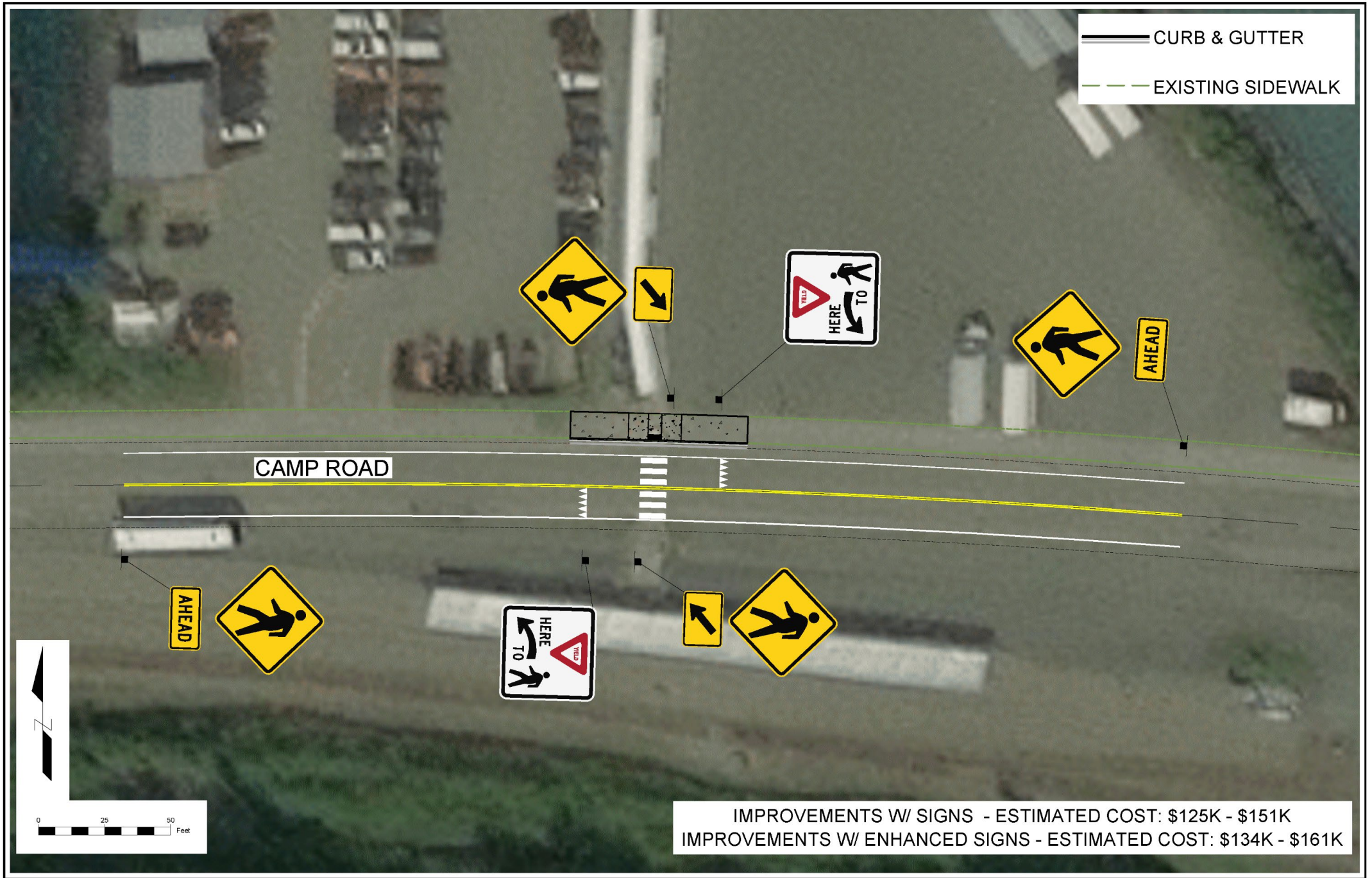


Whittier Street Turning Movements





ARRC Passenger Platform Crossing Improvements

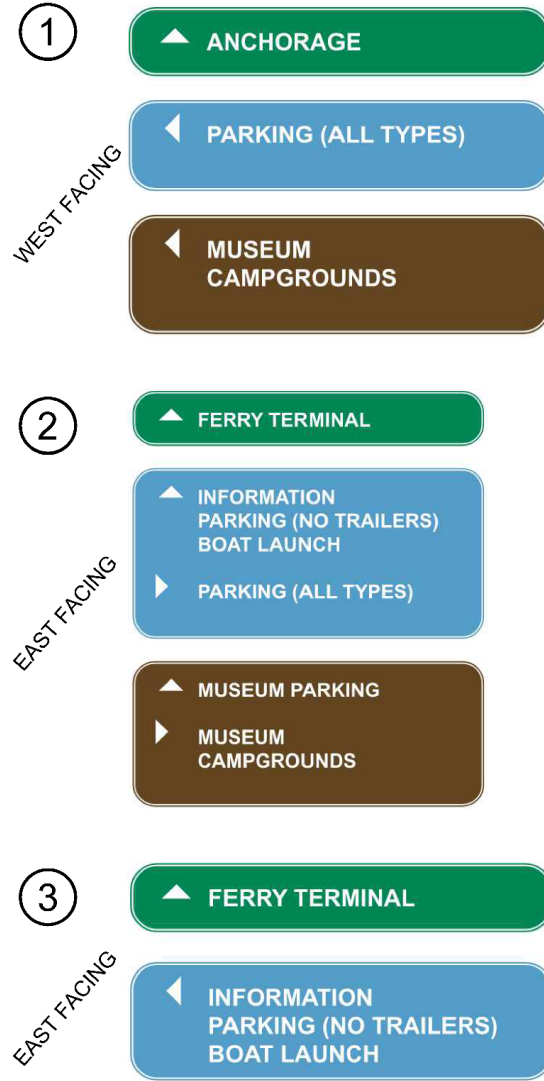






Wayfinding and Directional Signage

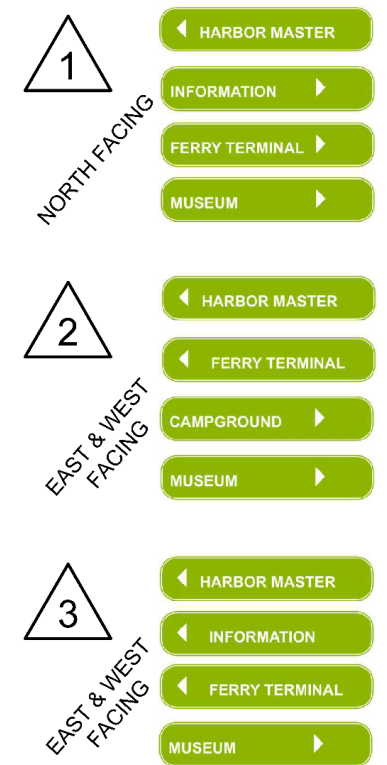
DOT VEHICLE SIGNS



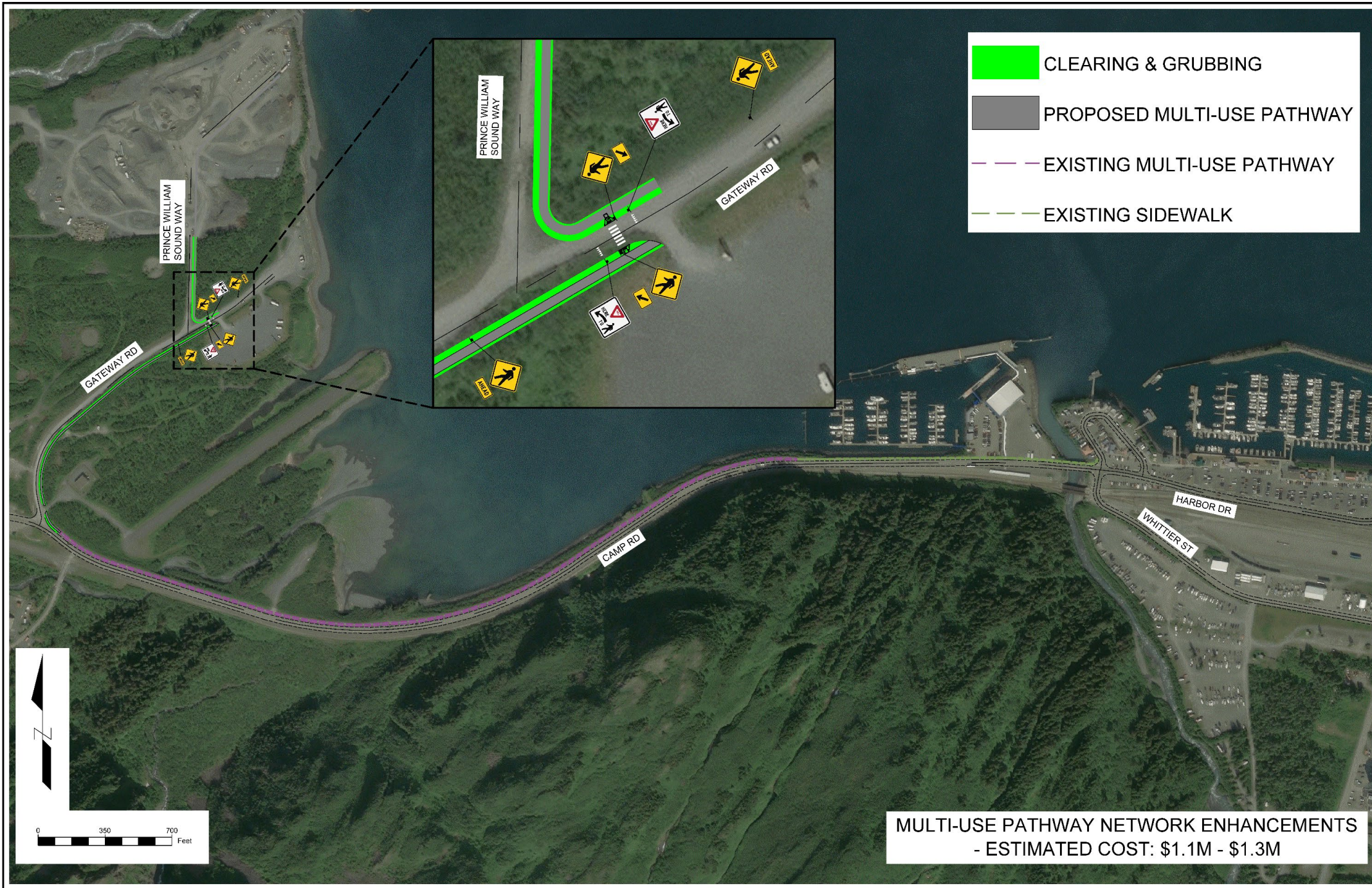
CITY VEHICLE SIGNS



CITY PEDESTRIAN SIGNS



Multi-Use Pathway Network Enhancements



Funding and Next Steps



Recommendations for Implementation



Advancing discretionary grant opportunities to support development of recommended projects.



Supporting residents and the public to enjoy opportunities provided by Whittier through providing enhanced transportation as recommended in the Plan.



Bringing agencies responsible for plan implementation, management, and maintenance together to collaborate on funding and approach.



Monitoring Notices of Funding Opportunities and making grant applications to secure funding for project development.



Updating Whittier Moves as needed to reflect future development and need as Whittier continues to grow and thrive.

Safety Action Plan Overview



Safety Action Plan Overview

The Whittier Safety Action Plan aims to **improve transportation safety** for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the community.

