

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to improve 8.3 miles of the Parks Highway, between mileposts 44 and 52. The project is part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Both documents specifically include expansion of the Parks Highway to a four-lane highway between Lucus Road and Big Lake Road.

Traffic volumes are expected to nearly double over the next 20 years and the proposed project addresses current and future safety, congestion, and travel efficiency issues. Of four original options, the two alternatives evaluated in detail in the EA include:

1. *No Build Alternative*
2. *Four-lane divided highway with depressed grass median and partial frontage roads (Preferred Alternative)*

The **Environmental Assessment** is complete and was released on July 26, 2010 for a 30-day public comment period. The DOT&PF will hold a Public Hearing Open House to solicit comments and provide information about the EA on August 27, 2010. *See details at right.* ▶▶▶



Alternatives Evaluated in the Environmental Assessment

The **Preferred Alternative** calls for a divided, illuminated highway with partial frontage roads creating improved safety, reduced congestion and delay, effectively controlled access to and across the Parks Highway, improved driver visibility and improved conditions for wildlife and fisheries. The preferred alternative will impact approximately 4 acres of wetland, create visual changes, and require acquisition of Right-of-Way. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be provided the full length of the project corridor. Potential construction-related impacts include minor degradation of air

**Notice of Availability for Review
Environmental Assessment &
Public Hearing Open House**



When: Tuesday, August 17th 2010, 6 - 8 pm
Location: Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center
1001 South Mack Drive, Wasilla

Please plan to attend. Team members *please come!* will be available to discuss the EA, alternatives evaluated and answer your questions. If you are unable to attend, please send written comments to the address below by 5:00 p.m., August 27th, 2010:

*Brian Elliott, DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager
Preliminary Design and Environmental
4111 Aviation Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99519*

Where can I read the document?

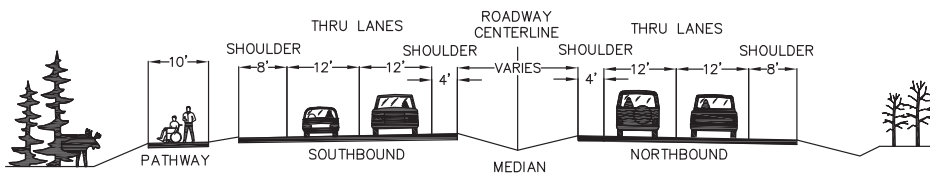
Copies of the EA are also available for review online at www.parkshighway44-52.info (see "Documents"), at the Wasilla Public Library at 391 N. Main St., Wasilla, AK, at the Z.J. Loussac Public Library at 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage AK, and at DOT&PF Central Region Office at 4111 Aviation Avenue, in Anchorage.

and water quality, increases in ambient noise levels, and traffic delays and detours which may impact businesses. These impacts are expected to be localized, temporary, and minor in nature.

If nothing is done to the Parks Highway between Lucus Road and Big Lake Road, the **"No Build" Alternative**, there would be no change to existing conditions. This would mean deteriorating safety, ultimately unacceptable levels of congestion and delay, increased direct access to and across

the highway, and no improvement for wildlife or fisheries. There would be no effect to existing wetlands and Little Meadow Creek would remain in culverts under the highway, continuing to impact wildlife and fisheries. Pedestrian and bike paths would not change.

Preferred Alternative cross section:



4-LANE DIVIDED WITH PATHWAY

For additional information contact:

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www.parkshighway44-52.info

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Tuesday, August 17th, 2010 Open House - Please come!

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