

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT STATE PROJECT REVIEW CSP2024 0002 HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

(907) 586-0715 CDD_Admin@juneau.org www.juneau.org/community-development 155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

DATE: September 3, 2024

TO: Mandy Cole, Chair, Planning Commission

BY: Jay Larson, Planner II

THROUGH: Jill Lawhorne, Director, AICP

PROPOSAL: Applicant requests a State Project Review to replace the signalized intersection of the Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard with a single lane roundabout.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR REVIEW:

- The purpose of this project improves safety for vehicles and pedestrians passing through the Mendenhall Loop Road intersection at Mendenhall Boulevard and Valley Boulevard.
- The project is in compliance with the CBJ Comprehensive Plan and Title 49.15.580

GENERAL INFORMATION				
Property Owner	State of Alaska DOT			
Applicant	State of Alaska DOT			
Property Address	North Douglas Highway			
Legal Description	USGS QUAD B-2 NW Section T40S R66E			
	Copper River Meridian			
Parcel Number	0			
Zoning	D5			
Land Use Designation	DOT ROW			
Lot Size	N/A			
Water/Sewer	N/A			
Access	Mendenhall Loop Rd			
Existing Land Use	ROW			
	l			

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

- Amend: amend the recommendation to include conditions and recommend approval to the Assembly.
- Deny: recommend denial of the proposed project.
 Planning Commission must make its own findings.
- Continue: continue the hearing to a later date if determined that additional information or analysis is needed to make a decision, or if additional testimony is warranted.

ASSEMBLY ACTION REQUIRED:

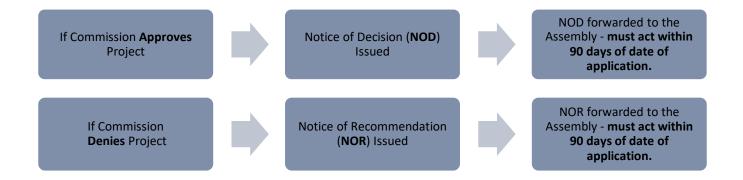
The Notice of Decision or Notice of Recommendation will be forwarded to the Assembly.

STANDARD OF REVIEW:

- Quasi-judicial decision
- Requires five (5) affirmative votes for approval
- Code Provisions:
 - o CBJ 49.15.580(b)
 - o CBJ 49.80

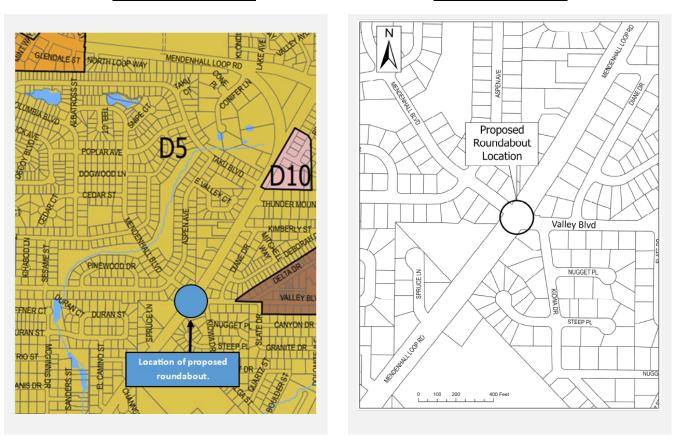
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CURRENT ZONING MAP

PROPOSED LOCATION



The Commission shall hear and decide the case per CBJ 49.15.580(b) - State Project Review: The commission shall review proposed Alaska State capital improvement projects for consistency with this title pursuant to AS 35.30.010 and may impose conditions on and modifications to such projects. If the commission approves or approves with conditions or modifications, a notice of decision shall be issued. A notice of decision becomes final 90 days from the date the project was submitted unless modified or disapproved by the assembly. If the commission disapproves, a notice of recommendation and draft resolution shall be forwarded to the assembly for further action.

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SURROUNDING LAND USES AND ZONING

Direction	Zoning District	Land Use
North	D5	Residential
South	D5	Residential
East	D18	Residential
West	D5	Residential

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Description – The applicant applied **(Attachment A)** for review of a project which would replace the currently signalized intersection with a single-lane roundabout as a method to improve DOT & PF purposes. This will serve to improve safety conditions for motorized, non-motorized and pedestrian traffic in a previously signalized intersection as recommended in the CBJ Area Wide Transportation Plan.

This is an \$8.5 million project that will include these details (from their application):

- Expand the ROW of the intersection in all directions, particularly in the northern direction.
- Widen road approaching roundabout and adding splitter islands on the approach into the roundabout.
- Adjust underlying hydraulic systems/storm drains to fit the new footprint.
- Potentially reposition or bury electrical poles and lines along part of the Loop Road.
- Install new lights around the roundabout footprint.

Background – This intersection was signalized in 2004. Since then, there have been a series of accidents resulting in minor injuries. The purpose of this project is to improve safety for vehicles and pedestrians passing through the Mendenhall Loop Road intersection.

The table below summarizes relevant history for the subject parcel and proposed development.

Item	Summary
Department of Transportation and	Project narrative describing how the project adheres to CBJ Municipal
Public Facilities	Code (Attachment A, page 4)
Location Map	Figure 1 – Location of project (Attachment A, page 6)
Project Vicinity Map	Figure 2 – Project Vicinity Map (Attachment A, page 6)
Fastest Path Analysis	Appendix B (Attachment A, page 34)
Truck Turning Analysis	Appendix C (Attachment A, page 36)
Sight Distance Analysis	Appendix D (Attachment A, page 43)

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Figure 1 - Location Map



Figure 2 - Project Vicinity Map

Current Conditions – This intersection is currently under the control of signalized devices. The project removes the signals and constructs a single lane roundabout. It would continue to be used as a road way and intersection with all associated pedestrian crossing facilities with an altered configuration.

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ZONING ANALYSIS

CBJ 49.05.100 - Purpose and Intent. The purpose and Intent of Title 49 Land Use Code is:

- (1) To achieve the goals and objectives, and implement the policies, of the Juneau comprehensive plan, and coastal management program;
- (2) To ensure that future growth and development in the City and Borough is in accord with the values of its residents;
- (3) To identify and secure, for present and future residents, the beneficial impacts of growth while minimizing the negative impacts;
- (4) To ensure that future growth is of the appropriate type, design and location, and is served by a proper range of public services and facilities such as water, sewage, and electrical distribution systems, transportation, schools, parks and other public requirements, and in general to promote public health, safety and general welfare;
- (5) To provide adequate open space for light and air; and
- (6) To recognize the economic value of land and encourage its proper and beneficial use.

Roadway Construction Standard Waivers – CBJ 49.35 Table 240 standards have been met.

Roadway Classification Maps – Minor Arterial

Hazard Areas – Regulatory Floodway. Floodplain Development Permit not required.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Service	Summary			
Urban Service Boundary	Within the Urban Service Boundary			
Water/Sewer	CBJ/CBJ			
Fire Service Area	CBJ			
Schools	Valley Baptist Academy			
	Floyd Dryden Middle School			
Recreation	Mendenhaven Park			

ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSERVATION, HISTORIC, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The below table summarizes Conservation, Historic, and Archeological Resources which may be affected by the single-lane roundabout.

Resource	Summary
Anadromous	No Anadromous stream is located near intersection in question.

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Historic	No historic designation
Archeological	No known archeological findings

CONFORMITY WITH ADOPTED PLANS

2013 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION: The City and Borough of Juneau is a vibrant State Capital that values the diversity and quality of its natural and built environments, creates a safe and satisfying quality of life for its diverse population, provides quality education and employment for its workers, encourages resident participation in community decisions and provides an environment to foster state-wide leadership.

2013 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - The proposed text amendment is in compliance with the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.			
Chapter	Page No.	Item	Summary
8	119	Policy 8.8 The Mendenhall Valley	The proposed project proposes needed improvements on Mendenhall Loop Rd by creating better traffic flow and improves safety for vehicles and pedestrians. 8.8 - IA10 Work with ADOT&PF to undertake roadway capacity, vehicular turning movement, bus pullouts and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements within the Urban Service Area where an existing intersection Level of Service on the state route is compromised (LOS D or worse); priority improvements should be given to intersections that would serve new high-density housing developments.

AGENCY REVIEW

CDD conducted an agency review comment period between August 5, 2024, and August 19, 2024. The following agency review comments were received.

Name	Summary
Teri Rehfeldt, CBJ Sr. Planner, CFI	I have reviewed these plans with ADOT thoroughly in the past and have confirmed that the project does not impact a Special Flood Hazard Area and does not need a Floodplain Development Permit.
Building Department	No comments received
Engineering Department	No comments received
Fire Department	No comments received

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Abutters were sent to the surrounding area and published online, stating the Alaska Department of Transportation is proposing to replace the signalized intersection of Mendenhall Blvd and Valley Blvd with a single-lane roundabout. No Public comments were submitted.

FINDINGS

In accordance with CBJ 49.15.580 staff finds the proposed roundabout complies with Title 49 Land Use Code and is in general conformity with adopted plans, specifically the 2013 Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning Commission adopt the Director's analysis and findings and forward a recommendation of APPROVAL to the CBJ Assembly for the roundabout.

STAFF REPORT ATTACHMENTS

Item	Description	
Attachment A	Application Packet	
	Figure 1: Fastest Path Analysis	
	Figure 2: Truck Turning Analysis	
	Appendix A: Sight Distance Analysis	
	Appendix B: Abutters Notice and Public Notice Sign Photo	
	Appendix C: Public Comments	
Attachment B	Abutters Notice and Public Notice Sign Photo	
Attachment C	Agency Comments	
Attachment D	Public Notice sign photo near intersection	



DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

NOTE: Development Permit Application forms must accompany all other Community Development Department land use applications. This form and all documents associated with it are public record once submitted.

PROPERTY LOCATION				
Physical Address Intersection of N	Mendenhall Loop Ro	ad, Mendenhall	Boulevard, and Valley Boulevar	
Legal Description(s) (Subdivision, Survey, Block, Tract, Lot) USGS QUAD Juneau B-2 NW Section T40S R66E Copper River Meridian				
Parcel Number(s) Mendenhall Loop Road, intersection of Mendenhall Boulevard and Valley Boulevard				
☐ This property is located in the downtown historic district ☐ This property is located in a mapped hazard area, if so, which				
LANDOWNER/ LESSEE		design and the	The Edward Street Street State of the Street	
Property Owner State of Alaska		Contact Person Natha	n Purves	
Mailing Address PO Box 112506	, Juneau, Alaska 998	301	Phone Number(s) 907-465-4509	
E-mail Address nathan.purves@a	alaska.gov			
Required for Planning Permits, not needed Consent is required of all landowners/ less include the property location, landowner/	ees. If submitted with the applica	ation, alternative written a	pproval may be sufficient. Written approval must	
		(out) property is made wi	th my complete understanding and permission.	
	d Borough of Juneau officials/emp		erty as needed for purposes of this application.	
	d Borough of Juneau officials/emp	itle (e.g.: Landowner, Less		
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----DEPARTMENT USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE---

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

For assistance filling out this form, contact the Permit Center at 586-0770.

Case Number Date Received 4/16/24



CITY/STATE PROJECT AND LAND ACTION REVIEW APPLICATION

See reverse side for more information regarding the permitting process and the materials required for a complete application.

NOTE: Must be accompanied by a DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION form.

