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Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: Mat-Su Transportation Fair 2013
PROJECT NO.: Federal Project IM-0A4-1(25/26)/52914/52929/54373
GROUP: Public
DATE: August 7, 2012
TIME: 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
LOCATION: Menard Sports Center
Wasilla, Alaska
MEETING OUTREACH: See Outreach table below
MEETING ATTENDANCE: 386 individuals signed in at the meeting
STAFF PRESENT: DOT&PF: Jim Amundsen, Robert Devassie, Ken Chapman,
HDL: Jeff Fuglestad, David Lundin, Heather Campfield
Brooks and Associates: Anne Brooks, Camden Yehle, Mellie Park, Josephine Wenrick

MEETING INFORMATION:

Attendees were greeted at the door and asked to sign in. They were then provided with a diagram showing the layout of the event. Over 50 Mat-Su transportation projects, agencies, and transportation providers were represented. Community members were encouraged to ask questions of the project teams and to provide written comments. These comments are provided below. All specific questions submitted have received an individual response which are summarized in *italics*.

The following written comments were received for the Parks Highway project:

- Thank you for adding lights (overhead). It will greatly increase safety and curtail moose collisions. This should be an essential practice by DOT and the light cost analysis should be revisited on other projects to construct road in the 21st century.
- How much land will DOT be purchasing from me for ROW? I'm Big Boys Toys Storage at mile 51.5 Parks Highway. (Across the street from Johnsons Road intersection). Thank you. *Project team sent a ROW map detail with dimensions and a scale.*
- Reminder – Jim [Amundsen] promised to the City of Houston to look at trying to start 4 lanes south at 1st driveway west of Forrest Lake Drive. *The team reviewing the request.*
- Very disappointed that you are putting a frontage road next to my driveway but will not consider fencing.
- We need traffic cameras on Park and Vine because a lot of people on Park go through the traffic light. Vine also needs to be widened.

- Property line is not where it should be – We purchased property at 60' setback (blue property line). Please call us or mail [address provided]. Thank-you. Would like to have a meeting with ROW agent. *The team communicated provided right of way information.*
- This is an excellent, needed project. So glad it will be 4 lane divided.
- I like it! Build it soon!
- Keep up the good work! Let's just get 'er done. Can we keep the light pollution at a minimum?
- I'd like a map or link of the Big Lake turnoff. *The project team sent the link to the document on the project website.*

The following email and phone comments were received within a week of the meeting:

- My concern is that I need to know how wide is W. Swan going to be...it was remodeled last spring/summer and moved off of my property. I asked if that was going to be it, so I could get on with my construction I've been wanting to do, and that they knew about (Jim Amundsen and Bob Waldon). Then I was told that they were finished moving the road and that I could put in my septic and leach field at any time. So I did, now I'm hearing that I might lose some of the property to another proposed right of way. I need to know what is going on as I am still intending to eventually get to build a house on the property, and I had restrictions I'm to follow as far as the leach field being so far away from the road and I just got it put in at the end of the year, after they finished the road and know am quite concerned... so I need to find out how wide West Swan Dr. is going to be, and to see how much right of way on my side of the property is to be taken to be able to determine if I already have a problem... *The project team discussed with him the needed right of way acquisition and setback for his property.*
- Where will the event be? It doesn't seem to say here.
- I live at mile 45 Parks Highway. My wife and I frequently walk on the bike/walk path that is on the north side of the Highway. When construction is completed...How will we be able to access the bike path across the 4-lane highway? We live on Jacobsen Lake. Our driveway is McCallister Drive. Thank you for your response. *McCallister Drive will be a full median opening and a safe place to cross the highway to access the multi-use trail.*
- Two people called to request information about right of way acquisitions and possibly a meeting with members of the project team to discuss right of way impacts to property. Both were planning future lot development. *They have received a call back from the project team.*
- I have been trying to locate any info on the Parks Highway Area Projects regarding the extension to W. Swan Dr. and S. Rainbow and needed to know if any feasibility studies have been done. My neighbors and I have some concerns since 2 of the neighbors just had their property restored just last summer and now face the loss again along with my 2 properties in order to provide the Post Office access. We all can safely assume that the impact of this project literally in front of our doors will considerably increase problems for our small neighborhood. Was there any notification sent to the people of this area regarding this project? I did not purchase my home on a thoroughfare for a reason and am

now faced with loss of more property and don't know if we will be compensated, and constant flow of traffic right in front of our homes and feet in front of our doors. Please advise if these tests were done and do we have any rights to contest this project.

I'd be happy to provide background the connections you mention in your email. I've attached a graphic to help describe the connection and its purpose. This connection is one of many new frontage roads that will provide access to safe access to a median opening which are to be provided every 1/2 mile along the corridor.

The drawing shows median openings at a realigned W. Marigold Drive and the next approximately 1000 feet north of West Swan Drive. Any access to the Parks Highway between these two median openings will be right in right out only because of the median. Left turns can only be made at the full median openings.

Other changes in the area aimed to provide safe access include the realignment of Meadow Lakes Loop to connect to the median opening at W. Marigold Drive. In total, these changes leave your subdivision with only right in right out access to the highway. The extension of West Swan Drive to the new N. Meadows Lakes Loop provides the area and your neighborhood connections to two median openings.

We understand the Borough realigned the W. Swan Drive to properly place it within the platted right of way. It is true that additional right of way is being identified along the road. The project designers say the additional area is required to develop proper drainage ditches along the road, something not accommodated in the existing right of way. Property owners will receive compensation for any right of way acquired for the project.

