

# Roadshow No. 1

## Tok Senior Center, Tok, Alaska

Friday, May 26, 2023 | 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

On Friday, May 26, 2023, two community members and five project team members attended an open house hosted by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) at the Tok Senior Center.

Tok was described by a community member as a location where people move to get away from conforming to a structured government and be a part of a community comes together in the winter to maintain local roads to ensure equal access. A small and well-connected community does not negate the potential for concerns and suggestions focusing on safety, maintenance and operations, aviation, access, policy creation, and additional questions for DOT&PF.

### Safety

- Width of roads and lack of shoulders is a concern. Not many areas to pull over for safety.
- Lack of passing lanes.
- Worries on safety of additional projects in the area due to how quick they seem to be moving.
- Number of trucks on the highways in the area
  - Breaking systems
  - Speeds
  - Weight
  - Inexperienced drivers

### Maintenance and Operations

- Several bridges in the area have been identified as being outdated and in need of updating or replacement.
  - Suggestion of addition of two new bridges to accommodate increased truck traffic.
- Concern with roads and bridges ability to withstand prolong use by heavy-loaded trucks
- Would like to see DOT&PF Maintenance and Operations (M&O) focus on working closer with local entities.
- Additional funding for road maintenance.
  - Tok Highway Cut Off identified as needing additional maintenance.

## Aviation

- Regional airport has been a topic of conversation for 20-25 years.
- A crosswind runway is only available in Tanacross.
- Addition of crosswind runway at Tok airport.
  - Tanacross Inc. owns the land where a crosswind runway would be able to be placed.
  - Would address safety concerns.
  - Would promote economic development.
  - Would create potential suitable location for a US Customs Station, Air Traffic Control Tower, and additional support facilities.
- Tail dragger and light sport need gravel.
- Nose wheel needs pavement.
- Gravel freezes in the winter and becomes unsafe.
- DOT&PF plows the Tok Airport but not the Tanacross airport.

## Access

- Access south of Tok is less frequent than access north of Tok, this can be influenced by things such as number of trucks on the road or the surface conditions.

## Policy Creation

- There is a need for the community to be involved in higher level policy need discussions such as the decisions for utilities located in the DOT&PF right-of-way (ROW).
- Expressed a concern that there is an unclear definition of public purpose when used in the planning process.
- Suggest for levying tax on large products coming through the area, but not the residents.

## Additional Questions for DOT&PF

- How much weight does a plan like this hold, when projects such as the MTA fiber optic line installation within DOT&PF right-of-way lacked public input?
- Has long-range planning consideration been made for the designated utility corridor through this area?
- Does DOT&PF have regulations for fiber optics in DOT&PF ROW?
- How does the State of Alaska engage with citizens who live in the unorganized borough and now have these new significant utilities and/or facilities come into the region?

What would DOT&PF say if a corporation were to want to lay another fiber optic cable next to the current one?