PROJECT SUMMARY				
We are proposing a project to replace the signalized intersection at Mendenhall Loop				
Road-Mendenhall Boulevard-Valley Boulevard with a single lane roundabout.				
	П			
	State Project Review			
PROJECT NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSAL:				
Is this project associated with any other Land Use Permits? YES Case No.:	_ NO			
Capital Improvement Program # (CIP)				
Local Improvement District # (LID)				
SFHWY00403				
State Project #				
ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: \$ 8,500,000				
ALL REQUIRED MATERIALS ATTACHED				
Complete application				
Pre-Application notes (if applicable)				
Narrative including:	a la			
Current use of land or building(s)				
Proposed use of land or building(s)				
How the proposed project complies with the Comprehensive Plan	10.000			
How the proposed project complies with the Land Use Code (Title 49)				
Site Plan (details on page 2)				
NOTE: This application is <u>required</u> even if the proposed project is associated with other Land Use permits.				
DEPARTMENT USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE				
CITY/STATE PROJECT FEES Fees Check No. Receipt Date				
Application Fees (≥\$2.5M) \$ 1,606 °°				
Pub. No. Sign Fee \$ 150				
Pub. No. Sign Deposit \$				
TOTAL FEES \$7.50				
	We are proposing a project to replace the signalized intersection at Menden Road-Mendenhall Boulevard-Valley Boulevard with a single lane roundabou TYPE OF PROJECT REVIEW: City Project Review PROJECT NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSAL: Is this project associated with any other Land Use Permits? YES Case No.: Capital Improvement Program # (CIP) Local Improvement District # (LID) STATE PROJECT COST: \$ 8,500,000 ALL REQUIRED MATERIALS ATTACHED Complete application Pre-Application notes (if applicable) Narrative including: Current use of land or building(s) Proposed use of land or building(s) How the proposed project complies with the Comprehensive Plan How the proposed project complies with the Land Use Code (Title 49) Site Plan (details on page 2) IOTE: This application is required even if the proposed project is associated with othe CITY/STATE PROJECT FEES Fees Check No. Receipt Date Application Fees (2\$2.5M) S CITY/STATE PROJECT FEES Fees Check No. Receipt Date Pub. No. Sign Fee S CITY/STATE PROJECT FEES Fees Check No. Receipt Date			

This form and all documents associated with it are public record once submitted.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

For assistance filling out this form, contact the Permit Center at 586-0770.

Case Number	Date Received
CSP24-002	4/16/24

City/State Project and Land Action Review Information

City and State project review is outlined in CBJ 49.15.580

Each application for a City/State Project is reviewed by the Planning Commission at a public hearing. The permit procedure is intended to provide the Commission the flexibility necessary to make recommendations tailored to individual applications.

<u>Application</u>: An application for a City/State Project Review will not be accepted by the Community Development Department until it is determined to be complete. The items needed for a complete application are:

- 1. Forms: Completed City/State Project Review Application and Development Permit Application forms.
- 2. Fees: No application fee required for projects that cost less than \$2.5 million. For projects costing more than this amount, the fee is \$1,600.00. All City/State Project and Land Action Applications must pay public notice sign fees. All fees are subject to change.
- 3. Project Narrative: A detailed narrative describing the project.
- 4. Plans: All plans are to be drawn to scale and clearly show the items listed below:
 - a. Plat, site plan, floor plan and elevation views of existing and proposed structures and land;
 - b. Existing and proposed parking areas, including dimensions of the spaces, aisle width and driveway entrances;
 - c. Proposed traffic circulation within the site including access/egress points and traffic control devices;
 - d. Existing and proposed lighting (including cut sheets for each type of lighting);
 - e. Existing and proposed vegetation with location, area, height and type of plantings; and,
 - f. Existing physical features of the site (i.e. drainage, eagle trees, hazard areas, salmon streams, wetlands, etc.)

Document Format: All materials submitted as part of an application shall be submitted in either of the following formats:

- 1. Electronic copies in the following formats: .doc, .txt, .xls, .bmp, .pdf, .jpg, .gif, .xlm, .rtf (other formats may be preapproved by the Community Development Department).
- 2. Paper copies 11" X 17" or smaller (larger paper size may be preapproved by the Community Development Department).

<u>Application Review & Hearing Procedure</u>: Once the application is determined to be complete, the Community Development Department will initiate the review and scheduling of the application. This process includes:

Review: As part of the review process the Community Development Department will evaluate the application for consistency with all applicable City & Borough of Juneau codes and adopted plans. Depending on unique characteristics of the permit request the application may be required to be reviewed by other municipal boards and committees. Review comments may require the applicant to provide additional information, clarification, or submit modifications/alterations for the proposed project.

Hearing: All City/State Project Review Permit Applications must be reviewed by the Planning Commission. Once an application has been deemed complete and has been reviewed by all applicable parties the Community Development Department will schedule the requested permit for the next appropriate meeting. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation based on staff's analysis and forward it to the Assembly for final approval/denial.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED



Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

SOUTHCOAST REGION
PRECONSTRUCTION

6860 Glacier Highway P.O. Box 112506 Juneau, Alaska 99801 Main: 907.465.4443 Fax: 907.465.4414 connor.brown@alaska.gov

April 08, 2024

JNU Loop Road - Valley Boulevard Intersection Safety Improvements HSIP Federal ID: 0966030 State ID: SFHWY00403

Project Narrative Describing how the JNU Loop Road – Valley Boulevard Intersection Safety Improvements HSIP Project Adheres to Municipal Code

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to replace the signalized intersection of the Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard with a single lane roundabout. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a description of the project and describe how it adheres to municipal code.

The purpose of this project improve safety for cars passing through the Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard. The intersection in question has been signalized since 2004 and has been the site of a series of crashes, most resulting in minor injuries.

As a method to improve purpose DOT&PF proposes to replace the currently existing signalized intersection with a single lane roundabout.

During this project DOT&PF would propose to:

- Expand the ROW of the intersection in all directions, particularly in the northern direction.
- Widen road approaching roundabout and adding splitter islands on the approach into the roundabout.
- Adjust underlying hydraulic systems/storm drains to fit the new footprint.
- Potentially reposition or bury electrical poles and lines along part of the Loop Road.
- Install new lights around the roundabout footprint.

Land Use

Most of the land which would be used in this project is already in use for an existing roadway intersection between Mendenhall Loop Road, Mendenhall Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard. It would continue to be used as a road way and intersection with all associated pedestrian crossing facilities with an altered configuration and removed traffic signals.

"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."

We would anticipate the project to involve permanent easements on several parcels adjacent to the Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard intersection, including parcels ID 5B2401120040, 5B2401140160, 5B401600010, and 5B2401010011. We would not anticipate any relocations because of the project.

Of the affected parcels currently 5B2401120040 and 5B2401010011 are in use as private residential properties, the specific slivers which are anticipated as requisitioned easements would be in use for roadside utilities and potentially the edge of a private yard in parcel 5B2401120040. Parcel 5B2401140160 was previously acquired by DOT and is currently an empty lot which would have be subject to significant easement acquisition, and parcel 5B2401600010 is in use as the base of a cell and radio tower station and cannot be subject to acquisitions to the point of removing the station, though easements would be acquired up to the point of the fence to accommodate repositioned non-motorized path and expanded road.

Compliance

This project is in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan of the City and Borough. It takes place entirely within developed urban area, making no expansions to sprawl and is shaped to make minimal expansion of the roadway footprint, and will not block access to or use of buildable land from latest study shown in the Comprehensive Plan. The project is within FAA 7460 Contours but will neither involve nor result in a structure over 200 feet.

The project will serve to improve safety conditions for motorized, non-motorized, and pedestrian traffic in a previously signaled intersection as recommended in the City and Borough of Juneau Area Wide Transportation Plan. As a part of the intersection's reconstruction walking/nonmotorized vehicle paths will be rearranged and refurbished in a manner befitting the Juneau Safe Routes to School Plan.

The proposed project is in compliance with the Land Use Code (Title 49). Public notice has been carried out properly including published notices in public spaces, publicly open meetings where the proposed project was presented and comments were taken, and letters sent to various stakeholders and jurisdictional agencies including the City and Borough of Juneau. Corner sight distance, street width, and turn length all in accordance with CBJ 49.35. Signage, Striping, and Grading Plans were all planned in compliance with both the NCHRP Report 1043 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2009), and the Alaska Traffic Manual (2016).

Sincerely,

Connor M Brown

Digitally signed by Connor M Brown Date: 2024.04.08

Connor Brown

Environmental Impact Analyst 1 Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities – Southcoast Region PO Box 112506, Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500 connor.brown@alaska.gov

Enclosures:

City/State Project and Land Action Review applications

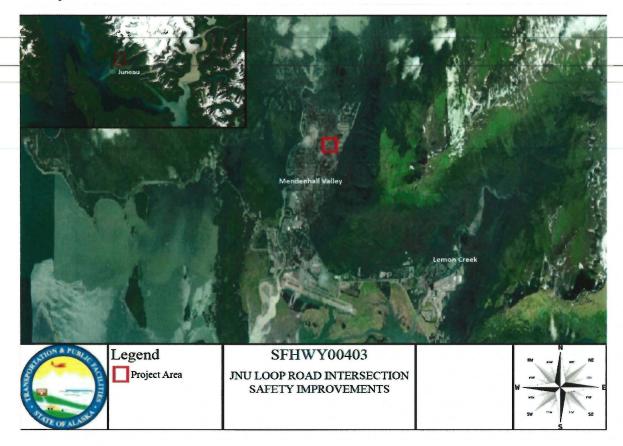
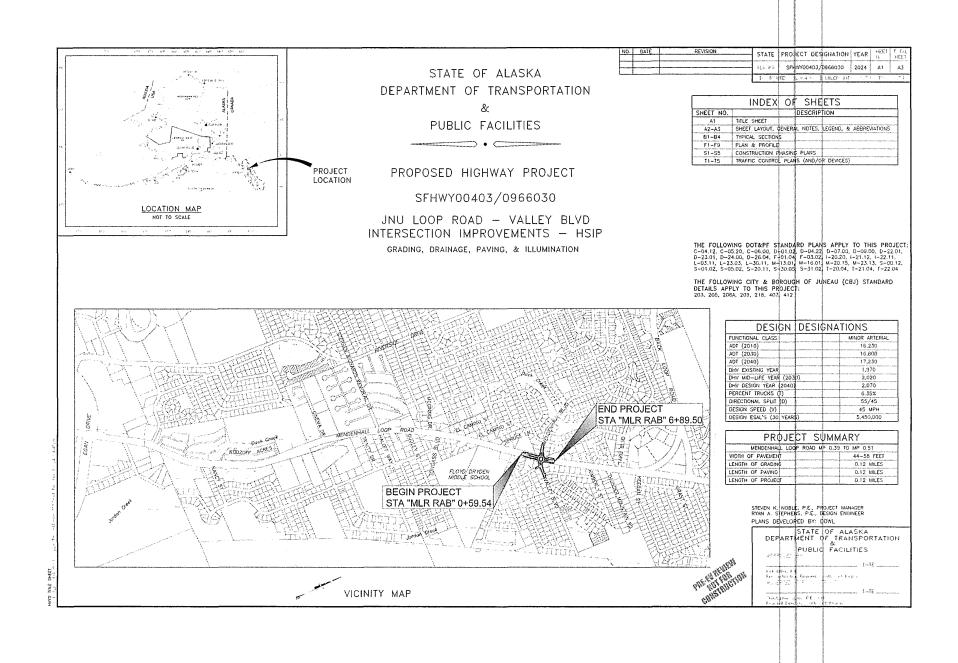


