### Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, Alaska 99603 www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Page 2



City of Homer Agenda

Economic Development Advisory Commission Worksession Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 5:30 PM City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & via Zoom Webinar Webinar ID: 930 0383 2890 Password: 266231 Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833; (Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

### CALL TO ORDER 5:30 P.M.

### AGENDA APPROVAL

### **DISCUSSION TOPIC(S)**

- A. Wayfinding-Streetscape Plan Project
  - i. Pedestrian Sign Overview
  - ii. "Where We're at in the Process" Overview Page 14

### COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

### ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

# PEDESTRIAN SIGN OVERVIEW

\*sheet to be used for overview similar to vehicle section if needed\*

Areas where vehicles are expected to park are good locations to place an information kiosk. Locations where pedestrians enter into a 'destination area' are also good for an information kiosk to show them where they are in relation to the City of Homer, and also for enlarged information on the area. These could logically be paired with gateway signage for intuitive wayfinding. These highly visible cues will be especially important where routes are not intuitive.

2





# **BAYCREST OVERLOOK**



### **Information Kiosks**

**Baycrest Overlook** 

This sign will likely be the first sign that someone sees on their visit to Homer. The intent for this sign is to orient people to Homer, help them find and prepare themselves for destinations (such as knowing where to park), prepare them with general information for how they will experience homer (such as RV or bicycling), alert them to specific safety information )such as Tsunami), and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do during their time in Homer.

Information at the Baycrest Overlook should focus on:

- Orientation to Homer
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Safety: Tsunami
- Safety: Wildlife
- Guidance: Parking
- Guidance: RV Expectations
- Guidance: Walking/Bicycling in Homer
- Regulation: General

### TRAILS Trail/Pedestrian Route



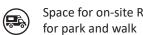
### NEW WAYFINDING

Information - Homer

#### ACCESS/PARKING

- $(\mathbf{P})$ On-site public parking
- $(\mathbf{R})$ Possible adjacent parking, none on-site

3

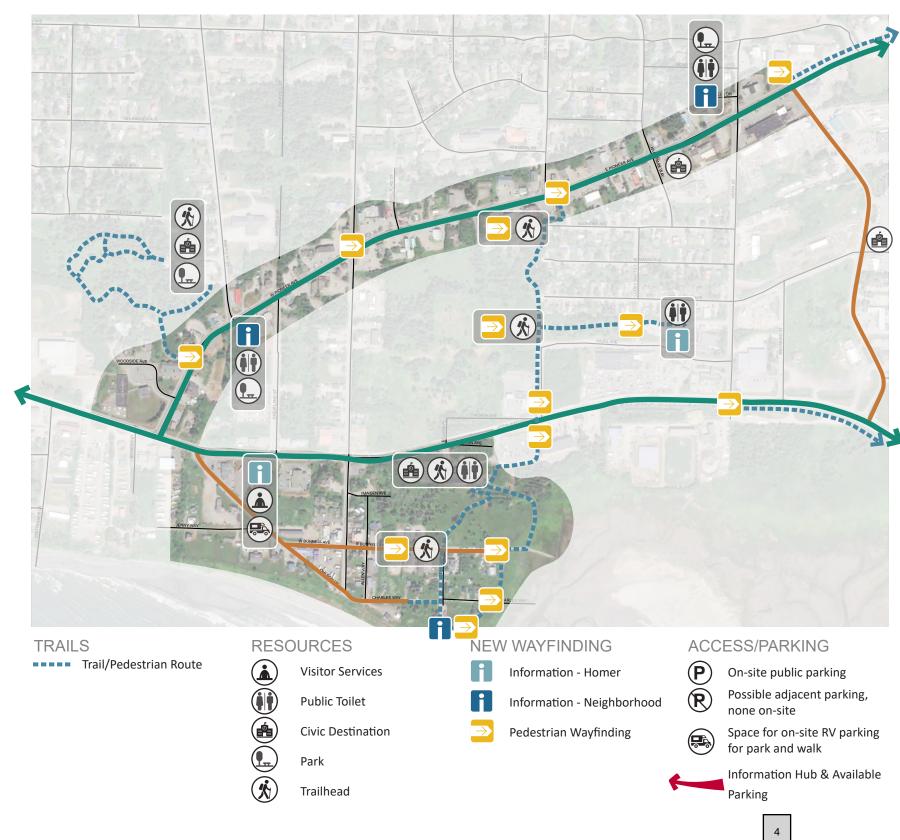


Space for on-site RV parking

Information Hub & Available Parking



# DOWNTOWN & OLD TOWN



### Information Kiosks

### Chamber of Commerce and Library

The signs at these locations may be the first sign that someone sees on their visit to homer. The intent for this sign is to orient people to Homer, help them find and prepare themselves for destinations (such as knowing where to park), prepare them with general information for how they will experience homer (such as RV or bicycling), alert them to specific safety information )such as Tsunami), and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do during their time in Homer.

