

ATTACHMENT #2

Pam Chapin

From: Kent Craford <kentcraford@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Airport Board
Cc: Patty Wahto; Carl Ramseth; Alaska Seaplanes Safety; Phil Adams; scott@islandairx.com; Mike Stedman
Subject: Petition for closure of 135 Ramp VSR

Members of the Juneau Airport Board:

On behalf of Alaska Seaplanes, our employees and the traveling public, I am writing to petition the board for closure of the North-South Vehicle Service Road (VSR) running through the Part 135 ramp pedestrian thoroughfare.

As you can see from the rendering below (for reference, I have outlined the VSR in red, and circled Gate 1 in red), the VSR cuts between the terminal and the Part 135 aircraft staging area. Based on available data, we estimate over 100,000 pedestrian movements between these two locations annually. That number is set to increase with the opening of Alaska Seaplanes' new cargo facility. This is the only location on the airfield where very large numbers of the traveling public must regularly cross a vehicle service road. And yet, despite this fact, traffic on this VSR has only increased in recent years, to the point where we are now sounding an alarm about the number of vehicle-pedestrian conflicts.

If it were only Part 135 ramp users increasing vehicle traffic, it would be one thing. But, it is obvious to anyone who watches the VSR for more than an hour, that a great deal of the traffic is among users with no nexus whatsoever to the 135 ramp, who are simply getting from the south side to the north side of the airfield, and who have alternative routes, but nonetheless choose to drive right through the middle of a busy pedestrian thoroughfare. These users may be going from cargo to the terminal, from the FBO to the terminal, or from the terminal to lunch off-airport. We see it all. They don't need to be there. They have other routes. But they take the shortcut, right through a bunch of pedestrians. Why? Because it's expedient. Again, they have other routes.

It is no longer justifiable to prioritize vehicle driver convenience over pedestrian safety. The airport has, by design, created an accident waiting to happen. It's time to close this VSR to non-135 ramp users. They have other routes.

We have had constructive conversations with the Airport Manager, as recently as this morning. She has suggested referring this matter to the Operations Committee, a move we endorse. And while some partial measures may be available as mitigations to this unsustainable safety risk, there is a simple fix—prohibiting non-135 users from transiting the 135 area. They have other routes. And while those routes may be slightly longer, it is well established that you have to drive so slow to watch for pedestrians on the 135 ramp that it actually takes more time... So the long way is actually shorter, and safer. They have other routes.

We urge the board to redesign this area with pedestrian safety as the paramount concern, and vehicle driver convenience and expediency a distantly subordinate consideration. We look forward to working with you on this matter.

