



Federal Project No. IM-0A4-1(25/26), State No. 52914/52929

### Meeting Notes

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**SUBJECT:** 2011 Mat Su Transportation Fair

**PROJECT NO.:** 3926.15 / Parks Highway 44-52

**GROUP:** Public Meeting

**DATE:** September 15, 2011

**TIME:** 4-8 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Alaska State Fairgrounds, Raven Hall, 2075 Glenn Highway

**MEETING OUTREACH:** Print Ads in *Anchorage Daily News* (9/7/11 and 9/14/11), *Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman* (9/1/11 and 9/14/11); Postcard mailers to the following project mailing lists: Glenn Highway MP 34-42; Parks Highway MP 44-42; Fairview Loop; South Mack (Clapp Street); Palmer Wasilla Highway Eastern Terminus; and South Mack Grade Separated Crossing. E-mails to all Brooks & Associates Mat-Su Project email lists, MSB Boards and Commissions, MSB elected officials, and Sen. Huggins e-mail subscribers. Flyers/posters distributed to local businesses, related project meetings, borough offices. PSAs sent to radio and television stations. Alaska Mobility Coalition posted the flyer on their Facebook page and also in the September newsletter. Announcements on all related B&A project websites.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE:** 252 signed in (of those, 48 were exhibitors)

**MEETING MATERIALS:** Each project provided their own materials

**STAFF PRESENT:** B&A: Anne Brooks, Kathy Burgess, Joann Mitchell, Dara Glass  
Various project representatives

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#### MEETING INFORMATION:

The purpose of this meeting was to provide a location where interested residents could access information and answers to questions regarding Mat-Su Area transportation projects. 252 people signed in at the door. The meeting had an open house format, where visitors could browse the many booths, or go directly to their area of interest. Refreshments were provided in the rear of the building. An area with activities for children was provided.

ADOT&PF, The Alaska Railroad Corporation, the Mat-Su Borough, the City of Palmer, and the City of Wasilla all had areas with their specific projects. Additional booths included: MASCOT,

Valley Mover, VPSI Van Pool, Chickaloon Area Transit System, Forget-Me-Not Mission, Roundabout Driving Tips, Alaska Mobility Coalition, MSB Bond Information (Roads and Schools), Knik Arm Crossing, and the MSB Parks and Trails Foundation. (See attached meeting agenda and map.)

The following written and oral comments were received at the meeting:

“Overpass needed and you know where—i.e. Pittman, Big Lake Rd, Vine, Stanley Rd, S. Mack/Church, Deska St. Think ahead—bypass. You’re creating another Palmer/Wasilla Hwy lobby for the Capital Improvements.”

“I would like to see grade separated interchanges at every signalized intersection, particularly at Pittman.”

“You are showing a ROW purchase along the front of my property. The area in front of my business is used for semi-trucks making deliveries. This is vital for my business and needs to be possible after the highway is widened.”

“I am concerned that adding more signals will significantly increase the delay driving on the highway.”

As visitors left the meeting, they were once again asked to fill out an anonymous meeting evaluation form. The feedback was overall positive and appreciative for the 1-stop-many projects approach. When asked to rate the meeting from 1 (poor) to 6 (excellent), the average response was a 5 (this is the same response as last year). Positive comments about the meeting included:

“Let me look at many projects and ask questions.”

“There were well informed representatives.”

“Able to see how the projects fit together (or don’t).”

“Multiple agencies in one place”

“The event was well thought out and the activities for the kids were an excellent touch”

“Lots of graphics and best of all many well informed people to answer questions asked and even the ones we didn’t ask.”

A few of the negative comments included:

“Have people that can actually answer your question. The people you have just field the questions.” (this was heard a couple of times).

“The meeting was lousy because no genuine public input is sought. The plans are cast in stone.”

We received comments that will help us improve future Mat-Su Transportation fairs.

- Several of the booths had information but no one present to answer questions. The organizing group should discuss whether this should be discouraged in the future as the purpose of the meeting is to allow the public to ask questions and get answers.

- One commenter wanted us to start later.
- Other commenters wanted more food.

Related documents on file:

Sign-in sheets

Handouts (blank comment sheet)

Written Comment Sheets Received at meeting

Mailing list for project mailers

Postcard mailer