Information at these locations should focus on:

- Orientation to Homer
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Safety: Tsunami
- Safety: Wildlife
- Guidance: Parking
- Guidance: RV Expectations
- Guidance: Walking/Bicycling in Homer
- Regulation: General

### Chamber of Commerce, Library, Pioneer Ave Toilets, Bishop's Beach

Each of these locations provides information to help someone explore the area. The intent for these signs is to orient people to the area, help them find destinations, and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do in the area. Information at these locations should focus on:

- Orientation to the area (also providing context with Homer)
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Wayfinding: Trails, trailheads, and pedestrian routes

Proposed pedestrian level information is very draft. Each trailhead should be provided with identifying signs, and wayfinding signs should be provided to connect people from key starting points (information kiosks?) to the trails. A discussion is needed how much pedestrian level signage is needed.

#### Main trailhead locations

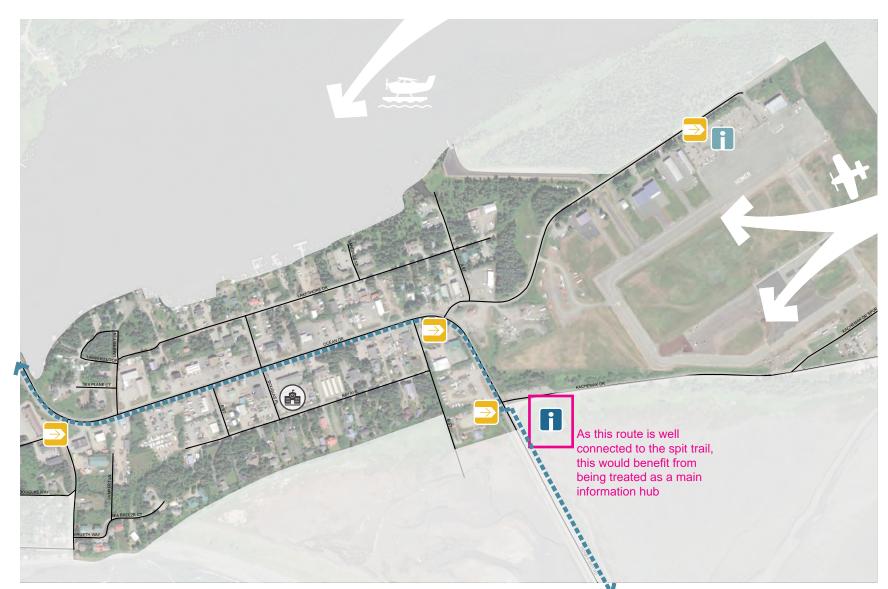
Secondary trailhead locations

What road intersections should have ped signage How often along a route should there be a ped sign/bollard What gets shown as a "trail/ped route" VS. a sidewalk Should we indicate where a trail is not associated with a road corridor?





# **OCEAN DRIVE**



#### TRAILS

Trail/Pedestrian Route







Information - Homer



Information - Neighborhood

Pedestrian Wayfinding

#### ACCESS/PARKING

P  $(\mathbf{R})$ 



On-site public parking

Possible adjacent parking, none on-site

5

Space for on-site RV parking for park and walk

Information Hub & Available Parking

### **Information Kiosks**

### Homer Airport

This sign will likely be the first sign that someone sees on their visit to Homer. The intent for this sign is to orient people to Homer, help them find and prepare themselves for destinations, prepare them with general information for how they will experience homer (such as bicycling), alert them to specific safety information (such as Tsunami), and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do during their time in Homer. This location would have less emphasis on vehicle information such as where to park.

Information at these locations should focus on:

- Orientation to Homer
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Safety: Tsunami
- Safety: Wildlife
- Guidance: Walking/Bicycling in Homer
- Regulation: General

### \*Area information locations?\* 👖

Each of these locations provides information to help someone explore the area. The intent for these signs is to orient people to the area, help them find destinations, and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do in the area. Information at these locations should focus on:

- Orientation to the area (also providing context with Homer)
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Wayfinding: Trails, trailheads, and pedestrian routes

#### Proposed pedestrian level information is very draft. Each trailhead should be provided with identifying signs, and wayfinding signs should be provided to connect people from key starting points (information kiosks?) to the trails. A discussion is needed how much pedestrian level signage is needed.



# HOMER SPIT



### **Information Kiosks**

### Ferry Terminals and Harbormaster's Office

These signs will likely be the first signs that someone sees on their visit to Homer. The intent for these signs is to orient people to Homer, help them find and prepare themselves for destinations, prepare them with general information for how they will experience homer (such as bicycling), alert them to specific safety information (such as Tsunami), and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do during their time in Homer. This location would have less emphasis on vehicle information such as where to park.

