

Additional Materials

Regular Planning Commission Meeting

Zoom

7:00pm

Meeting Date: 9/10/2024

1. CSP2024 0002:

- a. Public comment: Barry Nydam, received 9/4/2024
- b. Public comment: Sean Strauss, received 9/4/2024
- c. Public comment: Fred La Plante III, received 9/4/2024
- d. Public comment: Lacey Derr, received 9/4/2024
- e. Public comment: Tim Shockley, received 9/4/2024
- f. Public comment: Karl Ashenbrenner, received 9/4/2024
- g. Public comment: Beth Rivest, received 9/4/2024
- h. Public comment: Micah Sommers, received 9/4/2024
- i. Public comment: Allen Butner, received 9/4/2024
- j. Public comment: Heidi Stears, received 9/4/2024
- k. Public comment: Jeff Hoover, received 9/4/2024
- l. Public comment: Melissa Hartman, received 9/4/2024
- m. Public comment: Jill Lewis, received 9/4/2024
- n. Public comment: Sandra Shaw, received 9/4/2024
- o. Public comment: Monica Whitehead, received 9/4/2024

From: Barry Nydam <thewho20006@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 9:09 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Valley Blvd roundabout.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

The traffic light works fine. I'd rather see a round about and improved intersection at glacier spur and backloop. The bus stop is in a poor spot and that cross walk is a Hazzard. Folks turning on to backloop always fly through. I've been close to being hit several times crossing. The cars will stop for you at the stop sign at the crosswalk, but cars coming from loop road do not. Need to slow traffic there

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: Sean Strauss <strauss.sean@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 9:48 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Supporting proposed roundabout for Loop Rd & Valley Blvd

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,

For the record, I support the proposed roundabout for the intersection of Loop Rd & Valley Blvd.

Thank you,

Sean

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Sean Strauss
strauss.sean@gmail.com
[1-907-419-7966](tel:1-907-419-7966)

"Creativity takes courage"
— Henri Matisse

From: fred3@laplantes.org
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 9:56 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabout @ Mendenhall Loop and Valley Blvd.

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Dear Planning committee,

I understand the ease of use of the roundabout and like them, but I think we also need traffic lights at this location to ease the flow of traffic in the summertime. I have in places around the country where it is one traffic circle after another and it seems that the traffic can get congested after the second traffic circle.

Fred La Plante III

A Man after God's heart

Strengths: Learner | Input | Activator | Connectedness | Arranger

WG: Wonder | Enabler

From: Lacey Derr <lebartlett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 10:00 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Proposed Roundabout Public Comment - Mendenhall Blvd & Valley Blvd

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Good Morning,

My name is Lacey Derr and I live in the Mendenhaven Subdivision, off of Mendenhall Blvd. I am submitting this public comment on my own accord and not as a member of the Planning Commission.

I traverse this intersection several times daily due to the location of my home and have lived in the Mendenhaven neighborhood since 1991.

I am submitting my public testimony in strong opposition to the proposed roundabout.

First and foremost, the construction of the other 2 roundabouts at Floyd Dryden School and Stephen Richards Drive are INCREDIBLY dangerous for pedestrians. The dead grass/dirt mounds which fill the center of the roundabouts are so high (and unkempt), drivers cannot see pedestrians on either side. I have personally watched people dive out of the crosswalk because drivers were not going to stop, drivers nearly miss running over children within the crosswalk, and people stuck on the center island because traffic only stopped one way. This problem is substantially exacerbated in the winter with the lack of snow removal. Children, Elders, and even healthy citizens struggle to climb over the 3-6' walls of snow created by plowing the roundabout and non-maintenance of pedestrian right of ways.

This intersection is the LAST traffic signal in the area to STOP traffic for pedestrian travel. It is a very successful and safe intersection to vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Having lived in this neighborhood for 33 years I can attest to the safety and practically nonexistent accident history of the area. Three roundabouts in succession do not make any sense, increase traffic congestion, risk pedestrian lives, and it serves no purpose in this area. It was also very shocking to see the house torn down on the corner of Mendenhall Blvd several years ago to accommodate this potential roundabout when we have a housing crisis. It seems counterproductive to put pedestrians in harms way, increasing traffic congestion, all while removing housing to build a roundabout in an area that has a very successful traffic signal.

I sincerely request the commission deny the proposed roundabout and focus these \$8.5 Million dollars in funding to projects with greater services to Juneau. If the project will be submitted forward for approval, I implore the commission to set strict conditions on the height of the center fill, widen the roadway area within the roundabout as much as possible, double the lighting, require HAWK pedestrian signals for all 4 intersections of the roundabout, and enforce adequate snow removal as part of the maintenance requirement. Should the project not move forward, I recommend the city look into selling the parcel back for its intended use as housing in a highly desirable neighborhood.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing this comment.

Respectfully,
Lacey Derr
(907) 723-8837

From: Tim <chiefs907@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 10:06 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabout at Loop and Valley

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

9/4/24

Dear Planning Commission members,

I am writing you to voice a concern about the mound height of the roundabouts that are being built. While I understand the theory that reduced visibility will produce slower speeds, the actual practice of it does not work.

