



## OPEN HOUSE #3 SUMMARY

**May 25, 2023, 4:30p.m. – 6:30p.m., Wasilla Public Library**

The meeting was held in person in the multi-purpose room at the Wasilla Public Library. The meeting format was an open house style, with no formal presentation. Attendees were greeted at the sign in table with project information. Attendees then entered the event room where informational boards lined the room, depicting project background, history, study area, schedule, PEL process, purpose and need statement, preliminary alternatives advancing for detailed alternative development, alternative screening and criteria, and information on the next steps in the study process.

Project team members were available to collect comments and answer questions. The project team collected feedback at a comments table and via an online survey available on the virtual StoryMap. The survey will be open through June 30, 2023.

More than 150 people participated, including members of the project team.

### Comment Summary:

- Additional alternative routes suggested:
  - Corridor ending near the Church Road and Parks Highway intersection
  - Bogard - Seldon Road
  - Knik-Goose Bay Road
  - Trunk Road
  - Expand the Parks Highway
  - Hermon Road to Clapp Street or Church Road intersection around Lake Lucille
  - Railroad corridor
  - Palmer Slough
  - Knik Arm bridge
    - Would direct development away from Wasilla
    - Should be a DOT&PF project with statewide benefits rather than an Anchorage-based project
- Support for the yellow route
- Support for the orange route
- Support for the combined purple, blue, black dashed route:
  - Closer to Parks Highway
  - Away from wetlands
- Opposition to the combined purple, blue, black dashed route and any routes using Fairview Loop





- Concerns with the yellow route:
  - Close to environmentally sensitive Wildlife Refuge
  - Too far away from the Parks Highway be used
  - Impacts to an agricultural conservation easement and productive farmland
  - Impacts to Snowshoe Elementary School
- Concerns with routes using Fairview Loop:
  - Residents chose that location for peace and quiet
  - Springs in the area ice over in the winter, causing road issues
  - Water table is high
  - Would increase travel and carbon footprint
  - Number of properties with direct access
- Environmental concerns:
  - Wetlands
  - Wildlife impacts:
    - Moose
    - Salmon
  - Habitat loss
  - Air pollution
  - Noise
  - Light pollution
- Suggestion to work with the Mat-Su Borough to limit population density, lot sizes, and land use
- Request for alternatives overlaying satellite imagery
- Concern with property impacts:
  - Concern with ROW acquisition
  - Concern with property value impacts
  - Decreased aesthetic value of properties
  - Fragment neighborhoods
  - Agricultural land impacts
  - Quality of life impacts
- Request to post all written comments on the website
- Request to include agriculture data in alternatives analysis:
  - Soil mapping
  - Farmland
  - Grazing land
  - Horticulture
  - Agriculture heritage
  - Potential future use



- Request to add a representative of the farming and agriculture community to the advisory committee
- Support for an alternative corridor to open Wasilla city center downtown to become a gathering place for community events, such as a wine walk or music in the park
- Support for non-motorized facilities with a tree buffer along the roadway
- Criticism of meeting format:
  - Requests for formal presentation
  - Complaints that the room was overcrowded

## Action Items/Next Steps:

### Project team:

- Update Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with comments from public.
- Post meeting materials to project website.
- Post public comments with contact details redacted.