Information at these locations should focus on:

- Orientation to Homer
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Safety: Tsunami
- Safety: Wildlife

6

- Guidance: Walking/Bicycling in Homer
- Regulation: General

### Chamber of Commerce and The Boat House

Each of these locations provides information to help someone explore the area. The intent for these signs is to orient people to the area, help them find destinations, and possibly change or expand where they might go and what they might do in the area. Information at these locations should focus on:

- Orientation to the area (also providing context with Homer)
- Wayfinding: Identification of civic destinations
- Wayfinding: Trails, trailheads, and pedestrian routes

Proposed pedestrian level information is very draft. Each trailhead should be provided with identifying signs, and wayfinding signs should be provided to connect people from key starting points (information kiosks?) to the trails. A discussion is needed how much pedestrian level signage is needed.

Sign at each gangplank top, and road intersection beyond?



# **STREETSCAPE: Overview**

The intent of this project is to select a suite of standard site furnishings that would be used for the City of Homer. The general criteria for this should be a balance of durability, cost, and aesthetics. Standardizing products helps to create continuity and simplify maintenance and procurement.

This project also has a specific intent of improving Homer streetscapes, with a focus on Pioneer Avenue. Existing decisions within this corridor hamper its development into a pedestrianfriendly streetscape, but where possible improvements should be made within the existing framework. The narrative on this sheet provides guidance for working within current conditions.

For future development, pedestrian scale lighting, sidewalk location and widths and integration with adjacent businesses. The narrative at the end of this sheet includes some guidance relating to possible future conditions.

### A Good Streetscape

A good streetscape provides: beauty and comfort, facilitates commerce, and contributes toward sustainability in many ways (including economic, ecological and maintenance). A streetscape can also contribute to a sense of place, and create a desirable place to use and experience.

### Streetscape Factors for Current Conditions

Good streetscape design balances the pressures and variables that influence any given area. The factors provides below give a general overview, and are not intended to be detailed or exhaustive. Other factors may exist, but these are the main ones that relate to current discussions for this project.

### Visual Complexity

Provide a visually harmonious streetscape, with visual hierarchy to elements and a sense of order. This should be compatible with the potential wide variety of adjacent business and facility aesthetics. Streetscape elements (lighting, furniture, amenities) should be consistent and (typically) limited in variety.

#### Safety (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – CPTED)

Follow CPTED principles, with emphasis on allowing clear sightlines for active and passive surveillance. A clear area between 24" and 72" (min.) off the ground should be maintained, reducing the possibility for hiding.

### Safety (Pedestrian Protection)

Provide implied or actual separation between vehicles and pedestrians in the form of continuous vertical separation (curbing/walls/bollards), implied separation (vertical objects such as light poles or trees), or horizontal distance.

### Maintenance (Ongoing)

Provide sufficient clear sidewalk width for equipment movement without danger for potential damage to streetscape elements. All seasons must be considered.

### Longevity (Materials & Installation)

Identify the desired life-span for project components, and determine materials and fabrication gualities that achieve those lifespans. Where components could be removed and reinstalled (such as benches), prioritize durability and high-quality.

Ensure that construction documents detail installations correctly to ensure longevity, maintain warranties, and ensure that streetscape installations operate as a 'system' where each part works well with others. Ensure that construction period administration and inspections verify (and enforce) the desired level of quality for components and installation.

### **Business Benefits (Usable Space)**

Provide space for occasional or ongoing business-use in front of buildings. This contributes to an engaging/lively environment, and allows for flexibility (such as what we've discovered as a result of COVID 19 and social distancing).

### Business Benefits (Ease Of Wayfinding)

Maintain or improve views from the street to buildings, businesses, or points of interest. Views and sightlines are critical to businesses success.

### Landscaping

Street trees and planting beds are important for aesthetics and comfort within a streetscape. Regular placement of street trees can help to define and separate pedestrian and vehicular zones, and help to provide a human scale within a road corridor. Street trees should only be included if they can be provided with correct soil volumes and quantity (a healthy 10" caliper tree can require up to 700 cubic feet of soil) and be protected from chemical and physical damage. Plantings provide the same benefit for defining zones and creating comfort, and further enhance aesthetics.



### Amenities (Bicycle Parking)

Provide convenient and quality bicycle parking.

### Amenities (Seating)

Provide seating, with a significant proportion of seating having backs and armrests (critical for the elderly or people with physical limitations). Seating provides places for people to rest, relax and socialize.

### Amenities (Artwork/Interpretation)

Prioritize aesthetic and educational opportunities within the streetscape to increase it's attractiveness, interest, and function as a desired destination.

### Streetscape Factors for Future Conditions

### Pedestrians (Ease Of Movement)

Provide sidewalk open widths relative to expected pedestrian use. In order to minimize potential competition for this space, additional space should be provided at the front and back of the sidewalk to accommodate business and public uses that might otherwise intrude on pedestrian movement.

Design with universal access in mind. Americans with Disability Access guidelines establish minimum requirements and recommendations, and should be exceeded wherever possible to achieve barrier free design if not universal design.