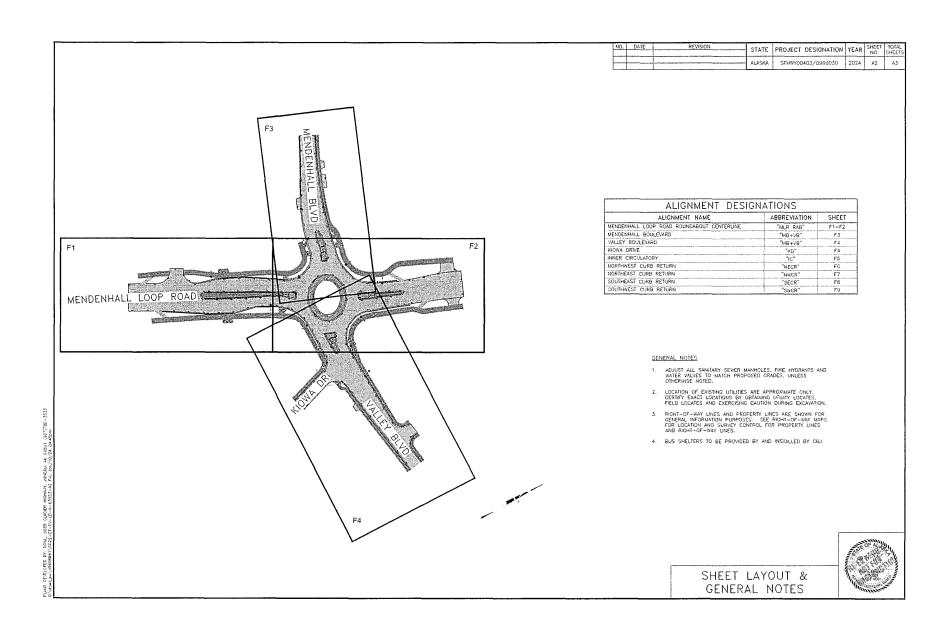
Figure 1 - Location Map

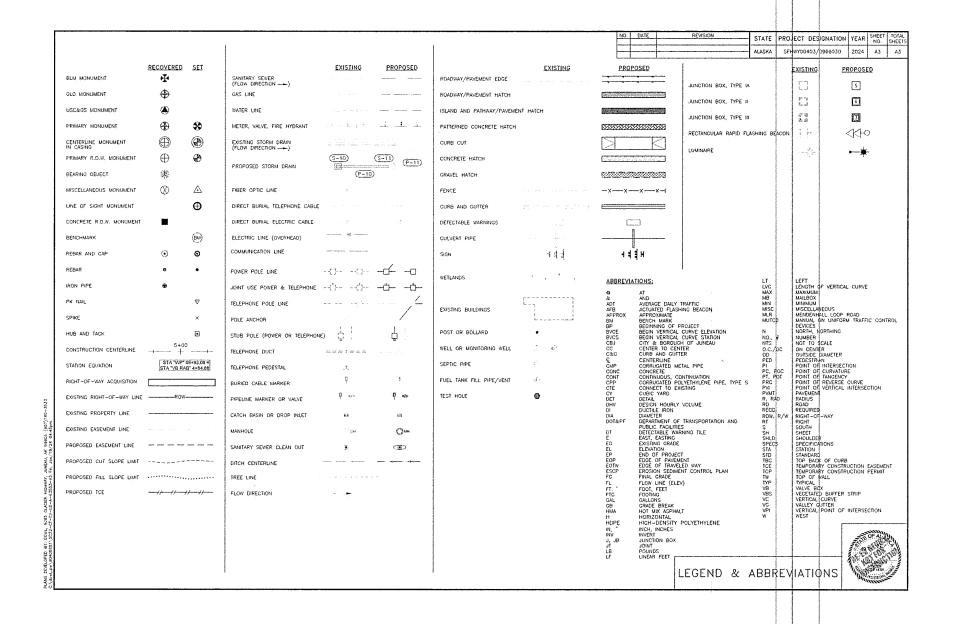


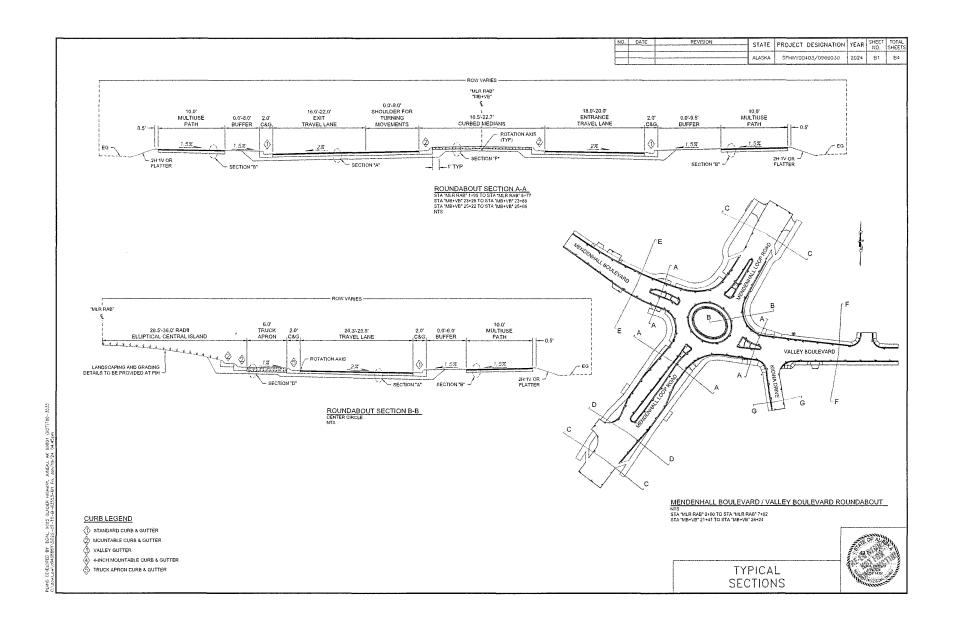
Figure 2 - Project Vicinity Map

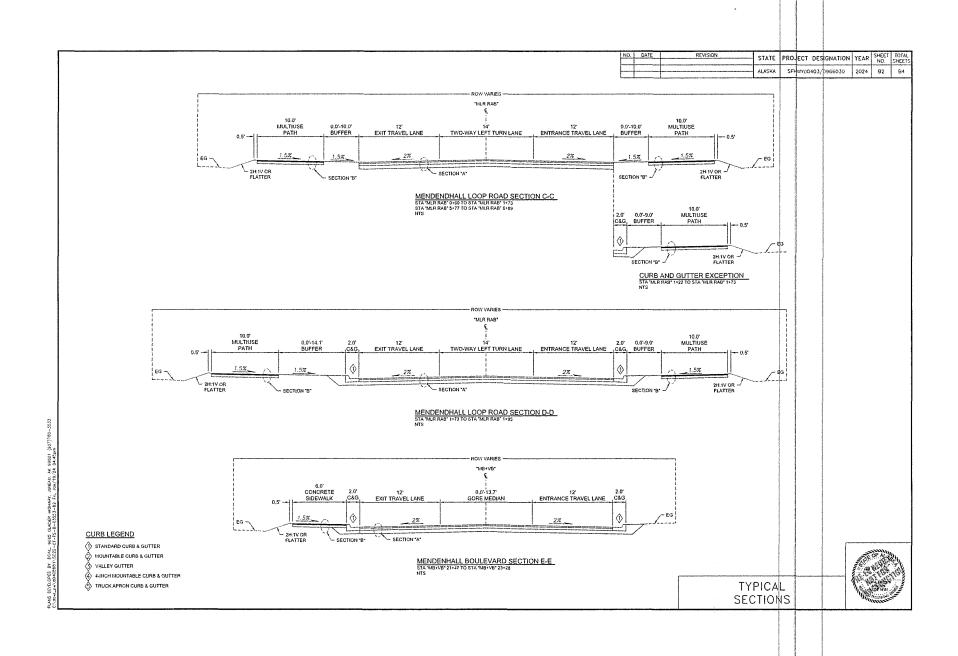


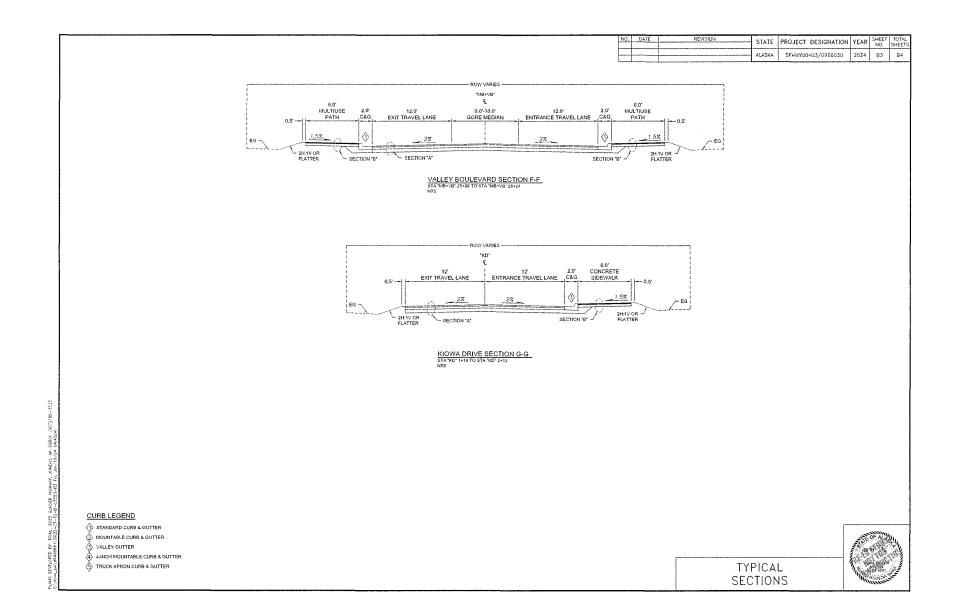
Attachment A - Application Packet

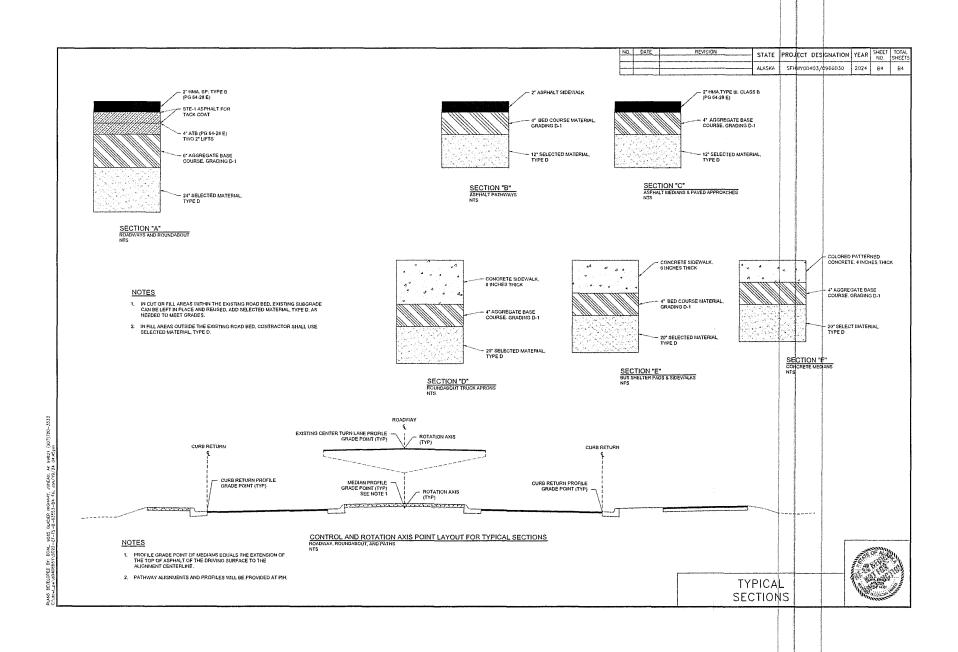


