

Meeting Details

Purpose: Seward Glenn PEL Community Advisory Committee Kickoff Meeting
Date: October 20th, 2021
Time: 4:00pm AKT
Location: Conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Kelly Summers – AK DOT & PF	John McPherson – HDR
Allen Kemplen – Fairview Community Council	Taylor Horne – HDR
Gordon Glaser – Anchorage Senior Activity Center	Laurie Cummings – HDR
Joe Michel – Alaska Trucking Association	Josie Wilson – HDR
Aaron Jongenlen – AMATS	Tyler Remkus – HDR
Tiffany Santos – Fairview Community Center	
Kristen Swann – Mountain View Community Council	

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.

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.

Allen asked about the federal planning factors and asked which ones have applicability to this project. He also asked whether the project team intends to discuss the planning factors. John answered that within the environmental setting there is intended to be a review of the applicable plans that are in place for the project area. The project team hadn't intended to have a discussion of the federal planning factors because they relate to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan as a whole.

Allen commented that this is a significant corridor, and he believes there should be a significant planning effort focused on the corridor. John responded that the PEL study serves as a plan for the corridor.

Allen asked if the PEL plans to create a vision for the corridor. John responded that a PEL will often include goals and objectives.

Allen commented that there is a need for a more robust planning effort. He expressed that the past studies have resulted in no action and that he believes this is due to a lack of vision for the corridor.

Allen asked if the project team has a financial analysis within the scope of work for this project. John answered that there is financing and phasing analysis within the overall scope of the project but that it is not in the current notice to proceed.

Allen said he ultimately wants action taken and that his community is tired of the burden they have to bear. He wants to see practical solutions implemented.

Gordon asked where the Municipality of Anchorage stands on this project and wants to know if there is support from the administration to move the project forward. John answered that the project is currently funded, and that the city staff is engaged. Gordon responded that he would like to see a commitment from the city that the project will move forward.

Allen commented that a vision for the corridor could help bring people together and get concurrence on the project. John replied that there is an Executive Committee that includes key decision makers from the Municipality of Anchorage. Citizens are welcome to show up to those Executive Committee meetings and express their thoughts on the project. DOT&PF's Statewide Environmental Office will ultimately be responsible for providing oversight for the PEL when it comes to anything that will go into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Josie reviewed the Community Advisory Committee Charter.

Allen would like to see the Fairview Business Association invited to the committee. The project team will discuss inviting the Fairview Business Association.

Allen would like to know the membership of the other committees. The project team will provide a list of organizations participating in the other committees.

Allen commented that the lack of certainty regarding this project has had significant negative economic impact on this corridor for decades.

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

Based on the committee discussion the following action items will be undertaken by the team:

- The project team will provide an answer as to whether the Fairview Business Association can be invited to send a representative to the committee.
 - DOT&PF has decided to invite the Fairview Business Association to participate on the Community Advisory Committee.
- The project team will share a list of organizations participating in the other PEL committees on the project web site.
- All committee meeting materials (presentations, agendas, handouts, and minutes) will be posted on the project web site.
- The project team will provide a review of federal planning factors in the environmental setting memo.
 - DOT&PF has decided to include information about the federal planning factors in the environmental setting memo and/or the system performance technical memo.
- The project team will provide a summary of the vision for the corridor, as expressed in adopted plans, in the system performance technical memo and/or environmental setting memo.
 - DOT&PF has decided to include information about the corridor/study area vision as expressed in adopted plans in the system performance technical memo and/or environmental setting memo.