Girdwood Valley in South Central Alaska (an area administered by the Municipality of Anchorage) is the home of the Alyeska Ski Resort and a number of other internationally significant tourism destinations and popular seasonal events. CAI, working with Design Workshop's Vail office, recently completed a multi-modal transportation plan for the "new town site" near the ski base that includes provision for pedestrian circulation, traffic circulation, parking and transit system development.

As part of this project, CAI evaluated the potential utility of an extension of a spur of the Alaska Railroad into the valley. The plan includes guidance for incremental development of a bus transit system tied to multimodal stations and intercept parking areas.

CAI also developed recommendations for the build-out roadway network (including a state highway), which required analysis of tourism- and development-driven traffic trends, disaster event potential, and the need for emergency service and evacuation redundancy.

An overriding consideration throughout this project was the nearly pristine character of the natural environment in Girdwood Valley and the need to ensure that future development and associated transportation infrastructure are sensitive to the rare and fragile ecosystems and natural beauty of this unique area.

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