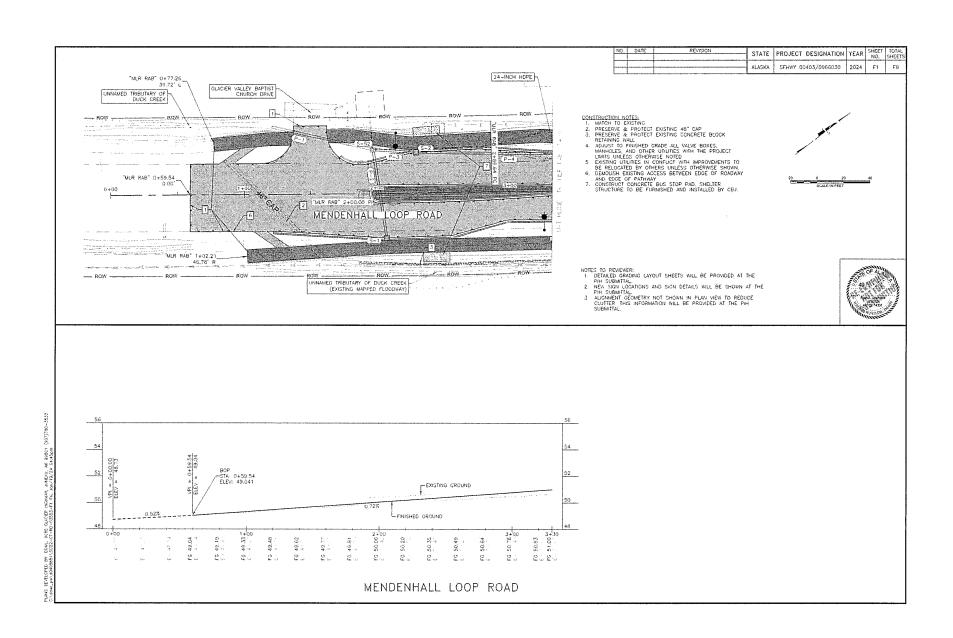


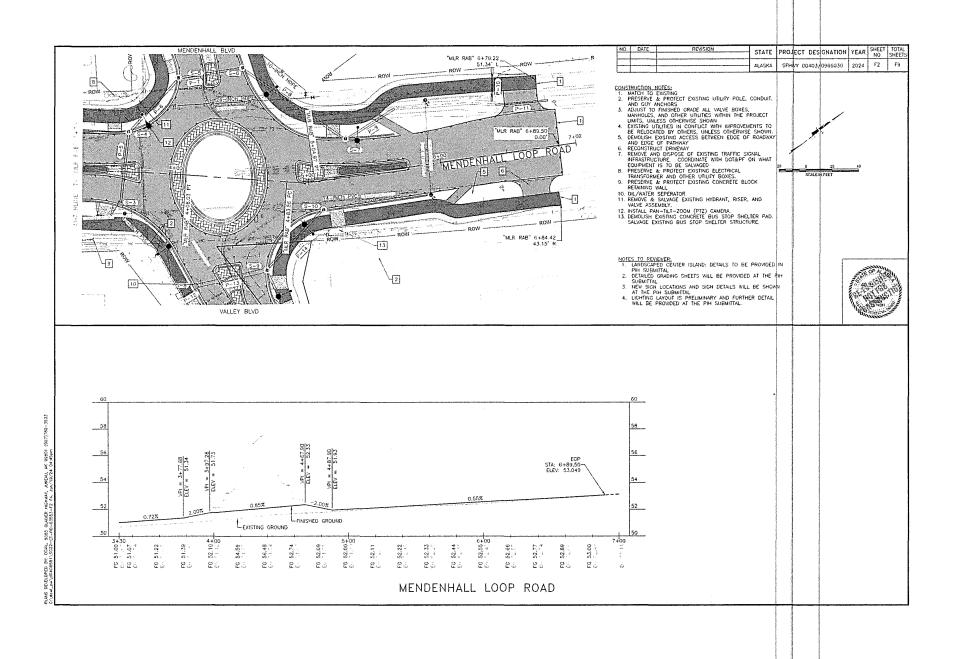


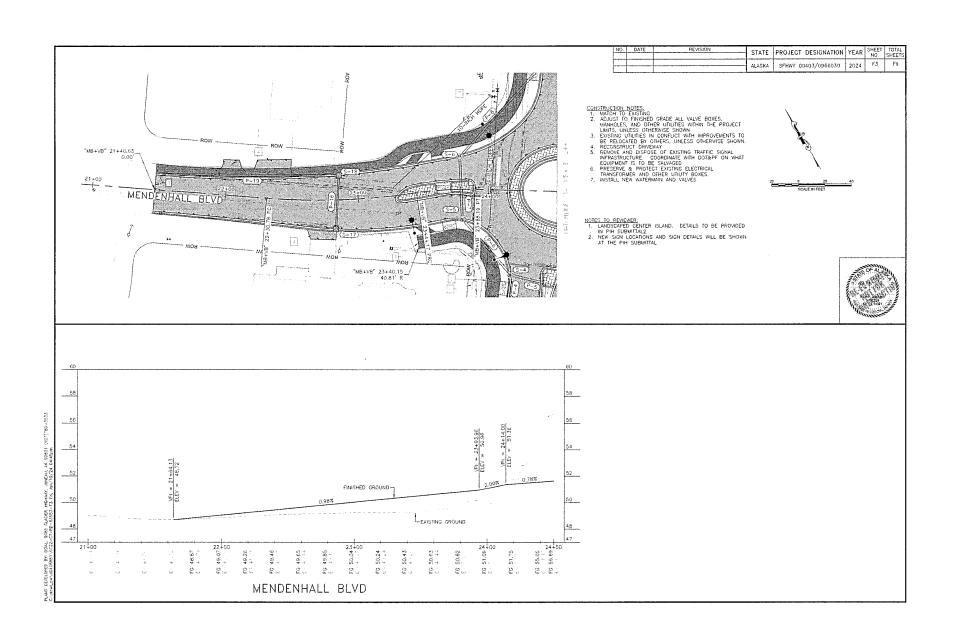


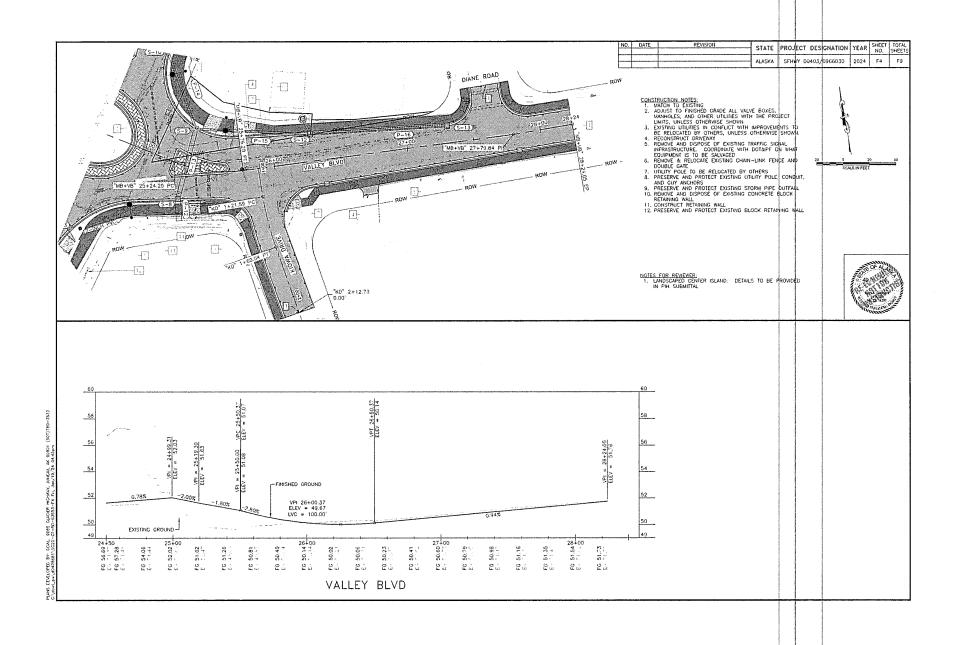


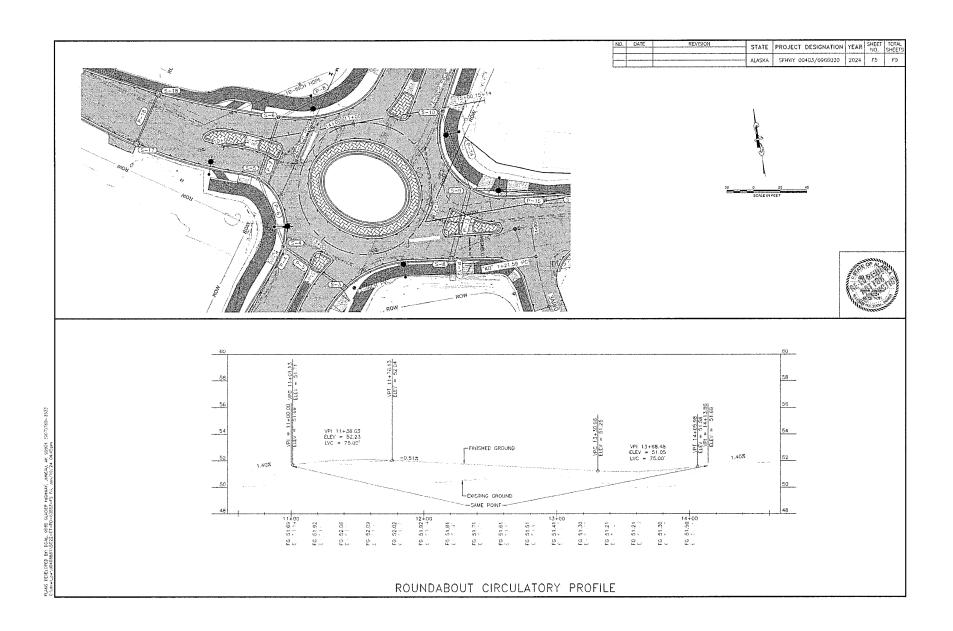


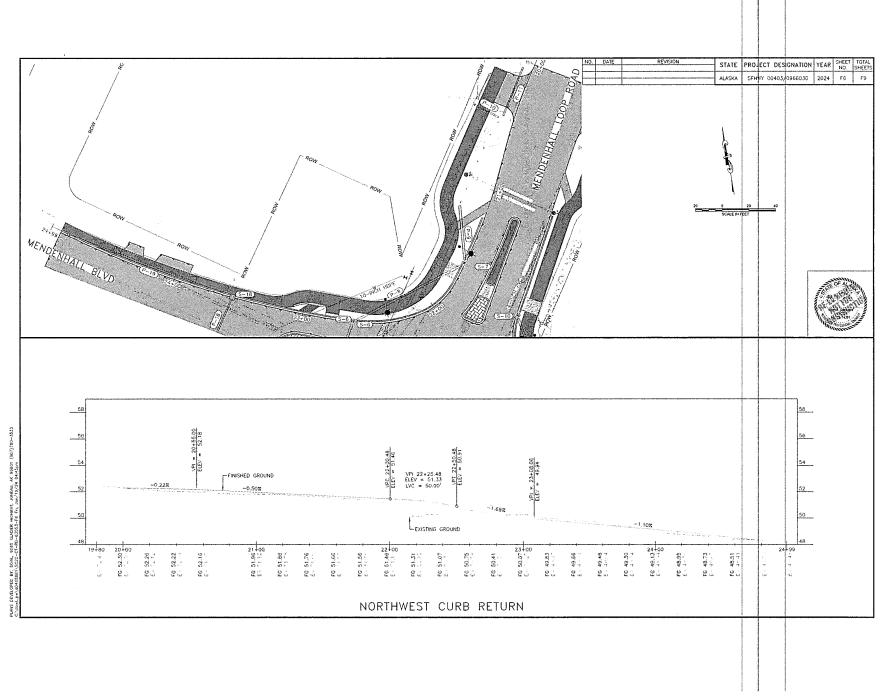




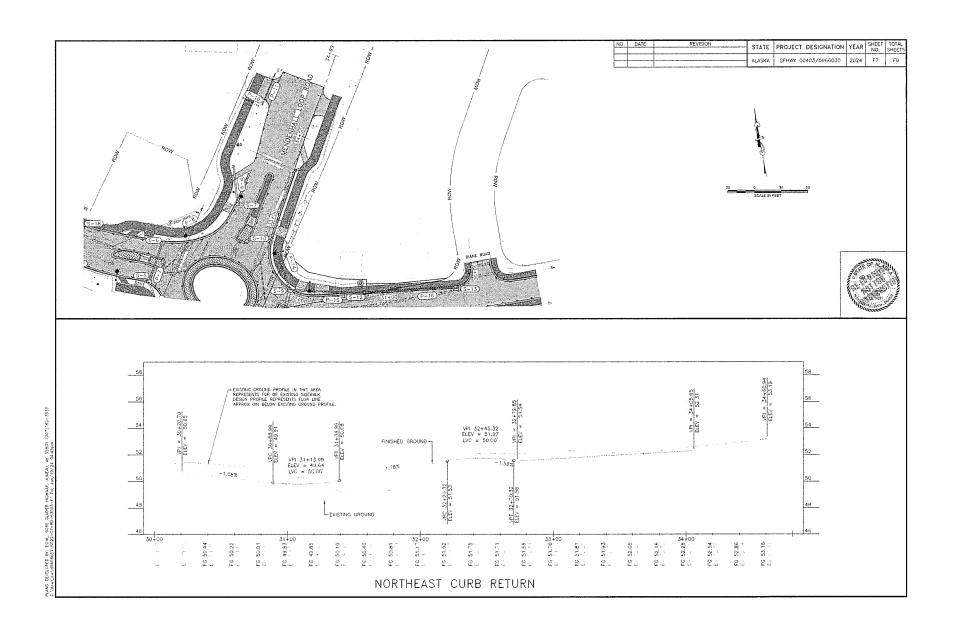


