



MEETING SUMMARY

Presentation to City of Wasilla – February 28, 2022

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Project Manager Kelly Summers introduced the project and the consultant team. Consultant Project Manager Renee Whitesell provided an overview of the project background, Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, and an overview of the project schedule. Renee noted the first virtual public meeting is scheduled for the end of March. She noted that public and agency involvement were key aspects of the project, and a Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Committee have been established. The City of Wasilla had agreed to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee. The City’s representative was Mr. Archie Giddings, and he has been replaced by Ms. Danielle Bischoff.

A kick-off meeting was held on October 28, 2021, which provided an overview of the PEL Study and introduced a partnership agreement. The partnership agreement affirms a mutual commitment to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee, share information, provide opportunities to review and comment on draft planning materials prior to public review, communicating agency needs and priorities, work collaboratively with the intent to develop supportable planning products that can move into future NEPA project reviews, and use the work completed as part of the PEL Study to hasten the development of future projects that arise from the study. The Partnership Agreement is non-binding.

At the kick-off meeting the City of Wasilla’s representative requested that the project team present to the Council and request a resolution to enable the Partnership Agreement to be signed. Ms. Bischoff has noted she will assist with the resolution process and the Council can expect to see it on the next agenda. Renee noted the project website and invited questions.

Council Member	Question/Comment	Response
Sullivan-Leonard	The information included in the meeting packet and presented is quite general. How will I find where the proposed alternative corridor is located?	This is because the project is at its early stages and the locations of the alternative corridors have not yet been determined. This is part of the PEL Study process; corridors will be identified and evaluated prior to a preferred corridor(s) being identified.
Sullivan-Leonard	Why are you asking for a resolution of support now? Would it be better to wait until an alternative corridor is identified?	The resolution is to work together and share information as part of the project process, rather than in support of the final corridor. We will be back to speak with you at a future date about the corridor alternatives and potentially seek a resolution of support for the preferred alternative.

Council Member	Question/Comment	Response
Brown	When will the corridors be available to review?	The project has a three-year timeline. Corridor identification is scheduled for summer, and these will be available for review and comment at future open houses. The schedule was used to show future public outreach indicative dates.
Graham	DOT&PF have been trying to identify an alternative corridor for more than 40 years, and options south of Parks Highway have failed. They have made good progress on the Bogard Road corridor. Why is this not the focus?	Bogard Road is an intra-regional transportation corridor that will form part of a broader circulation network within the Mat-Su. This project is seeking to identify an inter-regional corridor that will serve a National Highway System function, catering for east-west traffic.
Graham	Couldn't Bogard Road be the major corridor?	Previous studies evaluated alternatives to the north of Parks Highway, but these were discounted due to environmental challenges, particularly the chain of lakes impeding connection back to the Parks Highway west of Wasilla. Therefore, our focus is on identifying corridors south of the Parks Highway.
Johnson	DOT&PF has been working on the Knik-Goose Bay Road for several years. Are there communications between this road and the alternative corridor project underway?	We are aware of this project and will work with the Knik-Goose Bay Road project team as they move their projects forward.