Yes, there has been lots of notification. The Parks Highway mailing list includes residents and property owners all along the project corridor. Bright yellow cards have been sent to announce project meetings. The project has been underway since 2005. The drawings from the meetings have been posted to the web site. Letters were sent to property owners showing the potential right of way needs. Our outreach materials, meeting notes, etc., can be found here: http://www.parkshighway44-52.info/public_involvement.html

Our greatest challenge on a highway project of this type is finding a balance between the needs of the highway users and the impacts to local businesses and property owners. We recognize that the extension of W. Swan Drive and realignment of Meadow Lakes Loop will result in traffic changes in your neighborhood.

We request you review the drawings provided and think this over. At this time it would be costly and difficult to modify these plans. We are proceeding with final design for the project. Do not hesitate to call if you have additional questions.

- *There were two calls relating to tenant rights in the case of right of way acquisition. They were forwarded to DOT&PF's Right Of Way agent.*

Comments from social media:

- *ADOT&PF's Facebook page saw 26 shares, 30 likes, and 4 comments relating to posts about the Transportation Fair.*
- *Maybe someone can tell them that the traffic circles are dangerous and stupid for Alaska!!!!*

- Really smart putting one @ Bogard & Trunk. Anyone who has ever been at the 4 way stop @ Bogard and the soon to be "old" Trunk when the schools let out, would tell you only a imbecile would have designed a traffic circle @ Bogard and the "new" Trunk.
- It took a while to get used to the round about by the hospital, but I like it now. There is probably a good reason why it isn't wider, but having the room, I don't know why it isn't a few feet wider. It remains to be seen how the new one by colony high will work. It may be fine. I live by the hospital one, and have yet to see any glass being swept after an accident, nor any accidents.
- This event is during the dinner hour, will you have food? Yes, we will have light snacks, coffee and water available for attendees.

Other general comments from attendees:

- My group really likes how you set up this Transportation Fair. Would you be able, and willing, to send me any outline or organizational pieces of how you set it up?
- This was a fantastic event? Thanks so much for holding it. It was well-organized, the people helping at each station were both helpful & knowledgeable. And I was so impressed with the healthy food—the fruit & vegetables. Thanks!
- Great event! Lots of information. #1 Maybe some group or agency could give out big maps to better locate these various projects –so we do NOT forget when we leave. #2 – Public transit is going to be more & more important in the years ahead. Public transit needs more public exposure. So many folks do not know how MASCOT and Valley Mover serve residents. Please give them more publicity and exposure. Thank you.
- Make this event 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thanks.

Table 1. 2013 Mat-Su Transportation Fair Outreach

Date	Outreach Method
07/01/2013	Mat-Su Transportation Fair logo showing dates on the following Mat-Su area web sites: Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Glenn Highway MP 34-42 Museum Drive Extension Machen Road Extension Parks Highway MP 44-52 South Mack (Clapp Road) Extension Trunk Road: Parks Hwy to Palmer-Fishhook Road Mat-Su Borough
07/06/2013	Email notice and reminder via Constant Contact to the following project lists:
07/30/2013	Alaska Roundabouts, Parks Highway MP 44-52, Glenn Highway (MP 34-42), Lucille Reconstruction, Trunk Road: Proposed southern extension, South Mack Dr. (Clapp Road) Extension, Parks Connectors: Museum Dr & Machen Rd, Fairview Loop Rehabilitation, Trunk Rd: Parks Hwy-Palmer Fishhook, Mat Su Community Councils, Boards and Commissions 2012, Palmer-Wasilla Highway, Lucas Rd
07/25/2013	Request sent to the online calendars at Cities of Wasilla, Palmer, and Houston,

Date	Outreach Method
	the Mat-Su Borough, <i>Frontiersman</i> , <i>Anchorage Daily News</i> , and <i>Make a Scene</i>
07/29/2013	Postcard mailer sent to Parks Highway, Glenn Highway, Fairview Loop, Lucus Road, Clapp/South Mack Road, Palmer-Wasilla Highway, Petersville Road, Museum Road and Machen Road mailing lists.
Jul –Aug Ed.	Display advertising in <i>Make a Scene</i>
07/30/2013	DOT&PF letters to Parks Highway stakeholders affected by changed in Phase III (Pittman Road to Big Lake Road) right of way changes.
07/31/2013 08/07/2013	<i>Anchorage Daily News</i> , <i>Mat-Su Edition</i> display advertising
07/31/2013	Email invitation sent by CRW Engineering Group LLC to their Knik-Goose Bay Road project list.
08/02/2013	<i>Frontiersman</i> display advertising.
08/04/2013	Meadow Lake Community Council Email invitation sent mailing list subscribers
08/04/2013	<i>Frontiersman</i> printing of Transportation Fair project listing and layout.
08/02/2013 08/07/2012	Notices posted on the ADOT&PF, Mat-Su Borough, Alaska Railroad Corporation Facebook pages
08/03/2013 08/07/2013	Meeting notice via ADOT&PF Twitter feed
08/06/2013	<i>Frontiersman</i> article “Hit the Road, Transportation fair to answer your questions.”
08/09/2013	<i>Frontiersman</i> article “Trails, roundabouts among ideas at transportation fair”

Documents on file:

- Postcard Mailer
- Display Ad
- Mailing List
- Comment Sheets received at the meeting
- Sign-In Sheet
- Meeting Graphics