It is not worth the reduced visibility of being able to see young children, other vehicles, or pedestrians. While it hasn't contributed to any accidents at this point, there are numerous close calls and it's only a matter of time.

Please use common sense and reduce the mound heights to allow visibility.

The roundabouts without mounds are much safer, especially in areas frequented by young children.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

-Tim Shockley
(907)321-3970

From: Karl Ashenbrenner <kjashen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 10:47 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Mend. Blvd Roundabout

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how about taking the money for that and putting it toward fixing the mess that is the left turn s/b to Fred Meyer? Make the McDonalds intersection a 4 way light with a road extension to Old Glacier Hwy and have that as your s/b access to Fred Meyer. Does Mendenhall Blvd and Valley Blvd really need another undersized roundabout?

From: Karl Ashenbrenner <kjashen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 10:54 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Mendenhall Blvd roundabout

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If you must build a roundabout there, even with one lane make the lane wider and do not have a veritable hill in the middle that you cannot see over and see oncoming traffic until it is through the curve.

From: B Rivest <rivestb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 10:54 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabout Men/Valley intersection

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To Planning Commission Members,

While I like the roundabout use, I feel the housing situation is unaffordable for young adults (and many others).

These funds, whether matched, whatever city funds should be allocated to affordable housing.

Thank you for your time.

Beth Rivest

4306 Manor Ave, Juneau, AK 99801

From: Micah Sommers <micah.sommers@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 11:05 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabouts

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hey Gang, my comments may be in the minority, but please for the love of god keep working on roundabouts. The money they must save has got to be astronomical, electrical engineers and lights maintenance can't be cheap. The traffic flow is far better, I only wish people would slow down.

Also, keep following the studies and put mounds in, but could we make them pretty? People don't need to see the other side when entering the circle. Absolutely ridiculous.

Thanks for all you do.

Cheers

From: Allen Butner <butner2272@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 11:22 AM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabout mendenhall/valley

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Strongly protest. Dumb idea. So many better things to throw money at. Like extend fred Meyer spur to connect and make mc nugget a 4 way

From: Heidi Stears <h.stears99801@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:04 PM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: CSP 2024 0002

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I would like to write in support of the roundabout at the Mendenhall Blvd/Valley Blvd location. And when possible (and funding approved), one at Mendenhall Loop/Back Loop would significantly improve traffic flow, reduce accidents and cost. My adult family of four support roundabouts.

Thank you
Heidi Stears

From: Jeff Hoover <juneaufour@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:05 PM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabout comment

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

To CBJ

I support the new proposed roundabout in the valley to eliminate the stop light at valley Blvd. I don't think it's the highest priority road issue in Juneau but roundabouts are better than stop lights. I think a higher priority roundabout would be where the back loop intersects the Mendenhall glacier road. Making a left hand turn there is very difficult. If you build roundabouts then do NOT have a high mound in the center of the roundabout because it cuts down the visibility when entering roundabout.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jeff Hoover
Juneau resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: Melissa Hartman <melissa_susan_h@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:12 PM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Roundabout

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello,

I really don't think another roundabout on Mendenhall Loop road is necessary, especially with the closing of Floyd Dryden.

The flow of traffic is much smoother now in that area, and no longer backs up like it used to. I feel like there are other areas that the money could be used for.

Melissa Hartman

From: Jill Lewis (AK) <jill.lewis.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 12:29 PM
To: PC_Comments
Cc: jill.lewis.ak@gmail.com
Subject: Mendenhall Loop roundabout CSP 2024 0002

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

I am writing to oppose the new proposed roundabout at the intersection of Mendenhall Loop Rd and Valley Blvd. The new roundabout is within sight of the two existing roundabouts on Loop Rd and is simply too close to be practical. I would support a roundabout at the intersection of Mendenhall Loop Rd and Back Loop Rd as an alternative.

Jill Lewis
4315 Taku Blvd

From: Sandi <srshaw@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 1:37 PM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: CSP 2024 0002

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Hi, I'm writing about the new roundabout being proposed in the valley. Please leave the stop light in and use the funding for other City projects needed more, such as flood mitigation measures for Suicide Basin and the valley homes affected. This is a complete waste of money when there's other issues that need priority. Thank you, Sandra Shaw

From: Monica <lynn_moni@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 5:06 PM
To: PC_Comments
Subject: Proposed roundabout

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

I do not support another roundabout at the Valley blvd intersection. The ones we have are a safety hazard for both drivers and pedestrians. You cannot see the crosswalks from the other side. They should not have been placed where they are. Many pedestrians do not press the lights button. You have no idea they are there until you almost hit them. You cannot see past the roundabout from the other side. This is a safety hazard for all. The two lanes at the duck creek intersection- the other lanes should be turn lanes ONLY!
In winter, with snow and ice, it causes vehicles to slide out.

Save the money to use elsewhere!!

No more roundabouts!

Monica Whitehead

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