

Welcome to The Gaffney Road, Airport Way, Richardson Highway, and Steese Expressway (GARS) Intersection Reconstruction Project Online Open House – Text Only Version.

This Open House Is Available April 20 Through May 25, 2021.

1. WELCOME

- Airport Way/Steese Expressway Reconstruction Project (GARS)
- Online Open House
- April 20 – May 25, 2021
- www.GARSreconstruction.com

Meeting Handouts

- Project Area Map
- Project Fact Sheet
- FAQ
- [Continuous Flow Intersection Median U-Turn Intersection Fact Sheet](#)
- Interactive Route and Visualizations <https://garsinterchangemaps.com/>
- Project Website <http://www.garsreconstruction.com>

2. PURPOSE & NEED

- **Purpose**
Reduce the high incidence of crashes at the intersection of Gaffney Road, Airport Way, Richardson Highway, and the Steese Expressway (GARS). Once complete this project will also address current and future congestion and capacity issues, helping to get you through this busy intersection faster and more safely.
- **Need**
This intersection is the second-busiest intersection in town and has had nearly 100 crashes in 5 years.
- Infographics
- Storyboard video [GARS Reconstruction - HDR \(wistia.com\)](#)

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Originally, grade-separated interchanges were considered. However, due to funding constraints and the goal to construct a safer intersection as quickly as possible, interchange options were replaced with at-grade options.

- Grade-Separated Interchanges - one road crosses over another on a bridge, and ramps are used to enter or exit the roadway.
- At-Grade Intersections - roads intersect at the same elevation, requiring vehicles to stop on one roadway when the other roadway has the right-of-way.
- Design note: icons for each bullet

4. SELECTED OPTION (TV IN FRONT OF COUCH)

- Continuous Flow Intersection Median U-Turn (CFI-MUT)
- Route Videos
 - Southbound left turn lane video
 - Westbound right turn lane video
 - Westbound left turn lane video
 - Northbound left turn lane video
 - Eastbound left turn lane video
 - Southbound through lane video

Meeting Handouts

- Link to interactive map/drive video website [Airport Way/Steese Expressway Interchange | Interactive Traffic Map \(garsinterchangemaps.com\)](https://www.garsinterchangemaps.com)

5. ROUTE MAPS (X5 LINKS ON THE OTHER TV)

- We have created videos and route maps to show you how easy it will be to use this intersection once constructed.
- Interactive Map (Poster)
- Driver Route Map (Posters)
 - NORTHBOUND
 - Northbound left turn lane
 - Northbound through lane
 - Northbound right turn lane
 - SOUTHBOUND
 - Southbound left turn lane
 - Southbound through lane
 - Southbound right turn lane
 - WESTBOUND
 - Westbound right turn lane
 - Westbound left turn lane
 - Westbound through lane
 - EASTBOUND
 - Eastbound left turn lane
 - Eastbound through lane

6. BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATHWAYS

- Pedestrian navigation is simplified with a series of shorter crossings.
- This project has been designed to coordinate with the future Richardson Highway multi-use path from Badger Road to Fairbanks.
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathways route graphic

7. WHY IS THIS THE PREFERRED OPTION?

- Significant reduction in crashes
- Commute time savings up to an hour per week
- Cost savings of approximately \$25 million
- Construction completed 7-10 years earlier

8. WINTER DRIVING & SNOW PLOWING

- Design considerations include pavement markings with quiet rumble strips, high-traction pavement, intentional signs, and medians will ensure that drivers understand where to go when driving through the intersection, even in winter.
- This intersection is the highest priority for snow clearing. It is a priority 1 intersection, which means that it will be cleared first and within 12 hours of snowfall.
- Directional signage has been positioned to maximize visibility using sign bridges to avoid snow coverage.

9. NEXT STEPS

- Design is nearing completion, and construction is expected to begin in 2022!
 - Include schedule graphic
- Visit the website www.GARSreconstruction.com for project updates.
- Contact us with questions:
 - **Carl Heim, P.E.**, Engineering Manager
Email: info@garsreconstruction.com
Phone: (907) 451-5359
 - For individuals requiring TTY communications, please contact Alaska Relay at 7-1-1 or 1-800-770-8973.