

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE KICK-OFF MEETING MINUTES

Thursday October 28, 2021, 3:00 – 4:30p.m.

MS Teams

Attendees:

- Kelly Summers – DOT&PF Project Manager
- Kevin Jackson – DOT&PF
- David Post – DOT&PF
- Scott Thomas – DOT&PF
- Eric Phillips - Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Brian Lindamood – ARRC
- Renee Whitesell – DOWL
- Katie Conway – DOWL
- Kristen Hansen – DOWL
- Doug Campbell – DOT&PF
- Archie Giddings – City of Wasilla
- Brad Sworts – Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Jason Ortiz – Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Shannon Johnson – USACE
- Andrew Gregory - USACE
- Steve Noble – DOWL
- Rachel Steer – DOWL
- Nina Horne - DOT&PF SEO

Renee Whitesell (DOWL Project Manager) gave an overview of the project, its history, and schedule.

Katie Conway (DOWL Public Involvement) introduced the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) intent and structure, meeting schedule, and expectations for participants. The intent is to host a TAC meeting in advance of each public meeting so that committee members can provide input prior to a broader public distribution of Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study milestones.

There was a discussion about agency participation. Renee clarified that the TAC should include representatives from multiple sub-groups within agencies (e.g. separate representatives from DOT&PF Traffic, Planning, and Environmental).

Renee gave an overview of the PEL Process as a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that:

- Considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process
- Uses the information, analysis, and products during planning to inform the environmental review process





Steve Noble (DOWL Contract Manager) introduced the Draft Partnership Agreement. He discussed the benefits of an agreement, especially for laying the groundwork on large projects. A Partnership Agreement can help bridge administrations, timelines, and staff changes, and it allows project partners to find alignment on the project vision.

There was a discussion about the benefits of partnership agreements, including providing the ability to define what the participants tentatively agree to. It is an acknowledgement that signatories will participate in a good faith effort to complete the PEL Process in a collaborative manner.

Brad Sworts (Mat-Su Borough, MSB) indicated the Borough Manager would sign the document after the MSB assembly has had the opportunity to review and discuss the project. He invited the project team to present the PEL Process to the MSB assembly.

Dave Post (DOT&PF) asked if the MSB Assembly would appreciate regular briefings and Brad said yes.

Archie Giddings (City of Wasilla) indicated the signatory process would be similar to the MSB.

Nina Horne (DOT&PF Statewide Environmental Office) said her agency would need to discuss the partnership agreement and would likely have comments on the agreement. A Partnership Agreement is not part of the PEL Guidebook recently published by the Statewide Environmental Office.

Brad Sworts suggested adding the City of Houston and Knik'atnu to the TAC and Partnership Agreement. There was also discussion about adding the Department of Natural Resources to the group. Renee noted that Knik'atnu are identified for invitation to participate in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and we would discuss whether it would be better to move them to the TAC within the project team.

Brian Lindamood (ARRC) said he would need to discuss who at ARRC would sign the partnership agreement. He affirmed that even if ARRC does not sign, this project is important and he is committed to participating in the TAC.

Andrew Gregory (USACE) said he was unable to confirm whether the Corps would sign and, if so, who the signatory would be. He would need to discuss with his supervisors (Calvin Alvarez and Shannon Johnson).

Renee shared project contact information and thanked the participants for their time.

