



To Whom it may Concern,

We write to offer feedback regarding the proposed plans outlined in the Seward-Glenn Connection Study. After reviewing the plans, we would like to express our opposition to Alternatives A and AB1 due to their significant impact on our homelessness response network.

Specifically, both plans would require the upheaval of Brother Francis Shelter and the 3rd Ave. Resource & Navigation Center. Brother Francis Shelter is the longest-standing, and only low barrier year-round shelter for single adults in Anchorage and plays a crucial role in providing essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness. Each night, the shelter serves 120 people, and in Fiscal Year 2023, served over 820 unique individuals. Similarly, the 3rd Ave. Resource & Navigation Center, which opened in February 2023, serves a vital function in connecting individuals with over 40 community partners and providing daily support to 80-100 people. Both facilities have received substantial community investment to make them possible and are integral components of our homelessness response network.

Disrupting these facilities as proposed in Alternates A and AB1 would have severe consequences for our community's most vulnerable members, jeopardizing their access to critical services and support and the progress we have made as a community towards creating sustainable pathways to permanent stability. As our community works toward solutions regarding homelessness, these two programs have remained steady in their service to our neighbors while minimizing negative neighborhood impacts. Brother Francis Shelter has been in continuous operation since 1983, and 3RNC is now in its second year of service – serving over 3,000 people to date. These two programs have helped thousands on their path to permanent stability and serve a critical role in the solution to homelessness.

Overall, we support the effort identified in the PEL Study to improve the impact of our current highway system on the Fairview neighborhood. Fairview residents and businesses have been impacted for far too long on a system that prioritizes automobile through-traffic over the neighborhood. In addition to identifying a long-term solution, we support the PEL's Interim Alternative that would make a significant difference in the lives of residents by improving pedestrian safety in the short term. Ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian pathways is essential for the well-being and mobility of all residents, particularly those who rely on walking as their primary mode of transportation, including many of those we serve.

Thank you for considering our comments and thank you for working to make sure Anchorage is a place we're all proud to call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Dempsey".

Robin Dempsey, Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Social Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gabriel Layman".

Gabriel Layman, President/CEO  
Cook Inlet Housing Authority