The plan is funded through the **Federal Highway Administration's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program**, which helps communities reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries. The plan uses the **Safe Systems Approach**.



Safety Action Plan Commitment

Through adoption of this plan, and in alignment with Resolution 2025-036 and SS4A requirements, the City of Whittier will affirm their commitment to the following goal and timeline for eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

The City of Whittier commits to adopting a Vision Zero approach, guided by the Safe System Approach, with the goal of eliminating fatalities and serious-injury crashes on City streets by 2029. This policy prioritizes human life and health in all transportation decisions and requires that safety considerations guide City planning, design, operations, and maintenance.



Safety Concerns and Suggestions for Improvement – Part 1

Segment	Safety Concerns	Suggestions for Improvement
Segment 1: Portage Glacier Road/Gateway Drive	• Tourism/Pedestrian Conflicts • Roadway Conditions/Maintenance	• Pave road to Head of the Bay • Creation of new parking • Shuttle connections to harbor core area • Additional lanes at entrance to Tunnel from Whittier
Segment 2: West Camp Road	• Tourism/Pedestrian Conflicts • Roadway Conditions/Maintenance • Railroad Conflicts • Signage	• Working with DOT&PF to improve winter maintenance • Install additional streetlights along West Camp Road • Improved signage
Segment 3: Harbor Roads	• Tourism/Pedestrian Conflicts • Roadway Conditions/Maintenance • Railroad Conflicts • Signage and Roadway Safety	• Assigned harbor staff to manage traffic at boat ramp • Establishing and enforcing a no-parking zone to support emergency response • Clear wayfinding signage to better identify routes and destinations • Provision of covered sand and gravel storage

Safety Concerns and Suggestions for Improvement – Part 2

Segment	Safety Concerns	Suggestions for Improvement
Segment 4: Whittier Street	• Signage and Roadway Safety • Emergency Response	• Provision of traffic calming measures on Whittier
Segment 5: City Streets	• Roadway Conditions/Maintenance • Roadway Safety	• Traffic calming measures • Increased lighting • Increased enforcement
Segment 6: Depot, Blackstone, and Shotgun Cove Roads	• Roadway Conditions/Maintenance • Pedestrian Facilities	• Paving Shotgun Cove Road • Provision of pedestrian facilities to Smitty's Cove • Better signage to clarify locations where people are allowed to walk

Recommendations



Policy and Process Changes

- Safety review for all capital projects
- Standardized near-miss reporting
- Safer Speeds Policy
- Pedestrian Priority Zones
- Winter safety protocol enhancements
- Interagency coordination
- Community engagement
- Emergency response training
- Safety education
- Traffic enforcement
- Visitor education and wayfinding



Planning Efforts

- Helipad Feasibility Study
- Emergency Evacuation Plan
- Tunnel Traffic and Glacier Creek Terminal Intersection Impact Study
- Traffic Management Plan

Projects



TOP FIVE	QUICK WINS	OTHER
Right Turn Lane at Whittier Street	Speed Feedback	Traffic Calming
Wayfinding and Directional Signage	Intersection Sight Distance Improvements	Pedestrian Crossing and Safety Improvements
Alaska Railroad Passenger Platform Crossing Improvements	Intersection Safety Improvements	Harbor Area Pedestrian Access
Enhance Multi-Use Pathway Network	Shuttle Connections	Tunnel Staging Area Congestion Management
ADA Sidewalk Compliance	Covered Sand and Gravel Storage	West Camp/Whittier Access Rd Lighting
		Pedestrian Tunnel Upgrades

We want your feedback!

Project Contacts:

DOT&PF

- Judy Chapman, Project Manager

City of Whittier

- Jackie Wilde, City Manager
- Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager

DOWL

- Renee Whitesell, Project Manager
- Talli Vittetoe, Public Involvement

Transportation Master Plan:

www.WhittierMoves.com

Safety Action Plan:

www.whittieralaska.gov/projects/page/whittier-safety-action-plan

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