

To: UAF MPC
From: Brad Krick
Re: Considerations for UAF trails planning

I'm highly enthused by the idea of UAF and FNSB working together to integrate our trail systems. A few thoughts and comments:

1. I would like to ask UAF to be mindful of the fact that bikes do not (always) belong on sidewalks. A plan to improve and increase non-motorized transport should also include road & shoulder improvements that would aid bicycles
 - This is for pedestrian and other sidewalk-user safety. Bikes travel at high speeds and many of our sidewalks are narrow.
 - This is also for bicycle safety. Bikes traveling on sidewalks and bike paths run the risk of being hit by traffic turning through driveways and side roads.
 - Bikes do not have the right of way when traveling on sidewalks or bike paths. This means that if bicyclists are hit by turning traffic (either turning off of a road or out of a driveway), they are at fault for not yielding. They are also at an increased risk of getting hit because drivers aren't looking for a fast vehicle moving against the line of traffic.
 - When bikes travel in the road, they operate according to the rules of the road. This makes them more visible to traffic and less likely to be hit. In addition, if they are hit, they have right of way. In other words, riding as a vehicle in the road is safer both physically and legally.
2. Ski trail below Butrovich: I've heard it mentioned in MPC meetings that there is a ski trail along the hill on Tanana Loop heading up to West Ridge. However, I've never seen it. Is it an existing trail, or a planned trail?
3. Trail Maps: The existing trail maps on UAF's FS North Campus site are updated for all the latest trail changes: <http://www.uaf.edu/fs/northcampus/trailmaps/> This is excellent, but I think the maps could use a bit of graphical punch. Maybe a small part of this project could be a new map or set of maps with the new trails incorporated, but with the same design as the older maps (I believe these are still the maps that are posted on the trail kiosks)?
4. Does the MPC know what is happening with the bike trail leading from the Taku Lot north to Tanana Drive ? This trail was closed for several weeks last fall so it could be tested as an alternate Shuttle Bus route for the closure of Tanana Loop. Transportation told me at that time that they would solicit feedback about this use of the road and were open to another solution, but they weren't aware of any other alternate route that would be useable.