

Meeting Details

Purpose: Seward Glenn PEL Agency and Tribes Committee Kickoff Meeting
Date: October 20th, 2021
Time: 1:30pm AKT
Location: Conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Kelly Summers – AK DOT & PF	Tom Korosei – MOA Parks
Douglas Campbell – AK DOT& PF	Liz Ortiz – AK DNR, SHPO
Brian Elliot – AK DOT&PF	Ralph Gibbs – Merrill Field
Kevin Jackson – AK DOT&PF	John McPherson – HDR
Aaron Jongenelen – AMATS	Taylor Horne – HDR
Bob Charles – Knik Tribal Council	Laurie Cummings – HDR
Brian Lindamood – ARRC	Josie Wilson – HDR
Kristine Bunnell – MOA Planning	Tyler Remkus – HDR

Summary

Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all attendees.

John introduced the project. He explained that the purpose is to identify transportation problems and solutions between the Seward and Glenn highways in the downtown area, including connections to the Port of Alaska.

John explained that this committee is important because it is helpful to have tribal and agency input early in a project before moving into National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Laurie reviewed the history of the corridor and the study area.

Taylor explained the purpose and benefits of a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. He also explained the PEL public input process.

John reviewed the project schedule and current activities.

Bob asked a clarifying question about the purpose of a PEL as it relates to NEPA. John explained that there is overlap between the PEL process and the NEPA process. He said it is important for tribes and agencies to stay engaged during the PEL process because some of the items accomplished in the PEL will not be revisited again during the NEPA process.

Ralph mentioned that Merrill Field is in a prominent location in the study area and that he understands why he was invited. John responded that several of the solutions identified in previous studies would have impacts to Merrill Field.

Tom mentioned the possibility of using previously accomplished studies to aid in this effort rather than re-accomplishing work. John said that part of the process in initiating the PEL has been to review previously accomplished studies and refresh the data only when needed. John explained that there will be a fresh look at traffic forecasts because many variables have changed.

Kristine asked whether historic and cultural data gathered during the Seward Highway to Glenn Highway Connection project (H2H) was going to be updated and used. John said that the project team examined the historical data from H2H and looked at State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) databases to see what's been updated since that time but that at this time new historic/cultural studies are not planned.

Kristine also asked whether travel demand predictions would include bike and pedestrian travel. John said that the Travel Demand Model includes bike and pedestrian estimates, but there is more uncertainty about those estimates than about vehicular travel estimates.

Bob asked whether crash mitigation and traffic safety are considered by the PEL. John explained that these are within the scope of the PEL.

Kristine asked if the Fairview Neighborhood Plan recommendations would be considered as a part of the PEL. John answered that those plans will be reviewed and considered.

Josie reviewed the Agency and Tribal Committee Charter.

Liz asked whether this project is primarily state or federally funded. John said it is primarily federally funded through Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS). Ultimate decision-making authority on the PEL itself will lie with the state-wide environmental office.

Bob asked if there are current GIS files for this project. John says that a list of the files collected will be sent out to committee members following this meeting.

Josie shared the project website and project email address:

- <http://sewardglennmobility.com/>
- info@sewardglennmobility.com

Kelly provided closing comments and expressed gratitude to committee members for their participation.

Action Items/Next Steps

Committee members should:

- Provide feedback on materials as they are shared
- Participate in the Virtual Public Meeting #1 (January) & upcoming committee meetings
- Identify transportation issues and considerations for the PEL Study
- Watch their email for future communications

Action Items:

- HDR will share a list of existing GIS files with the committee (see Appendix A)

Appendix A

The MOA GIS data was downloaded from: <https://moa-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/pages/data> in May 2021. The downloaded datasets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Downloaded MOA GIS data

Feature Class Name	Description
_100_Scale_Grid	MOA 100 Scale Grid
_500_Scale_Grid	MOA 500 Scale Grid
Address_Point	Address Points
Airport_Boundaries	Airfield Boundaries in the MOA
Airport_Runways	Airfield Runways in the MOA
Alleys_by_Surface_Type	Alleys maintained by street maintenance
Assembly_Districts	Assembly District Links
Benchmarks	MOA Survey Benchmarks
Building_Safety_Service_Area	MOA Building_Safety_Service_Area
Buildings	Buildings
Bus_Routes	Bus Routes
Bus_Stops	Bus Stops
Community_Councils	Community Council Links
DRAINAGE_SUBBASINS	MOA Watershed Subbasins
Drainageway_Nodes	Municipality of Anchorage Watershed Section Drainageways
Drainageways	Municipality of Anchorage Watershed Section Drainageways
EASEMENTS	Easements managed by the Land Records department within the Municipality of Anchorage
FireStations_Hosted	Fire Stations
Generalized_Zoning_Districts	Zoning in Municipality of Anchorage
Lakes	Lakes
LUP_MuniWide_Hosted	Combined set for Anchorage and Eagle River Land Use data
Maintained_Sidewalks	Maintained Sidewalks within the MOA
Marine	WMS_Marine for Municipality of Anchorage
Military_Boundary	Military Lands Boundary
Minimum_Design_Wind_Speeds	Minimum "Three Second Gust" Design Wind Speds by IBC Risk Category and IRC

MOA_Parcels	The current inventory of land parcels owned or managed by the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Municipality_of_Anchorage_Boundary	Municipality of Anchorage Boundary
NordicTrails	Anchorage Nordic Trails
ParcelFabric_LotsAndUnits	Lots and Units
Park_Facilities	Edit service for Parks and Rec facilities
Park_Land	MOA Parks & Recreation Land and Facilities
ParksRec_Trails_Merged	ParksRec_Trails_Merged
PropertyInformation	PropertyInformation
Quarter_Grids	Soil Borings with links to scanned documents
Railroad_Tracks	Alaska Railroad tracks within the Municipality of Anchorage
Recycling_Locations	Recycling Locations within the Municipality of Anchorage
Road_Impedance_Permanent	These are permanent road impedances
Seismic_Zones	Historical Seismic Zones
Shoreline	WMS Shoreline Date
Soil_Borings	Soil Borings with links to scanned documents
STREAMS	MOA Watershed Streams
Street_Lights_by_Maintenance	MOA Street Light Maintenance Responsibility
Streets	Municipality of Anchorage streets hosted layer containing streets and not built streets
Streets___Not_Built	Municipality of Anchorage streets hosted layer containing streets and not built streets
SUBDIVISIONS	MOA Anchorage Subdivisions
Tax_Assessment_Districts	Tax Assessment Districts
Tax_Districts	Parcels Symbolized by Tax District for Municipality of Anchorage
TaxParcels_Hosted	MOA Tax Parcels Hosted
Township_Range_Section	Township_Range_Section_Hosted
WATERSHEDS	MOA Watershed Watershed Boundaries
WETLANDS	Watershed Wetland Mapping
Wetlands1950_Hosted	Wetlands1950_Hosted
Zipcodes	MOA Zip codes