### Pedestrians (Ease Of Access From Vehicles)

If future conditions allow on-street parking, allow for movement between vehicles and sidewalks. Provide sufficient clear sidewalk area next to vehicles to allow door swing, access in and out of vehicles, and access to the main sidewalk area.

### Lighting

Provide for minimum lighting levels for safety, and provide a lighting design that contributes to a vibrant and attractive streetscape. For Homer, this should have a focus on winter lighting. Provide convenient electric outlets for seasonal lighting (pole and ground mounted).

### Maintenance (Lighting, Utilities)

As streetscapes are improved, ensure that conduit, junction boxes, and other infrastructure is in place to allow maintenance, flexible use, and utility growth/changes without significant construction impacts. Choose streetscape elements that can be maintained easily.



# **STREETSCAPE: BENCHES**









Existina

### **DRAFT FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION** TO GET A FEELING FOR RANGE OF **AESTHETICS FOR REFINED OPTIONS**

Existing



Victor Stanley

### Criteria:

- Accessibility (Backs and arms, ergonomic)
- Durability (no or low maintenance)
- Design (consistent/subtle, or unique in special locations)
- Attachment (free-standing or surface-mount) (embedded?)





Landscape Forms Landscape Forr 8





Landscape Forms



Maglin

# **STREETSCAPE: PICNIC TABLES**

Equiparc EP2630



### Equiparc EP2850

### Criteria:

- Accessibility (wheelchair access and mobility-friendly)
- Durability (no or low maintenance)
- Design (consistent/subtle)
- Attachment (free-standing or surface-mount) (embedded?)

### **DRAFT FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION** TO GET A FEELING FOR RANGE OF **AESTHETICS FOR REFINED OPTIONS**





9

# **STREETSCAPE: LITER BINS**





Victor Sta

### **Criteria**:

- Accessibility (N/A)
- Durability (no or low maintenance)
- Design (consistent/subtle)
- Attachment (free-standing or surface-mount)

### **DRAFT FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION** TO GET A FEELING FOR RANGE OF **AESTHETICS FOR REFINED OPTIONS**



Landscape Forms





MM Cite

Landscape Forms

# **STREETSCAPE: BIKE RACK**









Landscape Forms



Maglin

### **Criteria:**

- Accessibility (N/A)
- Durability (no or low maintenance)
- Design (consistent/subtle, or unique in special locations)
- Attachment (surface-mount) (embedded?)
- Special Criteria (two points of bike contact, branding)

### **DRAFT FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION** TO GET A FEELING FOR RANGE OF **AESTHETICS FOR REFINED OPTIONS**



Victor Stanley



Landscape Forms

# **STREETSCAPE: MISCELLANEOUS**

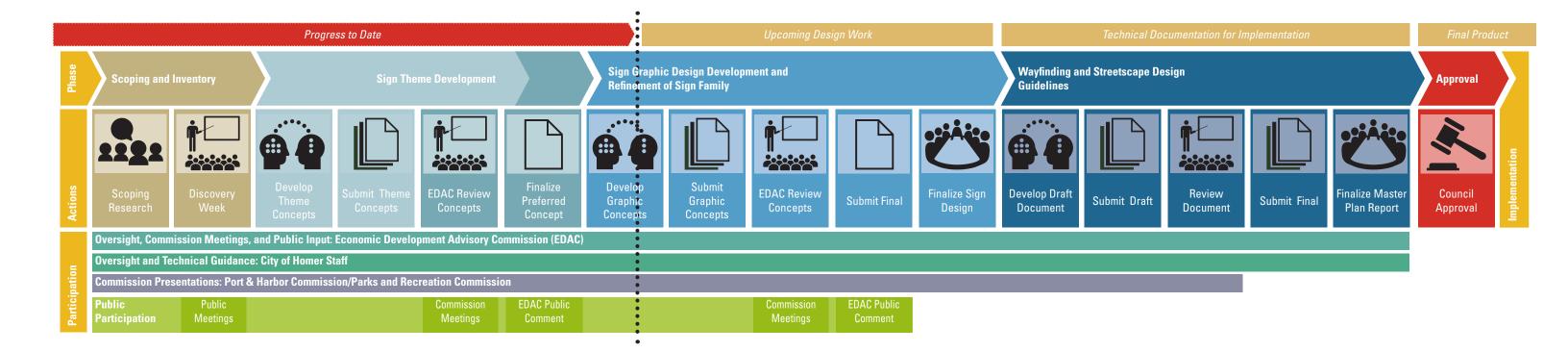
TBD Banners, lighting, bollards TBD

# **STREETSCAPE:** Planting

TBD List of selected plant species Perhaps a few template designs?



# WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS







# SIGN GOALS



Photo 1

This project has been tasked with two main goals: 1) Develop a functional wayfinding system that will be clear and help people to navigate around Homer, and 2) Develop a sign system that fits into and feels like Homer. The photos on this sheet show various locations, and the context within which signs will be located and need to function. An important discussion has been that Homer has a significant amount of existing signs, and many of these exhibit the artistic aspects that might represent 'Homer character'.

From this, the intent is that the sign system should be easily recognizable and legible, but not compete with adjacent areas and signage. The sign framework should generally be simple, with some emphasis placed on the graphic design of panels to reflect the City and/or a particular area. Adjacent landscaping should be used to integrate the signs into an area, with the possible use of adjacent artistic components where visual emphasis is desired (such as gateways).

Photo 5



Photo 2





Photo 3

Photo 7



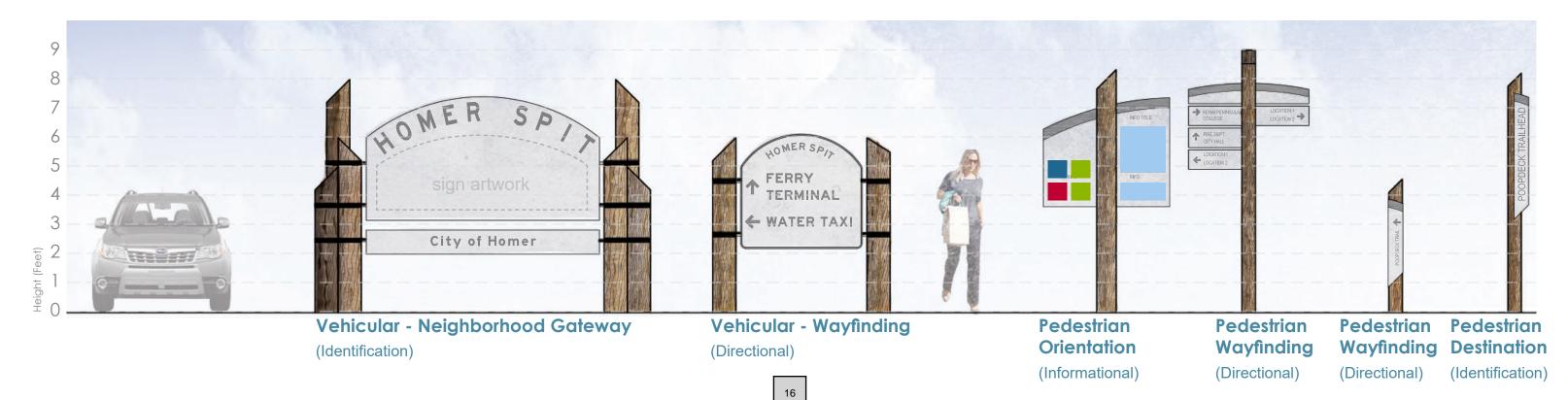


Photo 6



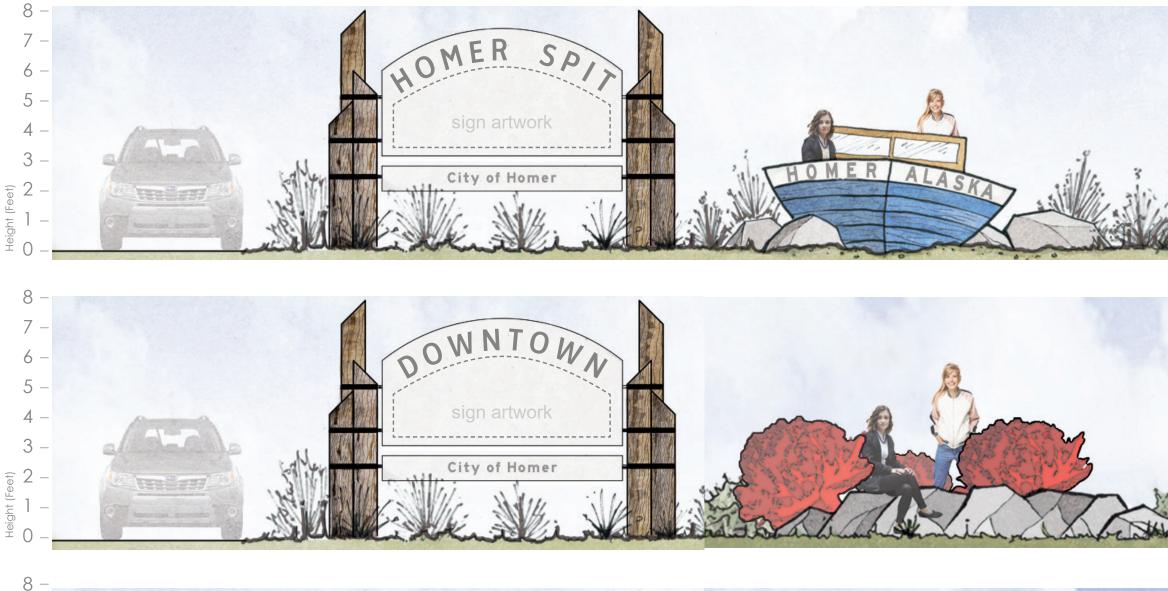
# PREFERRED SIGN FAMILY







# **GATEWAY CHARACTER**





Neighborhood Gateway Sign

Thematic<sup>17</sup> mponent/Instagram Moment

### General

The intent is that gateways can be used standalone, with landscaping around the sign to complement the local theme, and/or combined with something more iconic that could represent the character of the area and possibly act as an 'Instagram moment'.

