

Meeting Details

Purpose: Seward Glenn PEL Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2
Date: March 9th, 2022
Time: 4:00pm AKT
Location: Conducted Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Kelly Summers – DOT&PF	Bill Popp – Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
James Starzec – DOT&PF	Mikhail Siskoff – Airport Heights Community Council
Matt Dietrick – DOT&PF	Carolyn Ramsey – Airport Heights Community Council
Doug Campbell – DOT&PF	John McPherson – HDR
Kevin Jackson – DOT&PF	Taylor Horne – HDR
Allen Kempen – Fairview Community Council	Laurie Cummings – HDR
Joe Michel – Alaska Trucking Association	Josie Wilson – HDR
Aaron Jongenelen – AMATS	Alice Rademacher - HDR
Larry Michael - Third Avenue Radicals	
Tiffany Santos – Fairview Community Center	

Summary

Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all attendees for joining the meeting.

Josie went over the agenda and noted the purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the first Public Meeting, go over the next step in the project which is PEL Process Step 3, present the upcoming public outreach planned, and solicit ideas on how to improve the next public meeting.

Josie commented that this meeting is being recorded for notetaking purposes and the minutes will be posted to the website. These actions are taken to ensure the study's processes remain transparent.

After a technology check and roll call, the meeting moved to the first agenda item. Josie noted that the virtual public meeting recording and the archived online open house are available on the project website at www.sewardglennmobility.com. She reviewed the draft Virtual Public Meeting and Online Open House Summary (Attachment A). The summary and the comment log will be posted to the Project website once they are finalized.

The Virtual Public Meeting and Online Open House Summary indicates that 76 people attended the January 27, 2022 Virtual Public Meeting and the Online Open House had 1,862 views. In terms of advertising and outreach, the following actions were taken:

- 4 E-blasts were sent to 221 recipients
- 3 Facebook posts were published
- 3,709 newsletters and postcards were mailed
- The project team attended and presented at 4 community council meetings
- 2 info kiosks were hosted at the Fairview Recreation Center and the Carrs on Gambell St.
- 5 meetings were held with local community groups
- 2 ads were placed in the Anchorage Daily News
- 15 business and schools in the study area received flyers

In terms of comments:

- 60 comments were received at the Virtual Public Meeting
- 203 were received through the Online Open House Interactive Comment Map
- 63 were received through the online comment form
- 4 were received through phone
- 89 were received through email

Allen responded that he likes the visual summary format as opposed to a written summary.

Laurie went over the comments received from commentors regarding the transportation needs within the study area. Most of the comments dealt with alternatives or non-motorized needs in the study area. A smaller number of comments were received about other issues (i.e., quality of life, safety, screening criteria suggestions, traffic environmental justice, stakeholder engagement, land use, etc.). Overall, the comments covered a wide range of potential issues and solutions. All of the comments will be added as an appendix in the system performance report and reviewed by the project team throughout the study. A few comments received were more appropriate for other planning processes such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and those comments will be sent to them for consideration.

Taylor informed the meeting attendees that the information received during the first public meeting will feed directly into the next step of the study which is the development of the purpose and need as well as the evaluation criteria. Drafts of these items will be presented for review at the second public meeting.

John added that the feedback from the public will be combined with the report and analytical data to determine the purpose and need as well as the evaluation criteria.

Allen commented that he hopes the project team does a good job of compiling the comments and producing nice visualizations of what the submitted concerns are. He also shared an article from the Anchorage Daily News (ADN) that covered a pedestrian death within the study area. Allen believes nonmotorized use in the study area needs to be a priority as it is a significant issue. Josie thanked Allen for his comment and said that the ADN article will be added to the

project documentation. She will also connect with Allen outside of the meeting to get feedback on what he is envisioning for the meeting and online open house visual summary.