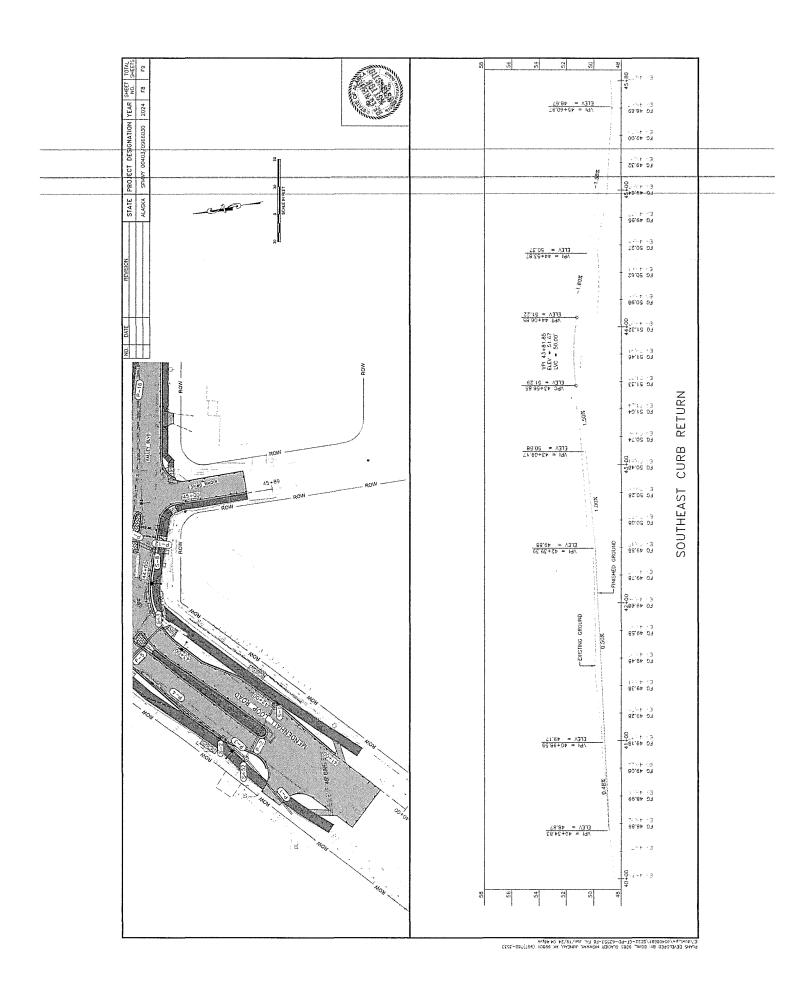


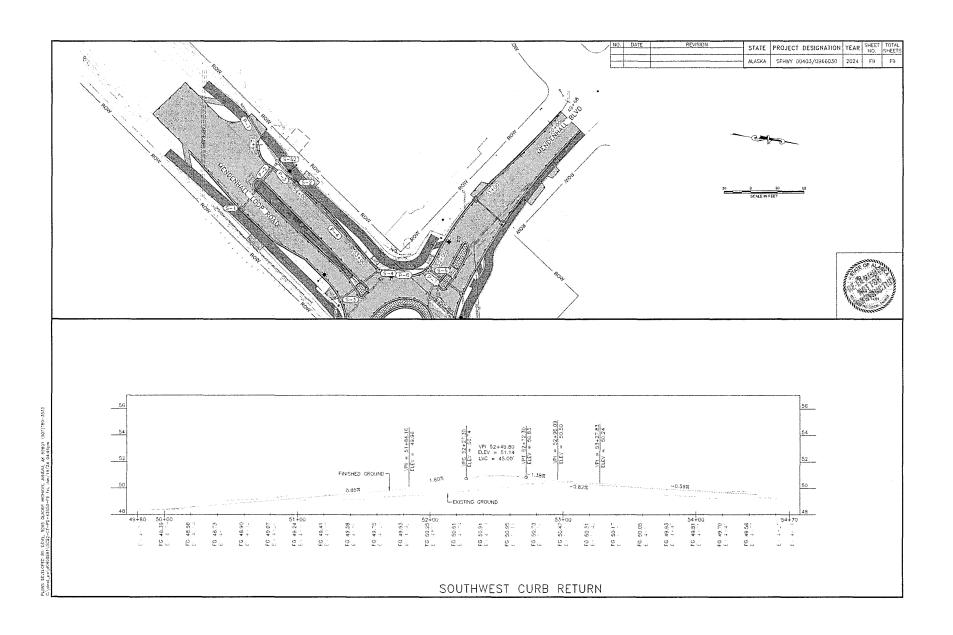


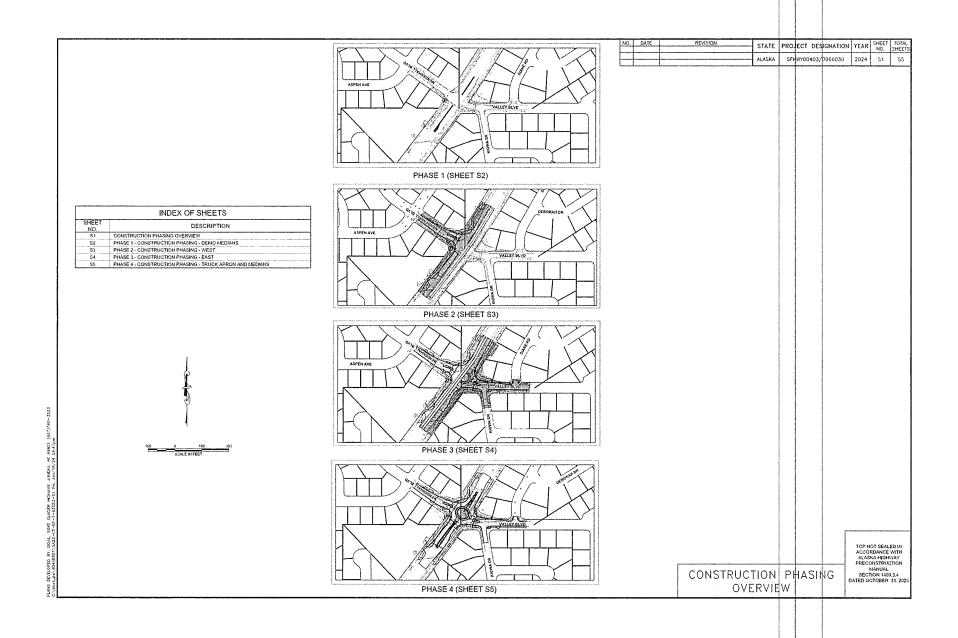


Attachment A - Application Packet

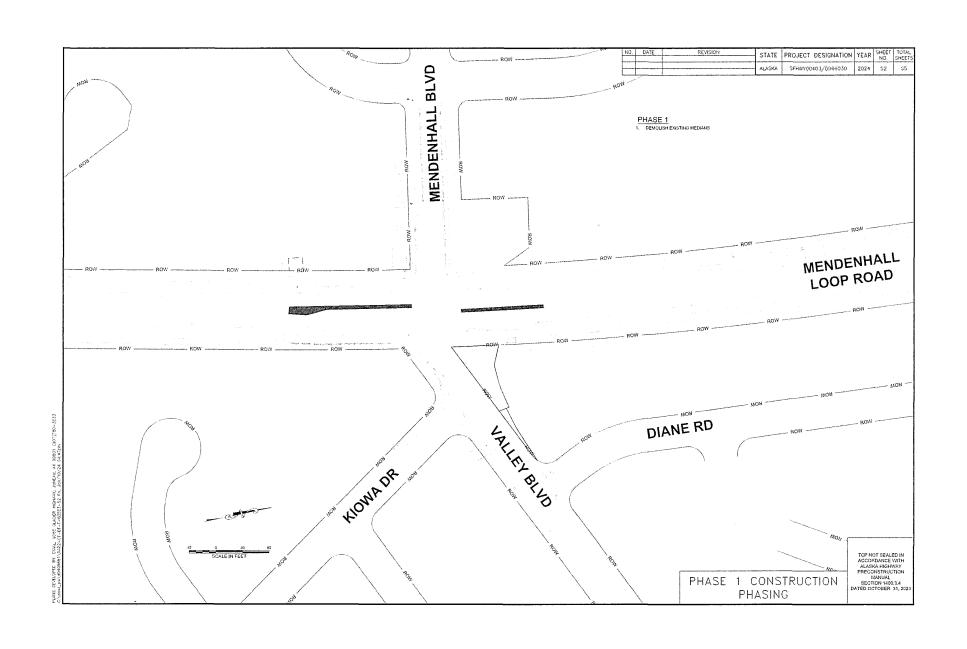


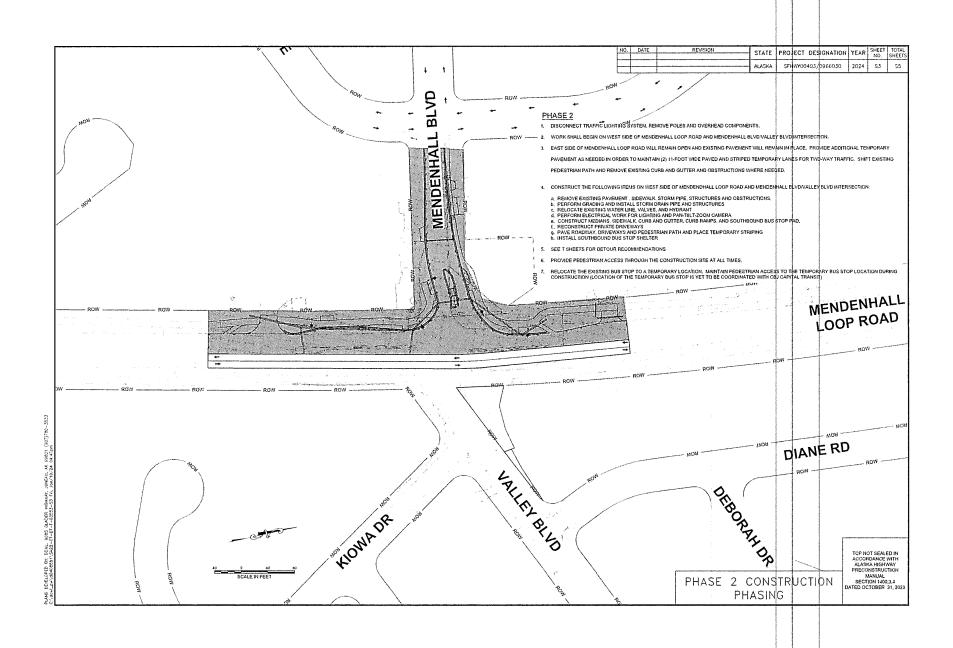


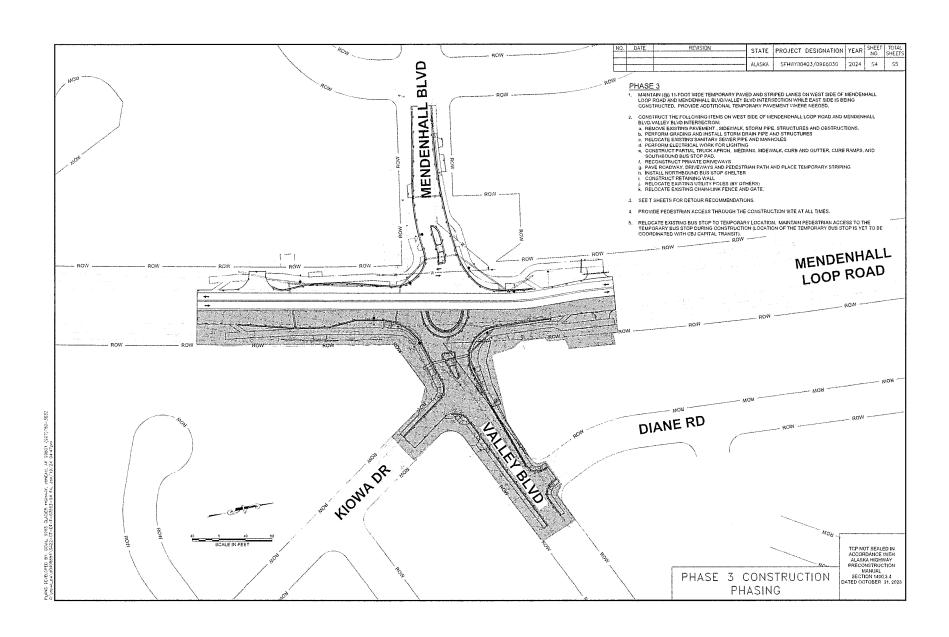


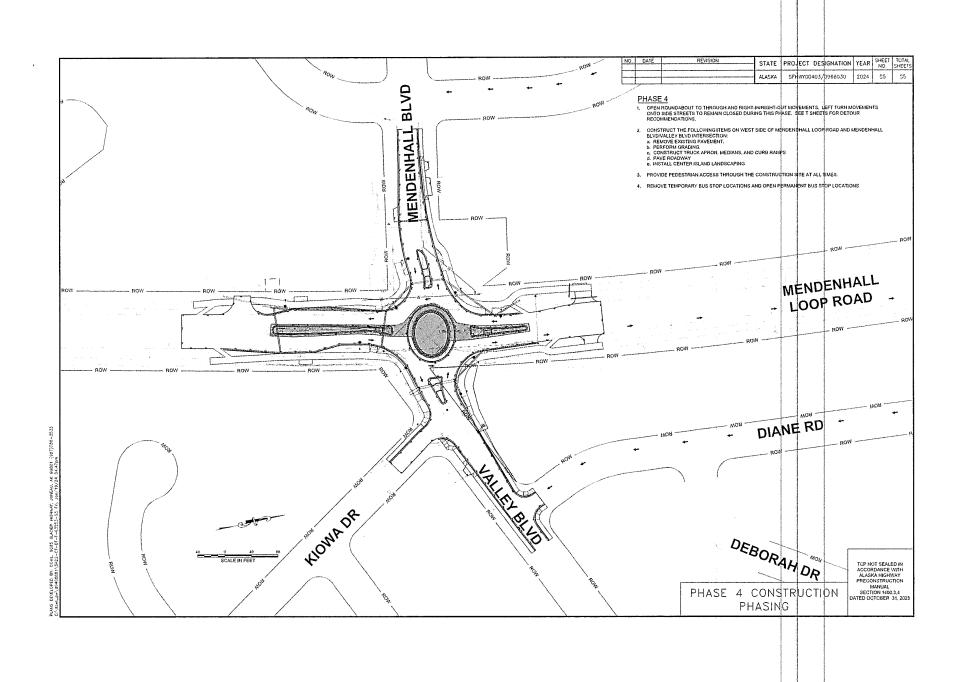