### Homer Spit Gateway

The Instagram moment idea for the Homer Spit area would be a boat that allows people to take a photo sitting in front of the cabin behind the bow, and standing behind the cabin.

### **Downtown Gateway**

The Instagram moment idea for the Downtown area could be a larger-than-life peony planting bed where people can stand among the large peony blooms.

### Ocean Drive Gateway

The Instagram moment idea for the Ocean Drive area could be a small plane that people could pose with.





DOT Directional Sign

# FINDING YOUR DESTINATION

### Getting to your destination

People need to figure out where they want to get to, and how to get there.

Homer has some key destinations, and these destinations include areas where there are multiple things to do and see. The map to the right shows some of these "destination areas".

Most people entering into Homer will be doing so in a vehicle (car, boat, or plane). Wherever they enter Homer, there should be a way for them to figure out how to get to their already known destination, or figure out their destination. Information kiosks at key entries to Homer should provide information on emergency services and civic destinations. These locations are also good places to partner with entities like the Chamber of Commerce to identify private sector and for-profit opportunities and experiences.

Then, people can either get to their final specific destination, or find a place to park and continue their travel to their destination or destinations. Roadway signs are important to help people get to specific key destinations, or these destination areas.

Once people are out of their cars, area specific information can be provided with a different type of information kiosk that focuses on a smaller area, supported by pedestrian sized signs to assist people in navigating.

The flowchart on this sheet is intended to illustrate this process of figuring out where you want to go, how to find your way there, and then how to navigate to your final destination if it involves parking and walking.



- Downtown Homer (Destination Area)
- Old Town (Destination Area)
- Ocean Drive (Destination Area)
- Homer Spit (Destination Area)
- Skyline Drive (Destination Area) and Wynn Nature Center (Destination)
- Karen Hornaday Park (Destination)





# **EXISTING HIGHWAY SIGNS**

**Private Campground** 

19



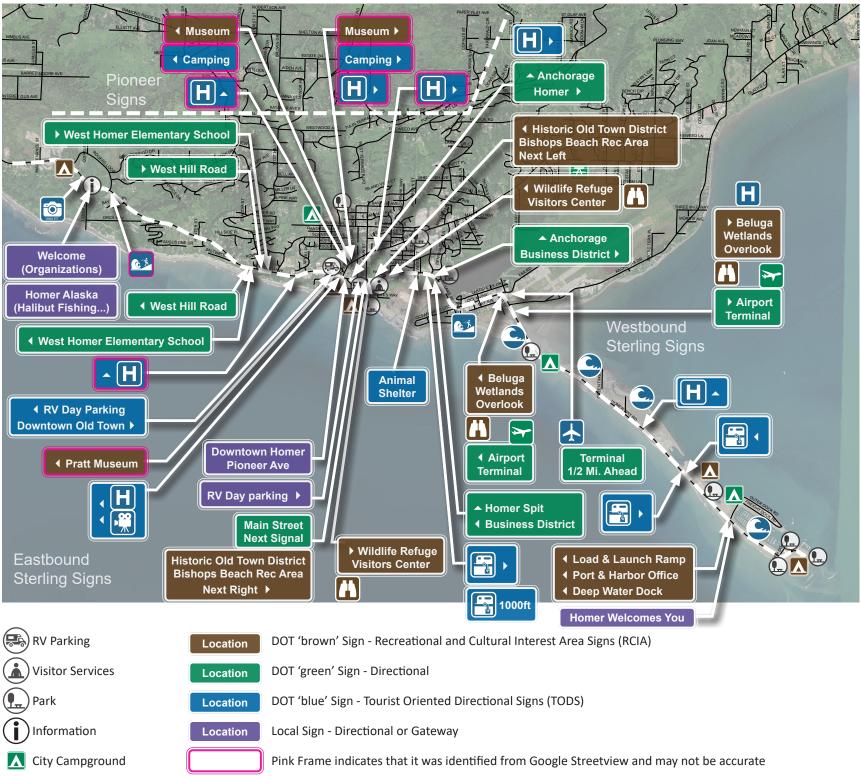














# **VEHICLE SIGN OVERVIEW**

### **Criteria for Sign Placement**

Sterling Highway and Pioneer Avenue are both owned as rightsof-way by the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT). Signs located within these rights-of-way need to be permitted with ADOT and have strict requirements related to design and placement. These requirements generally relate to vehicle safety should a driver lose control with their car leaving the road. Requirements dictate how close to a road a sign may be, and the design of the sign as it relates to how easily it will shear from its base on impact.