Josie added that the next public meeting will be hosted in May. As soon as the date is identified the CAC will be asked to participate in the meeting as well as help to promote the upcoming public engagement opportunities. At the meeting in May, we will be asking for feedback on the purpose and need statement as well as the alternative screening criteria. The next newsletter will also contain some of this information. The newsletter will be mailed and emailed out. If you would like to have a physical copy sent to you, please email the project team to make sure you are on the hardcopy distribution list. Also, if you'd like to have hardcopies available for your group, please email us your address and how many copies you would like to have. The study team is happy to drop hardcopies off at your locations.

Josie asked the CAC members if they preferred for the second public meeting to be hosted in person or virtually.

Carolyn and Allen commented that they would prefer a hybrid where the meeting is offered in-person and virtually at the same time.

Mikhail commented that virtual meetings are convenient but when considering the equity aspect not all the members of this community have access to a computer and would need to present their ideas and comments at an in-person or hybrid event.

Larry commented that a hybrid meeting or one of each type would be the preferred hosting method of the Third Avenue Radicals.

Tiffany and Joe commented that a hybrid meeting option would be a good option for the second public meeting.

Josie transitioned to the next agenda item and asked the CAC members for their feedback on the advertisement methods used for the public meetings.

Mikhail commented that radios ads with Alaska News Source should be placed in addition to the Anchorage Daily News ads.

Allen commented that the study team should reach out to churches along the Ingrid-Gambell corridor to ask them to let their members know about the meeting. He also suggested that the project team create a visualization of the community's concerns. The visualization could identify comment hotspots. Josie responded that she would connect with Allen offline to get feedback on what he is envisioning for the meeting and online open house visual summary.

Bill Popp added that the outreach should not be limited to the communities near the proposed route. This project is a critical issue for the future of Anchorage. There are many needs to balance given that the current highway runs through downtown and is not the most favorable for large trucks to travel on, etc. These are critical issues that involve the entire city of Anchorage, so involving other organizations and groups is needed. He added that the nuances

that have been brought out in today's meeting are great. He added that equity and inclusion elements of the Project are going to be critically important for the neighborhoods in the study area. Also, he noted the community councils are already fully engaged, and he is glad to see them in this conversation. Bill also believes involvement of other community groups is going to be equally important, and he also expressed the need for the Project to benefit a wide range of stakeholders.

Josie thanked Bill for his comment and asked for him to send her the name of any groups that should be communicated with and added to the Study's distribution list.

Joe Michel commented that the Alaska Trucking Association is an active participant in this process. Their main concerns deal with moving needed items around the state. He invited the Project team to contact him if the study needs more information from the Trucking Association.

Josie thanked the CAC for their feedback and noted that even though this meeting is wrapping up they are always welcome to call or email the study team with future suggestions or feedback.

She asked the CAC attendees if they had any questions about anything that was brought up during today's meeting.

Allen asked if a quantification of the current pedestrian infrastructure was captured between now and the first CAC meeting. John responded that the system performance memo will have the available data on this topic. He is not sure if there is an intention to conduct a study specifically on the walking and biking travel in the study area. Kelly added that AMATS just released their non-motorized plan that contains an abundance of data. The data AMATS has collected and the work they have done will be incorporated into the study.

Allen added that the study should be making travel safe for commuters traveling at all speeds from 15mph to 45mph.

Josie added that Alice has documented the action items from the meeting, and she thanked the meeting attendees for providing such great and valuable feedback to the project team.

Kelly concluded the meeting by thanking the CAC members for participating and having great discussion during the meeting. She looks forward to seeing how the study progresses and urged the CAC to reach out to her by email at info@sewardglennmobility.com or phone at 907-206-2289 with any future comments or questions.

Action Items/Next Steps

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

- Josie will connect with Allen offline to get feedback on what he is envisioning for the meeting and online open house visual summary.
- Josie will connect with Joe Michel prior to the next CAC meeting on how the Project can best communicate with the Alaska Trucking Association members.



Seward Highway to Glenn Highway Connection Planning and Environmental Linkages Study

Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Notes

- When the next Public Meeting date is finalized, Josie will ask the CAC members to help promote and participate in the meeting.