

# Roadshow No. 1

## Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center, Fairbanks, Alaska

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 | 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### Attendees

On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, approximately 32 community members attended a public open house in Fairbanks hosted by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) as part of Roadshow No. 1. There were seven Interior Alaska Transportation Plan (IATP) project team members and one member of project team for Alaska Richardson Steese Highway Corridor Action Plan. The Corridor Action Plan team member was invited due to the significant interest in the proposed increased industrial use of the highway by the proposed Kinross Mahn Choh Mine ore-hauling operation from Tetlin, Alaska to Fort Knox.

The comments and concerns heard by the project team can be categorized into railroad, road improvements, non-motorized transportation, other public facilities, Tetlin to Fort Knox, community values, and additional questions for DOT&PF.

### Railroad

- 2-mile-long siding Murphy Dome Road.
- Railroad extensions to the North American rail grid to improve commerce.
- Railroad extension within the state to Delta Junction, Tok, Manley, and near the head of the Ambler Road.
- Extend the railroad for heavy haulage, such as ore and military personnel and equipment.
- Relocate the main rail yard and clean up the site for redevelopment.

### Road Improvements

- Interchange needed at Old Richardson Highway and Richardson Highway
- Question about construction activity at the intersection of Steese Highway and Johannsen Expressway.
- Concern about lack of pull outs on the Richardson Highway near North Pole.
- Connect Chena Hot Springs Road to Steese Highway near Central.

- Road from Dalton Highway to Stevens Village.
- Road from Elliot Highway to Rampart.
- Road from Nenana to Totchaket.
- Concern with the Ambler Road project's impact on Dalton Highway.
- Consider economic impacts and benefits of bringing a road to a future large port in Kotzebue or Nome rather than connecting to the existing highway system.

## Non-motorized Transportation

- Consider high pedestrian areas, such as the hotels by Walmart, to improve crossing locations and facilities.
- Additional bicycle facilities on the Richardson Highway near Salcha.
- Trails identified – Historic Stampede Trail, Alaska Range Trail, trail to Kennecott, and Tazlina pathway.

## Other Public Facilities

- Keep highway restroom facilities open year-round.
- Add covered parking at Fairbanks International Airport to improve safety, reduce plowing obstacles, improve Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access, and increase access to vehicle electrical outlets.
- Develop a website or application to identify inoperable streetlights, including location, date, and time.
- Use funding to build aesthetically pleasing infrastructure, such as stamped concrete and avoiding chain link fencing.

## Tetlin to Ft. Knox Concerns

- Prohibit longer combination vehicles (LCVs) on Peger Road and Johansen Expressway. Keep them out of the serious non-attainment area.
- Safety concerns with a school near the highway.
- Noise impacts from area topography.
- Consider a financed industrial haul road for restricted access industrial ore haul route.
- Reject heavy ore haul from Tetlin to Ft. Knox. It is dangerous and does not make sense.
- Plan for ore haul from Tetlin to Ft. Knox off public highways.
- Consider railroad extension or separate haul road built and maintained by the companies.
- Concern for condition of roads and bridges to handle heavy vehicles associated with mining operations.

## Community Values

- Maintain and augment subsistence access and protections.
- Protection for cultural resources.
- Tourism is the future, plan for access.
- DOT&PF should host a Transportation Fair in Fairbanks to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about and discuss existing roadway projects.
- Consider the Dot Lake Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- Requests by tribal organization members to join the working group.

## Additional Questions for DOT&PF

- Where can the public find information on the current condition of road and bridges?
- What is the status and plan for the construction activity at the intersection of Steese Highway and Johansen Expressway? Where can the public find out more about this project?
- Why are there passing lanes on the Richardson Highway near North Pole and not pull outs?