

**Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities****Project Title:****Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

# Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS) - Birch Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility

**State Funding Requested:** \$2,910,000  
One-Time Need

**House District:** Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)

## Brief Project Description:

Construct a bicycle and pedestrian facility along Birch Hill Road to allow safe access to the Birch Hill Recreational Trail System.

## Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$3,600,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$690,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$2,910,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

### Funding Details:

FFY10: FMATS provided \$400,000 of their federal allocation to initiate preliminary engineering. The State has committed to providing the non-federal share for all phases of the project.

## Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Construct a bicycle and pedestrian facility along Birch Hill Road to allow safe access to the Birch Hill Recreational Trail System.

The Birch Hill recreation trail system is one of the largest and most widely used recreation areas in the Interior, yet there is no pedestrian access. Currently, people are forced to run/bike down the middle of Birch Hill road because there is no shoulder or bike path to use. Sometimes they are forced into the drainage ditch along the side of the road to avoid oncoming traffic. Installing a bike and pedestrian facility along Birch Hill road would allow for safer pedestrian access to this widely used trail system and tying it in with a better planned pedestrian crossing at the Farmers Loop and the Steese Highway intersection would result in a safer and more user friendly trail system. Elements of this project may very well coincide with the existing State Farmers Loop to Chena Hot Springs Road facility that is currently in the preliminary engineering phase. In addition, this project would help make Fairbanks a more sustainable community by increasing connectivity and allowing methods of transit that are fuel efficient and environmentally friendly. The path would be approximately 2 miles in length. This access could be a great asset particularly if Fairbanks is selected to host the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

## Project Timeline:

Funding is currently committed for the preliminary engineering of this project. Construction is anticipated to be sometime after 2014 depending upon the amount of right-of-way acquisition required. Funds requested will be expended between FFY12 and FFY15.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



# Birch Hill Road

