

Interior Alaska Roadshow No. 1

In His Shadow Mile 252 Parks Highway, Healy, Alaska

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 11 community members and four project team members attended an open house hosted by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) at In His Shadow at Mile 252 of Parks Highway in Healy. The concerns and suggestions expressed by the community focused on access, safety, maintenance and operations, non-motorized transportation, and tourism.

Access

- Access to health care is only seasonal. Volunteer emergency responders must travel far to be able to access a clinic or hospital in the winter.
- No local physician currently in town.
- Out of state travel to or from the state of Alaska is difficult due to the lack of access to airports.

Safety

- No turn lanes on the Parks Highway make turns onto local access roads unsafe during heavy traffic.
- Crashes tend to be more severe due to the ability to drive at higher speeds based on the area's remoteness and wildlife along the corridor.
- Speed limits are too high, and vehicles travel too fast.
 - Addition of signs displaying vehicle speeds, including a flashing light to warn other drivers of a high-speed vehicle that they may not be able to see or gauge the speed (referenced Parks Highway milepost (MP) 336).
 - Signage to indicate blind corners and suggestion to lower speed limits.
- Concern with the number of accidents around MP 206, between Jack River and Pass Creek.

Maintenance and Operations

- Poorly maintained frost heaves result in poor winter road conditions.
- The existing conditions on some sections of road in the community such as Parks Highway MP 206.

Non-Motorized Transportation

- Lack of non-motorized transportation facilities.
- Pedestrians must use an unsafe narrow bridge shared with motorized traffic to access trailheads.
- Historic Stampede Trail has been ruined due to new infrastructure.
- Suggestion for a bicycle path from Nenana to Cantwell that is opposite the side of the road that has the ATV trails.
- Suggestion for a pedestrian bridge at the McKinley Village closer to the road bridge, discouraging pedestrians from walking across the highway bridge instead of trekking down to the planned pedestrian bridge.
- The community is very trail focused and is planning for future trails to link to the Alaska Long Trail and others.

Tourism

- The influx of summer tourism population is often not taken into consideration when decisions are made.
- Tourism traffic increases the need for turn lanes.
- Consider summer tourism when creating plans and selecting State Transportation Improvements Projects.