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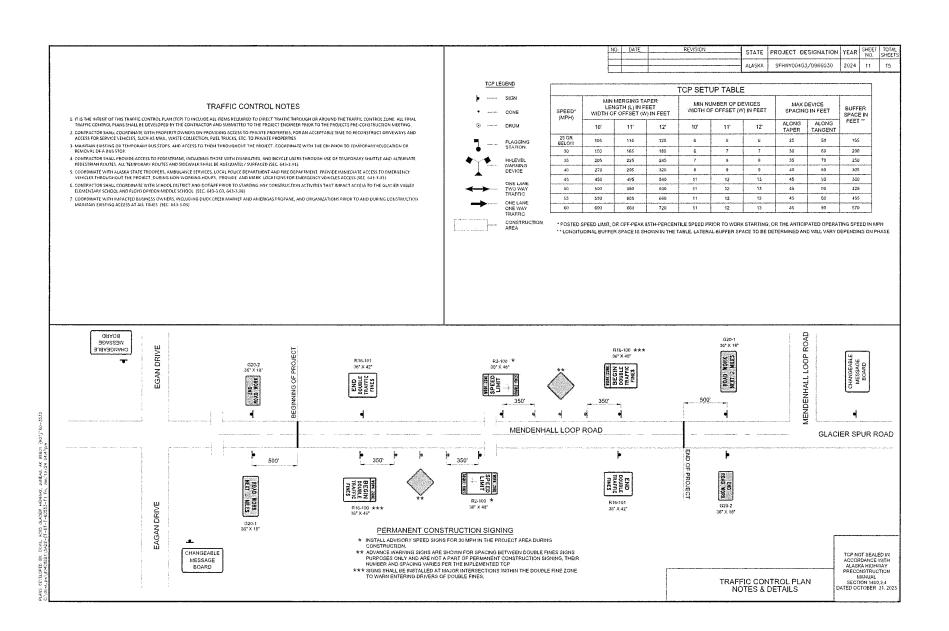


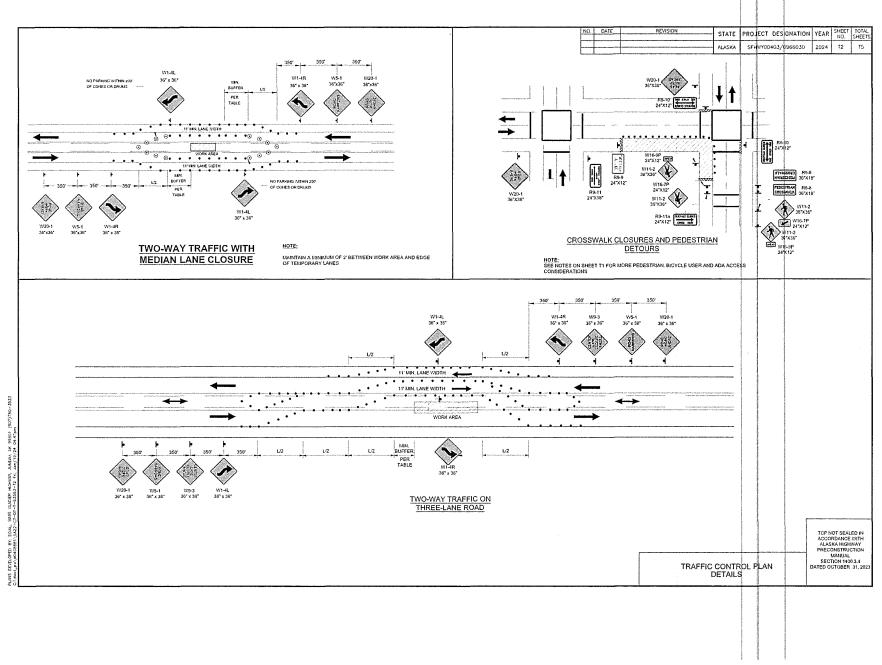




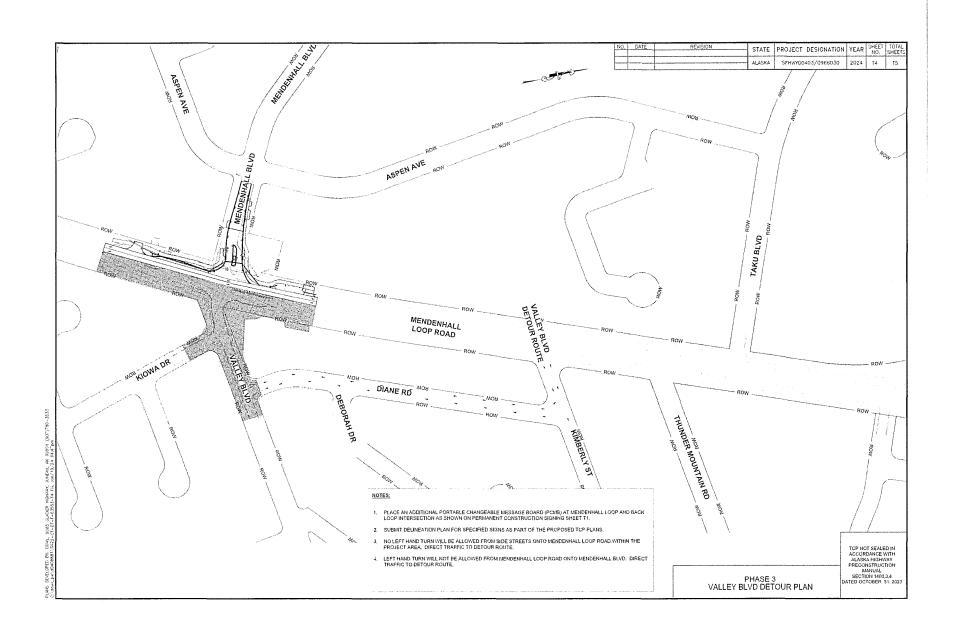


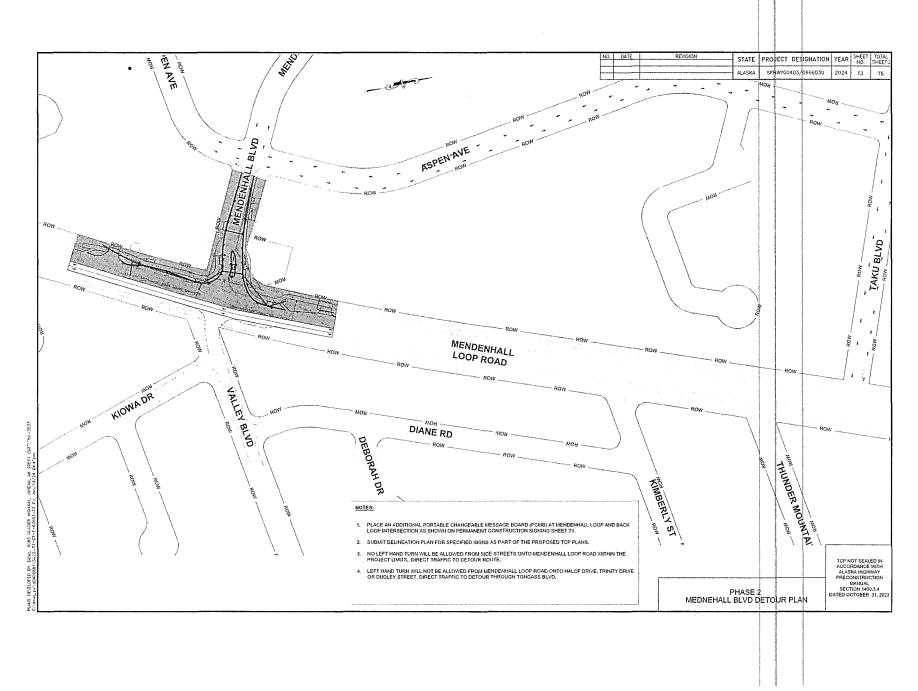
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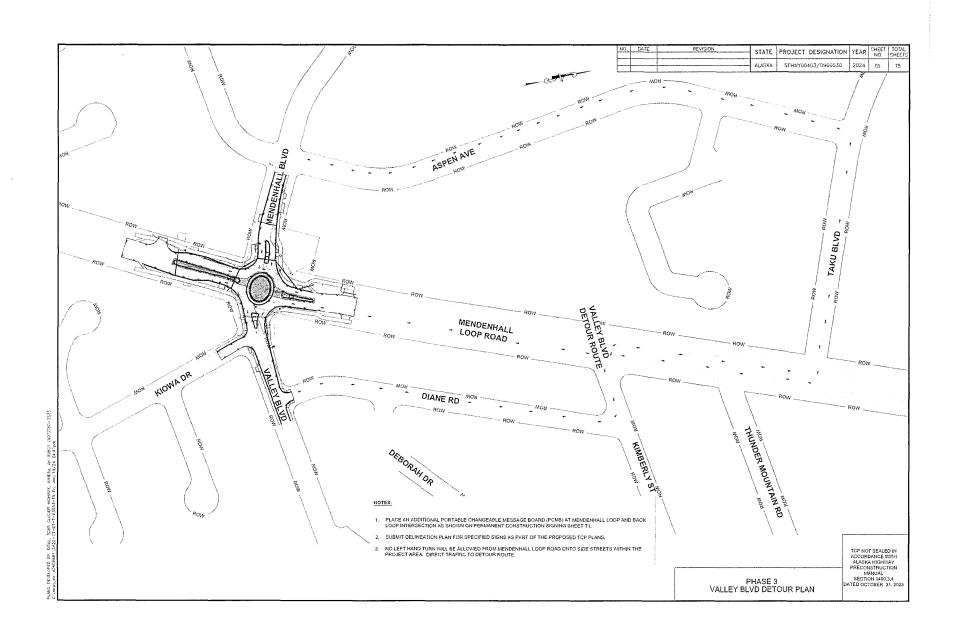


