



October 13, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

Valli Vue Homeowners Association would like to express our unwavering support for reinstating school bus services in the Valli Vue neighborhood. The decision to remove bus stops from our community in the winter of 2022 has significantly impacted our families and our children's safety. It is essential to reconsider this decision for the following reasons supporting the safety and practicality of Valli Vue roads.

The concerns raised by ASD Transportation regarding steep grades, narrow roads, blind curves, and accidents are important. However, upon closer examination of Valli Vue's road infrastructure, it becomes evident that these concerns are not unique to our neighborhood and can be addressed effectively.

We conducted measurements of random road widths within Valli Vue, including West Tree, Lone Tree, Main Tree, and Corner Tree. We found that all measurements consistently reached an approximate width of 24 feet (paved) without the RAP shoulders. These measurements align with what would be expected in a typical neighborhood. Wider roads would not be expected and would likely result in an unnecessary increase in capital costs. In fact, the added rapped shoulder potentially enhances the safety of school bus traverses compared to the conditions during which ASD previously serviced our neighborhood.

Regarding the concern of deep ditches, if we use Birch Road as an example, which the bus now traverses multiple times a day during the current school route, we find comparable ditches. While vegetation can affect visibility of ditches, it is essential to clarify that the assertion that our neighborhood's ditches are steeper or deeper than those encountered by ASD daily is inaccurate. The maps shared by ASD clearly show that they navigate roadways with ditches as deep and steep as those in Valli Vue. The only difference lies in the higher speed limits and traffic volumes on their current main road routes, arguably making the main roads less safe than the roads within our neighborhood.

In addressing the "blind corners and steepness" concern, it is worth noting that similar steepness levels exist on roadways that ASD currently serves, in comparison to Valli Vue's, including the alternative route our kids' buses now take. Site distance challenges are prevalent throughout the municipality, and if this were a disqualifying factor for bus routes, it would widely affect routes across the district.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that children should not be required to walk long distances, especially during dark and snowy winter months, for their own safety. The ditching project conducted in 2022-2023 did not alter the road surface. It altered the safe walking surface, potentially introducing additional hazards to pedestrians, in this case, our schoolchildren. The safety and well-being of our children should always be a top priority and having them inside a bus is infinitely safer than walking along any road. While accidents can happen anywhere, using incidents involving inattentive drivers as a rationale for bus removal is not justifiable as they can happen anywhere.

Last winter, Valli Vue experienced superior road maintenance compared to the municipal-managed roads where buses currently operate. Our roads were consistently plowed and graveled, usually within hours, even during and after the historic snowfall days, and proved to be among the best-maintained roads in the Municipality. This contrast highlights the reliability of our neighborhood's maintenance efforts.

In conclusion, we believe that reinstating school bus services in Valli Vue is not only essential for the safety of our children but also practical, given the road conditions and the support from our community. It should also be noted that Anchorage's Public Transportation buses still drive through and service Valli Vue bus stops without issue. We strongly urge a reconsideration of this decision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to a resolution that places our children's safety at the forefront.

Thank you,

Valli Vue Estates Property Owners Association