



MAT-SU TRANSPORTATION FAIR 2022 SUMMARY

October 20, 2022, 3:00 – 7:00p.m., Curtis D. Menard Sports Center, Wasilla

The Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and DOWL hosted a booth on the Parks Highway Alternative Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study at the Mat-Su Transportation Fair on Thursday, October 20, 2022. The booth included an enlarged Study Area Map, copies of the Project Fact Sheet, Project Sign Up Form, and Comments Form.

Approximately 100 people visited the booth, with 48 people signing up to the project mailing list.

The Study team spoke with the public, addressing questions, comments, and inviting the public to attend the Open House No. 2 on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Questions and Comments Received:

- Creekshore Subdivision:
 - Residents expressed concerns about the possibility of losing the value of their homes and neighborhood.
 - A resident heard that funding of \$50 million has been established for ROW acquisitions. The Study team quickly responded that this was not true, and that we are in the early stages and still studying the Parks Highway alternative corridor. The study is a federally funded project led by DOT&PF.
- Richmond View Subdivision: A resident expressed concerns for wildlife (birds, moose, bear) in the area.
- Consider alternative design of a raised highway for five miles through Wasilla.
- Consider alternative design of a below-grade highway with two lanes and fence in between, like Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA.
- Rather than an alternative corridor, consider a bridge development from Anchorage.
- Consider developing all the land at Point MacKenzie, including building stores and improving Knik-Goose Bay Road.
- Consider improving S. Clapp Street as some members of the public expressed experiencing long waits at intersections.
- Question: Why was the northside and southside of the study area not included in the study? The Study team responded that north of the study area is highly developed and includes a chain of lakes that would make a corridor development project more difficult or infeasible. The area south of the study area is a State Game Refuge that includes coastal and freshwater wetlands.
- Question: What percentage growth of traffic is travelling to and from Anchorage? The Study team responded that approximately 30 percent of the traffic is traveling to and from Anchorage.



- Property impacts:
 - Property value implications.
 - Potential difficulties in future house sales.
 - High costs of acquiring homes.
- Previous study's list of alternatives in the 2015 Conceptual Report: Will these alternatives be considered in the new PEL study? The team responded that this study is taking a fresh look at the area as conditions have changed since 2015.
- Schedule: When will construction take place? The team explained that this PEL study will be completed in winter 2023. The study will conduct an alternative evaluation process that may lead to a future project, but construction would be part of a future project development and delivery process with many steps in between.

Action Items/Next Steps

Project team:

- Develop PEL Process Board and PEL to Construction Timeline.
- Schedule Study update presentation to Mat-Su Borough Assembly.
- Schedule Study update presentation to Fairview Loop Community Council.
- Post meeting materials to project website.