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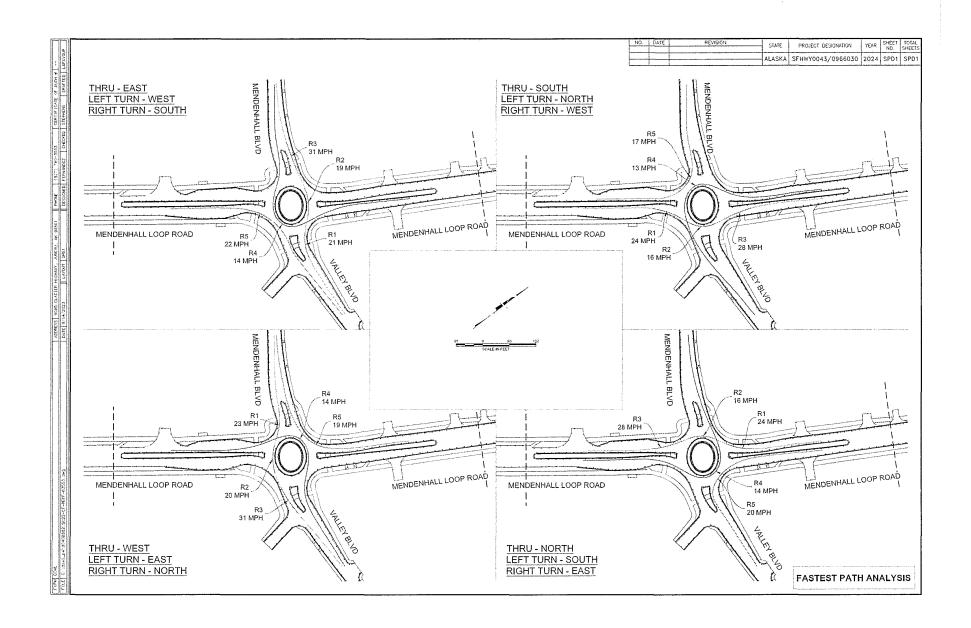




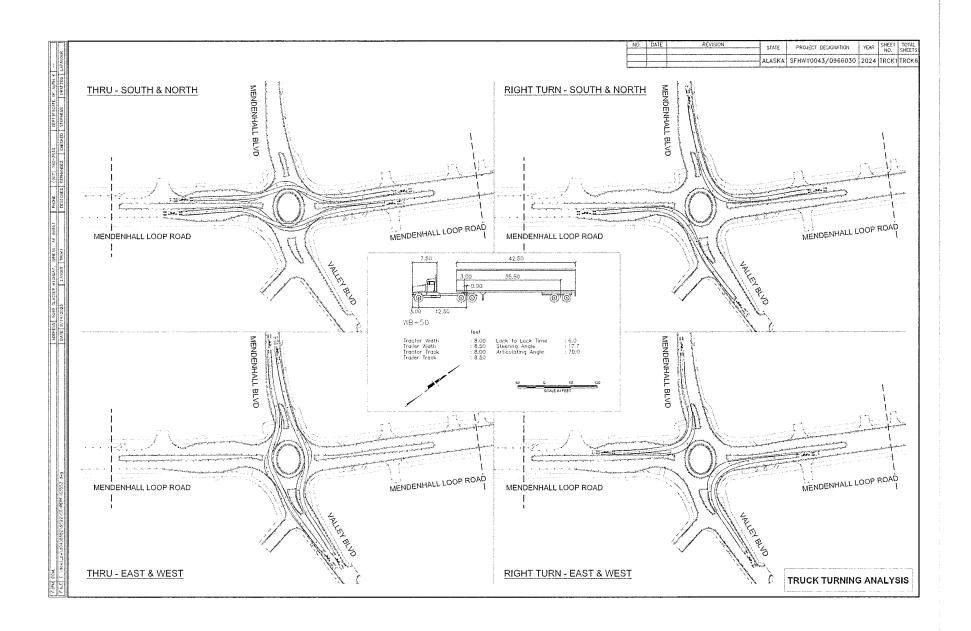
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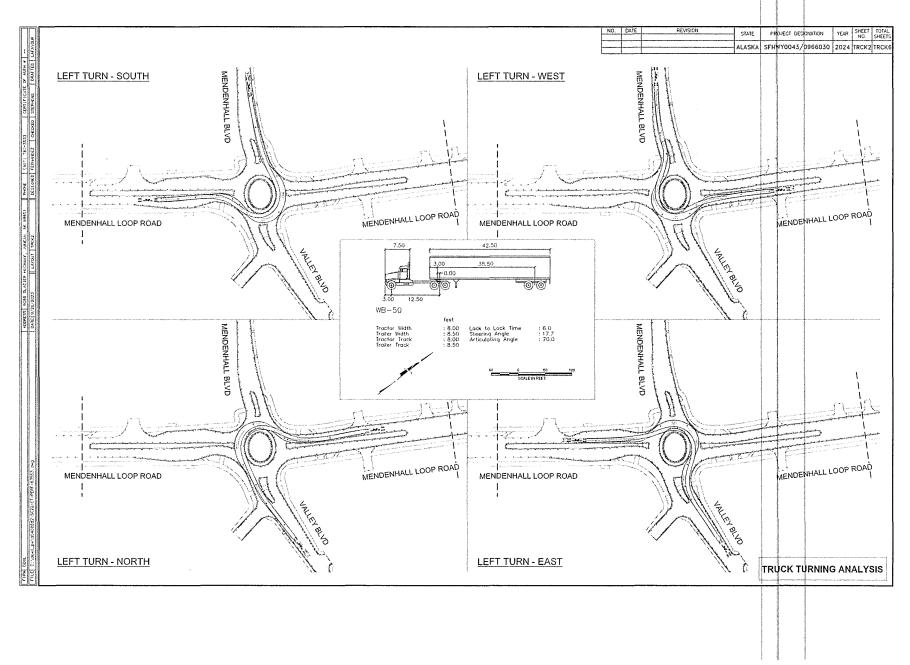