While the sign system includes a Vehicular Directional Sign, this sign type may not be significantly used since the areas where these are needed are within ADOT rights-of-way.

For Neighborhood Gateway signs, their placement will be limited due to the needed distance from traffic. Depending on location, this may require them (as designed) to be located on adjacent land.

### Homer Sign Focus Areas

### **Baycrest Overlook**

The overlook area is the first place where people have an opportunity to pull over from the highway and orient themselves for their Homer arrival. The only warning for this area is a "scenic overlook" icon to the west. The existing "Homer Alaska" sign is used for photographs, there is a small map of civic destinations on the toilet building, and there is a tourism information gazebo that when open has information available.

#### Proposed Conditions:

The wayside should be provided with an information kiosk that would be used by the City of Homer to provide a map and civic destinations, accompanied by Chamber of Commerce information for local businesses and the services they offer. Information should include specific targeted messages unique to Homer or to particular audiences. For example, what to expect in Homer if you are driving a motorhome, and safety information including tsunami and wildlife preparedness. A highway sign should be provided to better identify the wayside and that it provides local information.

### **Downtown and Old Town**

Signs leading to downtown are not clear, with DOT signs pointing to Business District and Main Street. DOT signs for Old Town are clear. Neither area has an entry point that is branded to encourage entry by celebrating the destination.

**Proposed Conditions:** 

The intent is to clearly assist drivers with getting to and parking at a specific destination, or to park and have access to an outdoor information sign. The goal is to allow them to leave their vehicle in a location and to walk/bike within the area. See pedestrian sheets for wayfinding once people are out of their vehicles.

Clearer directional signs for Downtown are needed. More importantly, both Downtown and Old Town would benefit from Gateways at key entry locations. These would strengthen wayfinding by providing an obvious visual clue for where to turn, and also illustrate that there is something special in the area. Due to the strength of the Homer Spit as a destination, emphasizing other destinations to those moving through the Sterling Highway corridor could encourage people to come back into town.

### **Ocean Drive**

The airport terminal is the first place where people have an opportunity to orient on their arrival into Homer. The lobby contains pamphlets and rack cards for visitor information. Those arriving by air taxi (land or water) might also be able to access similar information in the lobby of the air company they are using.

#### **Proposed Conditions:**

The intent is to clearly assist drivers with getting to and parking at a specific destination, or to park and have access to an outdoor information sign. The goal is to allow them to leave their vehicle in a location and to walk/bike within the area. See pedestrian sheets for wayfinding once people are out of their vehicles.

Homer Airport will benefit from an exterior information kiosk. As the airport also connects people to and from other forms of transportation, information should be provided top help them get to their next mode of transportation. Wayfinding signage should help not only identify where people may need to go, but also help them understand distances. This helps establish expectations, and allows people to choose whether they walk or use vehicular transportation.

### **Homer Spit**

The two ferry terminals, harbormaster's office, terminal, and harbor in general are the first places where people have an opportunity to orient on their arrival into Homer. Exterior information is not available at these locations. The Homer Spit is a congested area for driving and parking, and there is little directional signage for destinations or for clarity in parking.

Proposed Conditions:

The intent is to clearly assist drivers with getting to and parking at a specific destination, or to park and have access to an outdoor information sign. The goal is to allow them to leave their vehicle in a location and to walk/bike within the area. See pedestrian sheets for wayfinding once people are out of their vehicles.

Similar to the airport, the Homer Spit connects people to and from other forms of transportation. Information should be provided top help them get to their next mode of transportation, or to experience Homer. Wayfinding signage should help not only identify where people may need to go, but also help them understand distances. This helps establish expectations, and allows people to choose whether they walk or use vehicular transportation.





# **BAYCREST OVERLOOK**

None

**Existing DOT Signs** (shaded signs are replaced or removed, non-shaded are to remain)





Modified or New Signs

A1: Eastbound Sign HOMER

A2: Eastbound Sign VISITOR INFORMATION

#### ROADS

Main Route Secondary Route RESOURCES

Visitor Services (Partner) 

Public Toilet

### VEHICLE WAYFINDING

- **DOT Directional Sign**  $|\mho$
- Area Gateway
- 1 Information Homer
- i Information - Neighborhood
- AE1 Existing Sign
- A1 Proposed Sign
- ACCESS/PARKING  $(\mathbf{P})$ On-site public parking  $(\mathbf{R})$ Possible adjacent parking,
  - none on-site
    - Space for on-site RV parking for park and walk

