



Cooper Landing Trails Committee
PO Box 863
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

The Alaska Center is a statewide non-profit advocating for salmon habitat protection, clean energy solutions to climate change, and policies that enable a healthy democracy and a robust civic engagement in Alaska. The Alaska Center envisions and works toward a thriving, just, and sustainable Alaska for future generations. We support the Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project as a way to ensure that Cooper Landing residents have healthier, safer, and economically sound transportation alternatives as the Sterling Highway is rerouted to bypass Cooper Landing.

The Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project will help diversify transportation alternatives to include better pedestrian and bicycle use facilities. This project will help reduce automobile use, decreasing harmful CO2 emissions and increasing community health. A more walkable community also decreases the risk that automobiles and petroleum transport trucks could damage the anadromous upper Kenai river through a fuel spill or automobile accident.

While the bypass project will reduce traffic in Cooper Landing, there will still be local use. There are numerous deficiencies of the existing alignment that must be addressed to protect residents' life and safety. The Cooper Creek Bridge exemplifies the many sections of roadway along this alignment that are not safe for any mode of active transportation regardless of the speeds or volumes of motorized traffic. Without a project such as the Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project, the community's connectivity will continue to be hampered by the inadequate existing facilities. It will continue to present hazards to active transportation and motorized users alike.

Improving the active transportation infrastructure along this corridor broadens the community's appeal to the visitors that power its economic engine. This economic boost provides more dependable opportunities for the businesses and people that support them, in turn making Cooper Landing a stronger part of the Kenai Peninsula's economy and community.

Sincerely,

Polly Carr,
Executive Director
The Alaska Center