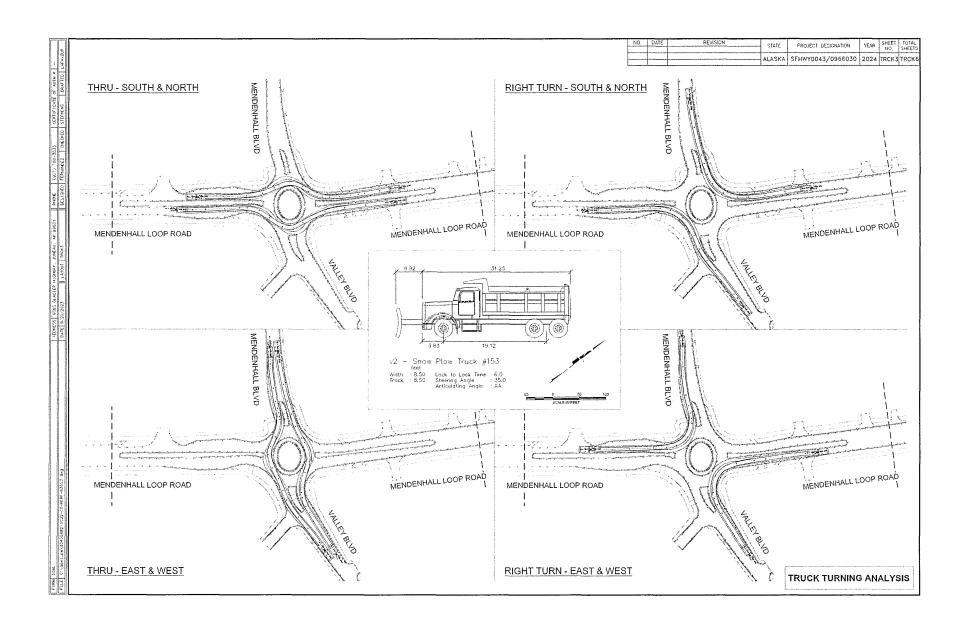


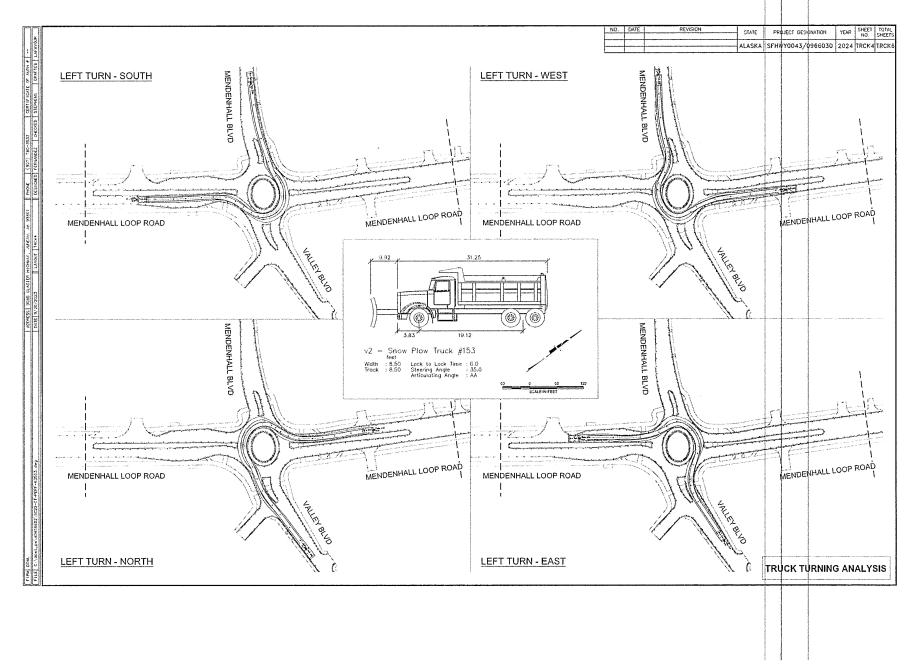




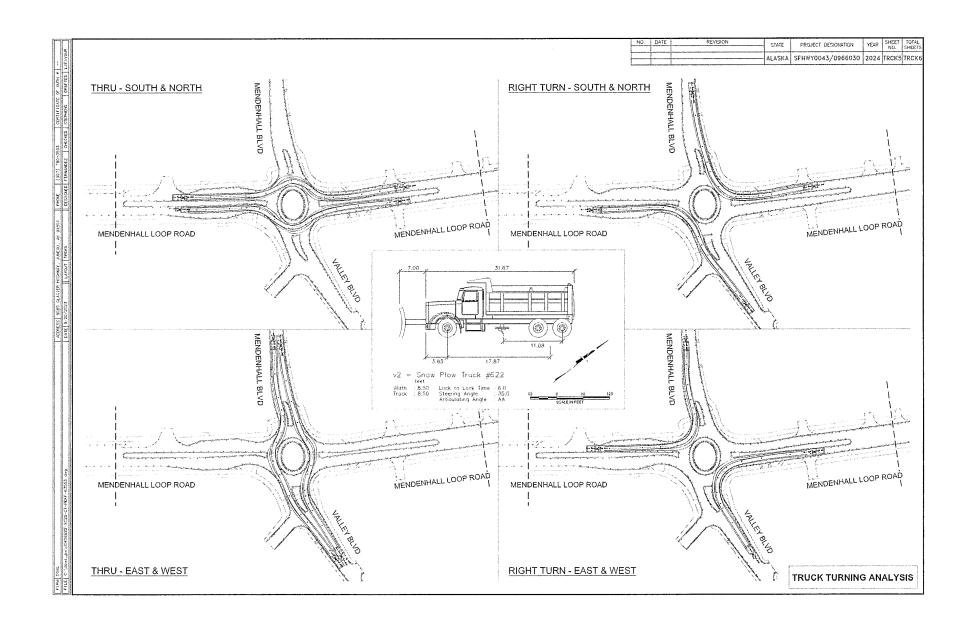


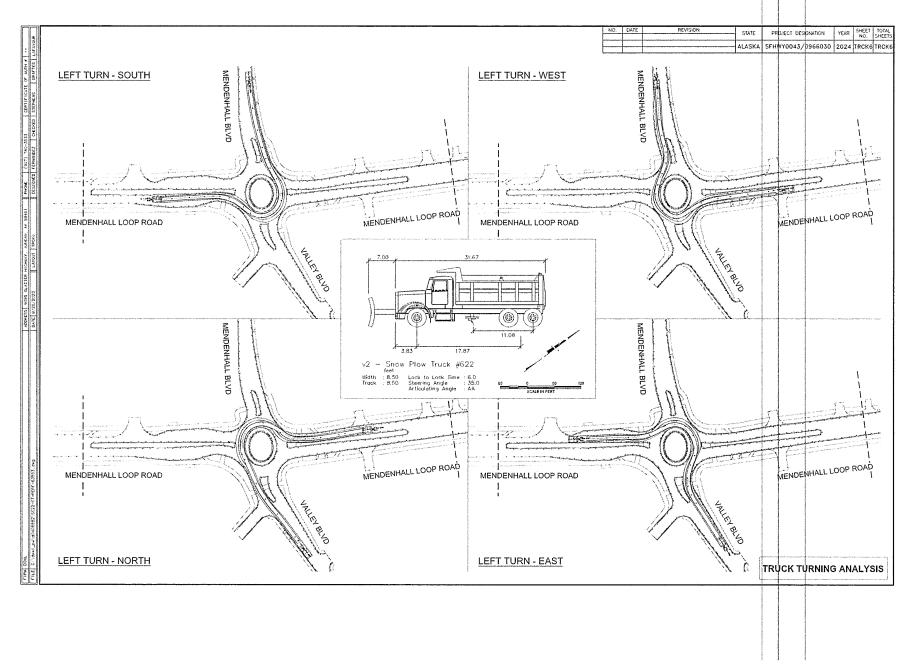
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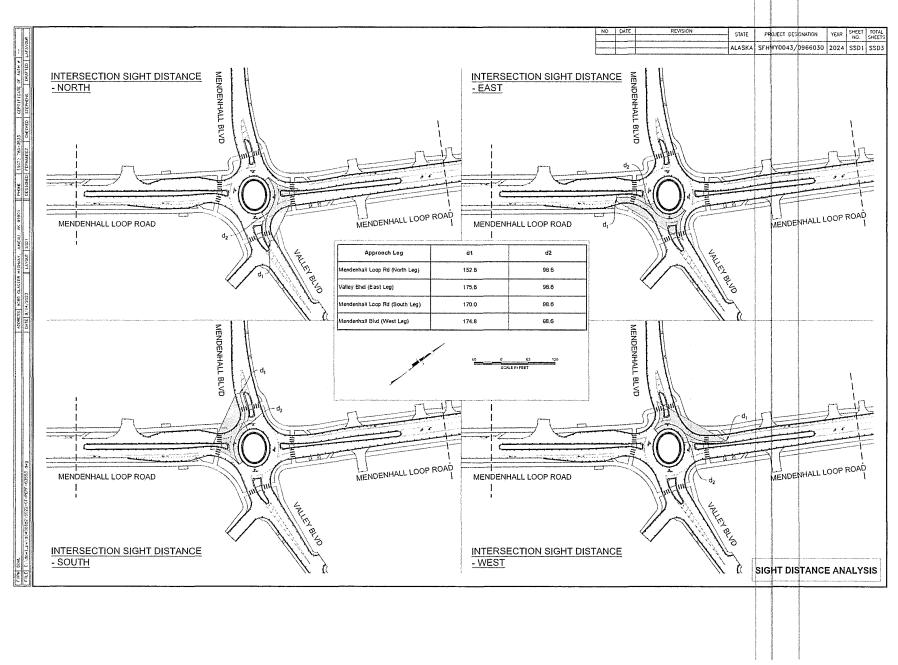
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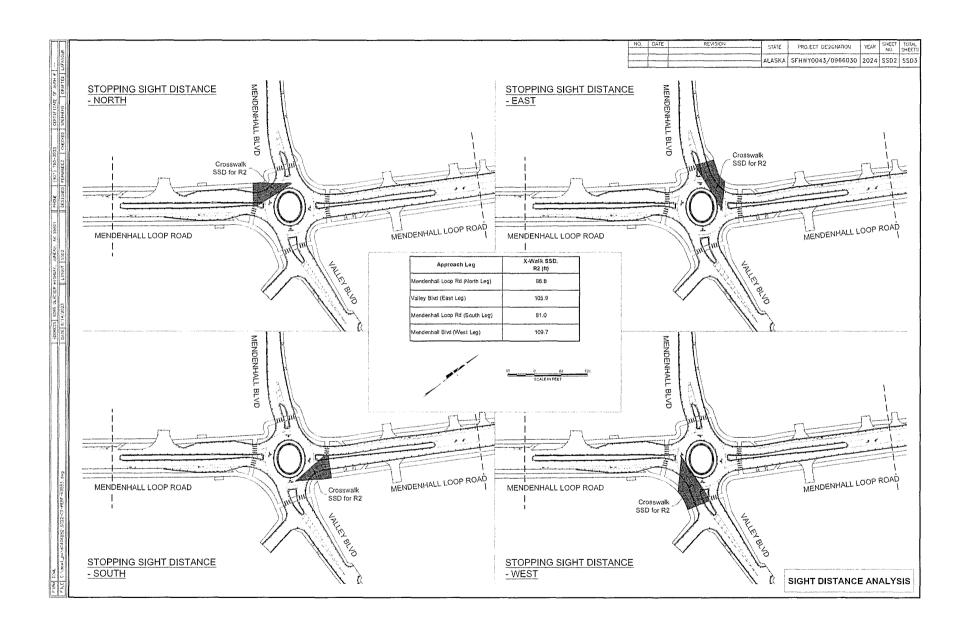


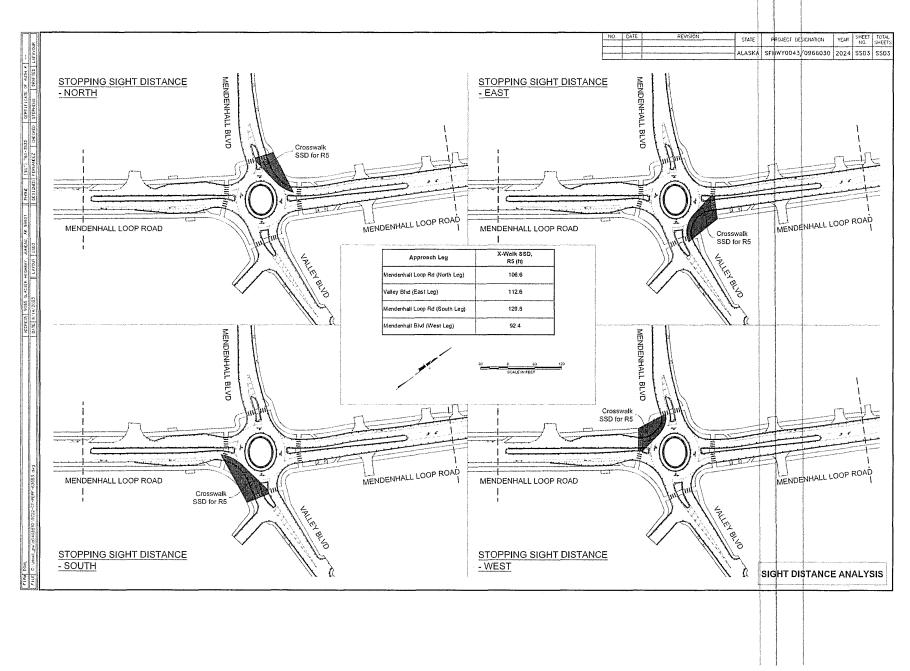
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Appendix D Sight Distance Analysis



Attachment A - Application Packet



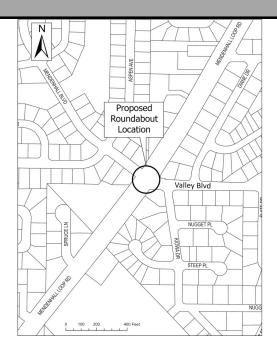


Attachment A - Application Packet

Invitation to Comment

On a proposal to be heard by the CBJ Planning Commission

Your Community, Your Voice





TO

State Project Review has been submitted for consideration and public hearing by the Planning Commission to replace the intersection with a single lane roundabout at Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard in a D5 zone.

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Information can be found at:

https://juneau.org/community-development/short-term-projects

PLANNING COMMISSION DOCUMENTS:

Staff Report expected to be posted September 3, 2024 at https://juneau.org/community-development/planning-commission Find hearing results, meeting minutes, and more here, as well.

Now through August 19

August 20 - noon, September 6

HEARING DATE & TIME: 7:00 pm, September 10, 2024

September 11

Comments received during this period will be sent to the Planner, Jason Larson, to be included as an attachment in the staff report.

Comments received during this period will be sent to Commissioners to read in preparation for the hearing.

This meeting will be held remotely, NOT in person. Please join The results of the Webinar by visiting https://juneau.zoom.us/ j/85470844745 and use the Webinar ID: 854 7084 4745 OR join by telephone, calling: 1-253-215-8782 and enter the Webinar ID (above).

the hearing will be posted online.

FOR DETAILS OR QUESTIONS,

Phone: (907)586-0753 ext. 4139

Email: pc_comments@juneau.gov or jason.larson@juneau.gov Mail: Community Development, 155 Heritage Way, Juneau AK 99801

CBJ Parcel Viewer: http://epv.juneau.org

Case No.: CSP2024 0002

Parcel No.: N/A

Printed August 22, 2024



(907) 586-0715 CDD_Admin@juneau.org www.juneau.org/community-development 155 S. Seward Street • Juneau, AK 99801

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT - REQUEST FOR AGENCY COMMENT

DEPARTMENT: CDD

STAFF PERSON/TITLE: Jay Larson, Planner II

DATE: August 5, 2024

APPLICANT: Nathan Purvue

TYPE OF APPLICATION: State Project Review

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Applicant requests a State Project Review to replace the signalized intersection of the Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard with a single lane roundabout.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: USGS QUAD B-2 NW Section T40S R66E Copper River Meridian

PARCEL NUMBER(S): 0

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: intersection of the Mendenhall Loop Road-Valley Boulevard-Mendenhall Boulevard

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM PLANNER:

AGENCY COMMENTS:

I have reviewed these plans with ADOT thoroughly in the past, and have confirmed that the project does not impact a Special Flood Hazard Area and does not need a Floodplain Development Permit. - Teri Rehfeldt, Sr. Planner, CFI, Flood Specialist

AGENCY COMMENTS (CONTINUED):



Attachment D - Public Notice sign photo near intersection