



**Glenn Highway MP 34-42
Reconstruction**

Parks Highway to Old Glenn Highway
ADOT&PF Project 58104/ Federal Project NH-0A1-5(24)

Meeting Notes

SUBJECT: 2011 Mat-Su Transportation Fair
PROJECT NO.: 3926.09 / Glenn Highway 34-42
GROUP: Public Meeting
DATE: September 15, 2011
TIME: 4-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Alaska State Fairgrounds, Raven Hall, 2075 Glenn Highway

MEETING OUTREACH:

- Print Ads in *Anchorage Daily News* (9/7/11 and 9/14/11), *Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman* (9/1/11 and 9/14/11)
- Postcard mailers to the following project mailing lists: Glenn Highway MP 34-42; Parks Highway MP 44-42; Fairview Loop; Palmer Wasilla Highway Eastern Terminus, South Mack (Clapp Street); and South Mack Grade Separated Crossing.
- E-mails to all Brooks & Associates Mat-Su Project email lists, MSB Boards and Commissions, MSB elected officials, and Sen. Huggins e-mail subscribers.
- Flyers/posters distributed to local businesses, related project meetings, borough offices.
- PSAs sent to radio and television stations by the Mat-Su Borough and posted to the MSB 1300 Facebook Fans and the 50 Twitter subscribers.
- Alaska Mobility Coalition posted the flyer on their Facebook page and also in the September newsletter.
- Announcements on all related B&A project websites.
- Senator Huggins' office sent notice to the Senator's email list.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: 252 signed in (of those, 48 were exhibitors)

MEETING MATERIALS: Each project provided their own materials

STAFF PRESENT: B&A: Anne Brooks, Kathy Burgess, Joann Mitchell, Dara Glass
Various project representatives

MEETING INFORMATION:

The purpose of this meeting was to provide a location where interested residents could access information and answers to questions regarding Mat-Su Area transportation projects. 252 people signed in at the door. The meeting had an open house format, where visitors could browse the many booths, or go directly to their area of interest. Refreshments were provided in the rear of the building. An area with activities for children was provided.

ADOT&PF, The Alaska Railroad Corporation, the Mat-Su Borough, the City of Palmer, and the City of Wasilla all had areas with their specific projects. Additional booths included: MASCOT, Valley Mover, VPSI Van Pool, Chickaloon Area Transit System, Forget-Me-Not Mission, Roundabout Driving Tips, Alaska Mobility Coalition, MSB Bond Information (Roads and Schools), Knik Arm Crossing, and the MSB Parks and Trails Foundation. (See attached meeting agenda and map.)

The Glenn Highway project manager talked with about 2-dozen different business and property owners that will be affected by the project. All were in general support of the project but had questions about how the project would specifically affect their property. The project manager explained that the team was getting ready to kick off design, so graphics show concept, but that design could/probably would refine/change the final effects). Other folks wanted to know the project schedule. The team shared the project fact sheet which contained the schedule and explained that right of way needs would be identified around the Plans in Hand in Fall 2012, with right of way acquisition expected begin in Winter 2012/2013.

Access was a major theme in the questions raised by the public—specifically how the access might change with a divided highway and where it would be possible to make U-turns. The other question of note was whether the team was planning on putting traffic signals at any of the intersections. The project manager explained that the design would be performing a warrant analysis at each of the intersections and would be installing signals where warranted.

The project manager fielded lots of general questions that all came down to showing the current concept and explaining the design process would be working to refine the concept as we move forward.

As visitors left the meeting, they were once again asked to fill out an anonymous meeting evaluation form. The feedback was overall positive and appreciative for the 1-stop-many projects approach. When asked to rate the meeting from 1 (poor) to 6 (excellent), the average response was a 5 (this is the same response as last year). Positive comments about the meeting included:

“Let me look at many projects and ask questions.”

“There were well informed representatives.”

“Able to see how the projects fit together (or don’t).”

“Multiple agencies in one place”

“The event was well thought out and the activities for the kids were an excellent touch”

“Lots of graphics and best of all many well informed people to answer questions asked and even the ones we didn’t ask.”

One comment on the evaluation related directly to the Glenn Highway project – “Glenn project will affect us—so far I like it.”

A few of the negative comments included:

“Have people that can actually answer your question. The people you have just field the questions.” (this was heard a couple of times).

“The meeting was lousy because no genuine public input is sought. The plans are cast in stone.”

We received comments that will help us improve future Mat-Su Transportation fairs.

- Several of the booths had information but no one present to answer questions. The organizing group should discuss whether this should be discouraged in the future as the purpose of the meeting is to allow the public to ask questions and get answers.
- One commenter wanted us to start later.
- Other commenters wanted more food.

Related documents on file:

Sign-in sheets

Handouts (blank comment sheet)

Written Comment Sheets Received at meeting

Mailing list for project mailers

Postcard mailer