Information Hub & Available Parking

21





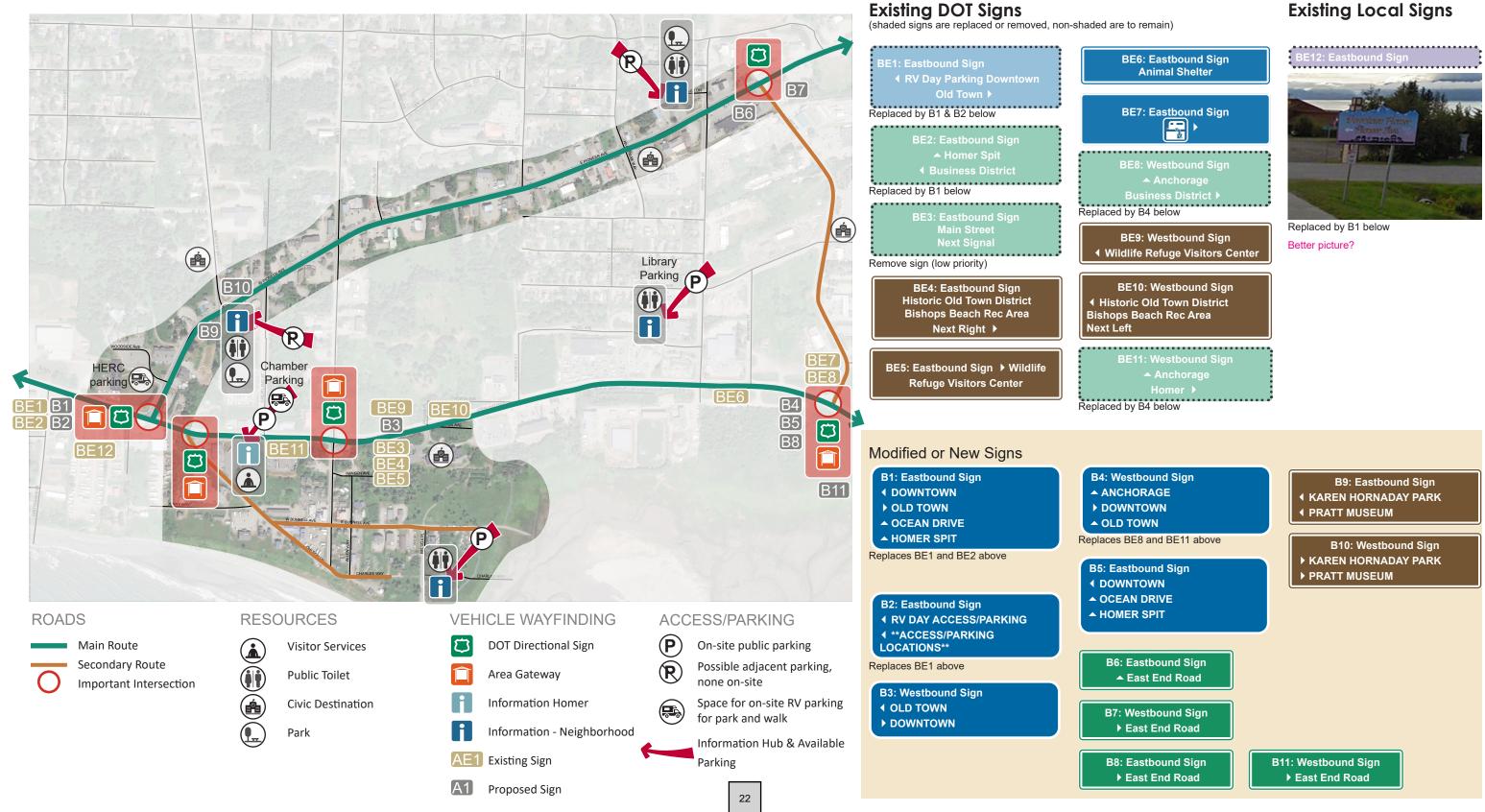


### **Existing Local Signs**





# **DOWNTOWN & OLD TOWN**







### **Existing Local Signs**

# **OCEAN DRIVE**





### **Existing Local Signs**

None

C2: Westbound Sign **♦ OLD TOWN I DOWNTOWN** 

# HOMER SPIT



# Existing DOT Signs (shaded signs are replaced or removed, non-shaded are to remain)



### **Existing Local Signs**

DE2: Southbound Sign



#### D3: Northbound Sign ► FREIGHT DOCK RD

D4: Northbound Sign Load & Launch Ramp ▶ Ramps 6, 7 and 8 ▶ Port & Harbor Office Deep Water Dock Seldovia Ferry Terminal

- D5: Northbound Sign
- ▲ Ocean Drive
- Old Town
- Downtown

# MATERIALS: SIGN PANELS

### Sign Content: Direct Printing on Panels









# MATERIALS: SIGN PANELS

### Sign Content: Engraved/Carved Panels





### Sign Content: Letter/Silhouette Overlays







