

Lane Dividers Block Business Access

Wednesday, 18 June 2008

{audio}/images/stories/mp3/080618.traffic_pattern.mp3{/audio}

Jay Barrett/KMXT

Cement

medians laid down this week in the middle of Rezanof Drive between The Y and Marine Way has taken motorists and some business owners in the area by surprise. The barriers are meant to restrict left-hand turns in the city's busiest traffic bottleneck.

Jason

Baxley is the manager of the project for the Alaska Department of Transportation:

-- (Traffic
1 17
sec … rear-end collisions, things like
that.”)

The Island

Hydraulics Building is right in the middle of the stretch where the median divides Rezanof. Kenai Sizzler Burger and Sweeney's Insurance share the building. John Sweeney said the design took him by surprise:

-- (Traffic
2 22

sec “… once in a while, quite frankly.”)

Baxley
describes how someone coming into town from the west could access those
businesses on the other side of the road:

-- (Traffic
3 30
sec “… to access pretty much anywhere
down there.”)

Sweeney
says when he first heard of the new traffic pattern, he contacted the D-O-T to
see if it could be changed:

-- (Traffic
4 45
sec “… that doesn’t do me any help as it
is.”)

Kodiak City
Manager Linda Freed said the D-O-T had made several public presentations on the
plans, dating back over five years. She also said the city had offered to take
over ownership of the Y and the project, but the D-O-T declined.

Baxley says
the project should cost about 5-million-dollars. It includes new streetlights
and a new intelligent traffic light at the Rezanof and Marine intersection that
will better modulate traffic and help eliminate back-ups.

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