



4/8/25

To the Anchorage Assembly and Mayor LaFrance,

Bike Anchorage enthusiastically supports AO 2025-44, adopting the Municipality of Anchorage Long-Range Transportation Strategy.

This is a bold and forward-thinking plan that lays an excellent foundation for all future transportation decisions in Anchorage. Most importantly, it centers people and their right to move freely, safely, and with dignity through our community, however they choose to travel.

Goal 1, *Take a Safe System approach to all projects*, is rightly the top priority for transportation planning in our community, given the alarming rate of pedestrian deaths in 2024 that is continuing into the first months of 2025. In particular, strategy S2 establishing a modal hierarchy will codify the core truth that roads are for people, not just cars, and everyone deserves to arrive at their destination safely, no matter their mode of travel. By explicitly prioritizing the safety of people over vehicle speed and flow, this strategy challenges long-standing incentives that have made our streets dangerous for anyone outside a car.

Goal 3, *Provide Transportation Choices in how people move around the Municipality*, addresses a daily reality for many Anchorage residents: We don't currently have true freedom of choice in how we get around. Our streets overwhelmingly prioritize cars, leaving biking, walking, rolling, and public transit as impractical, or even unsafe, options for too many of our neighbors. This strategy goes beyond that stale paradigm, recognizing that a safe, equitable transportation system must make all modes viable and appealing.

As an example, Strategy M1 will bring a welcome change by prioritizing operational maintenance such as snow clearing and gravel sweeping for those walking, rolling, and biking. It's a simple but powerful shift: Before we ask why more people don't bike in the winter, let's first ask whether we've made it possible.

This document showcases the thoughtful, dedicated work Anchorage's transportation professionals have undertaken in recent years. They've sought out best practices from peer cities, especially other winter communities, and are bringing that hard-earned knowledge home to make Anchorage better. For example, we are delighted to see strategy M1's provision "*Require equipment operators to use the routes they plow at least once per season*," a clear echo of the excellent winter maintenance culture of Oulu, Finland.



Finally, we appreciate the recognition of Anchorage's geographic and cultural diversity, and the effort to reflect the specific needs of Chugiak-Eagle River, Girdwood, and Anchorage. Our comments here focus on the Anchorage section, but we support that differentiated approach to uphold each community's unique needs and values.

This strategy is the right direction for our city. We're grateful for the many hours of planning, research, and public engagement that made it possible. We're confident it will serve as our city's north star, guiding Anchorage toward a livable, healthy, and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexa Dobson", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Alexa Dobson
Executive Director, Bike Anchorage