



Glenn Highway MP 34-42 Reconstruction

Parks Highway to Old Glenn Highway

Event Notes

SUBJECT: Glenn Highway MP 34-42 Reconstruction
Parks Highway to Old Glenn Highway Pathway
Colleen Street Intersection and Frontage Road

PROJECT NUMBERS: 0A15024/Z581040000, 0A15032/CFHWY00029,
0A15033/CFHWY00006

GROUP: Public

DATE: Thursday, September 12, 2019

TIME: 3 to 7 p.m.

LOCATION: Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds
2075 Glenn Highway, Palmer, Alaska

OUTREACH: See Table 1. Event Outreach

ATTENDANCE: 425 people signed in

STAFF PRESENT: *DOT&PF:* Sean Baski, Todd Smith, Ericka Moore, Jodi Granholm
HDL: Carita Backman, Avery Larsen

EVENT INFORMATION:

Attendees were greeted at the door and asked to sign in. Over 100 Mat-Su area transportation projects and programs were represented at 47 booths. Community members were encouraged to ask questions of the project teams and to provide verbal and written comments.

The project team recorded the following verbal comments about the Glenn Highway Reconstruction project.

- Most people were happy with the construction in Phase 1, Todd Smith (DOT&PF) and crews were praised for good work.
- There was a question about the sign that used to let people on the Springer road system know if the train was blocking the road. There is an app that shows the closures in real time using webcams. On a smart phone, download and install “Avertx GO!” from the apps store. Username: Springer, Password: 1234, Port: 80, IP Address av128022.avertxdds.com.
- Most people did not like that Phase 2 was shifted to 2021 construction.
- One commenter wanted the Echo Lake parking area/turnout to be put back in the project.
- One commenter said the existing Echo Lake parking area is hazardous.
- There were several questions about if the signals, for Phase 1, would be installed by this fall. *Yes, they will be.*
- Many positive questions about construction and schedules.
- Public generally happy with the project.

- Many people were happy with how flagging operations have been conducted.
- Most liked that the pathway will be constructed for length of project, however, there were requests to have pathway continued to connect to Wasilla in future projects.
- Several positive comments about the location and signalization of the Colleen Street intersection.
- A few people raised concerns about access to Kepler Lakes, with no right turn pocket and having to make U-turns.

The project team recorded the following written comments about the Glenn Highway Reconstruction project. The comments are verbatim, and any emphasis is the commenter's own.

- Kepler access right-turn pocket, U-turn for RV/trailer.
- East Kepler Lake access need some work, existing access will create accidents for people accessing campground. Need pull over lanes or different access points.
- It's the best driving road in Alaska, of course you're going to wreck it, just turn us into Florida why don't you?
- Hello, Anne, I am so excited to see an informational meeting like this regarding the HUGE, AMAZING highway and roads project in the Palmer area. It is terribly unfortunate that it is on just about the worst day and at the worst time possible-- the democratic presidential debate, which runs from 4 to 7 pm AKT on September 12. Any chance you can change when this Transportation Fair will take place? Maybe the same time on September 18 or 19? Have there been any other such fairs that I've not known about? Any other place I can find information on this project besides alaskanavigator.org? Please tell me-- there must be drone video footage or other videos taken periodically of all the work done. While I am not pleased Palmer is now looking like Wasilla, this is such a fascinating project. I sure hope there are time-lapse (-ish) videos taken or at least time-lapse photos. Please send me the link to where I can access these. Will there be someone or two who give a full presentation on the work done? I imagine there could be several different presentations emphasizing different aspects of the project. Thanks for the fair, even if I cannot attend. Palmer resident.
- Online comment prompt: What aspects of the project do you like? *Safety.*
- Online comment prompt: What should the project team be sure to consider? *Lighting along the highway like to Anchorage and Wasilla. Treat Palmer the same and give us the same highway lighting.*
- Online comment prompt: What should the project team be sure to consider? *Pulling out of McDonalds with the road expanded there you cannot see oncoming traffic! Is something going to be done about that or wait till after Mom's with kids get t-boned! Then have to put another light there because of poor planning!*

When asked "what projects are you interested in?" on the sign-in sheet, people submitted the responses shown in the word cloud below. Larger words indicate more people wrote down the project.



WordItOut

Regarding the Transportation Fair in general, attendees submitted the following comments about the event. Team responses were included when applicable and available.

- Once again you pick a time when everyone is out of town on a hunting trip to hold a Transportation "Fair"! *Team response: We appreciate this feedback. Apparently, we also booked this event over a presidential debate. Over the years, we have found it to be a challenge to accommodate everyone's schedules. I encourage you to check out the blog which contains links to project websites. We also added a comment feature so you can provide feedback or ask a specific project team questions. If you provide your contact information, we will be able to get back to you. I wish you a safe and successful hunt. Anne Brooks, Public Involvement Specialist, Brooks & Associates*
- I've tried several options and still I'm unable to open the 2019 Floor Plan and Projects list. Any suggestions? Thank you. *Team response: Just click on it and it should appear in larger form on your screen. Anne Brooks, Public Involvement Specialist, Brooks & Associates*
- I always go but I'll be out of town so not this year. Thanks for the updates. Pretty sure I am on the Fairview Loop Pathway project notification list.
- Thanks for the great setup! Was easy! Thanks for the coffee and veggies!
- Thanks for having this fair.
- Could we have an Alaska State Trooper set up in the next years?
- Please consolidate all DOT monies and fix and build roads as fast as you fixed bridges, roads etc. this winter after the earthquake. It would save lots of money. Don't make a 2-lane just to tear it up three times in six years if the eventual road is going to be 4-lane!

Make walking trail where it doesn't have to be torn up every time the road is! We believe it is called a waste of money and job security for you.

- Great Fair.

Table 1. Event Outreach

Date	Outreach method	Description
6/4/19 9/5/19 9/13/19	Blog post	Information posted on the event blog, 1,100 views in the last month
7/25/19	Project website	Meeting notice posted on the public involvement page
7/25/19	Community calendars	Request sent to the <i>Mat-Su Frontiersman</i> to post the event on online calendars
8/9/19 9/6/19	Email notice	Save the date notice and layout notice inviting the public to the event (2,500 sent, 39 to 41% opened, 8 to 23% click rate)
8/22/19	Forwarding request to project teams	Sent request to all teams to forward event info to their lists
8/22/19	Forwarding request to legislators	Sent request to forward to constituents
8/22/19	DOT&PF Online Calendar	Inviting the public to the event
8/22/19 8/29/19 9/5/19	What's Up Listserve	Weekly email newsletter announcement inviting the public to the event
8/23/19	Postcard	18,500 postcards sent to area project mailing lists
9/3/19	State of Alaska Online Notice	Sent by DOT&PF inviting the public to the event
9/5/19	Forwarding request to boards, commissions, and community councils	Request to forward email to subscriber lists
9/5/19	GovDelivery Notice	Sent by DOT&PF inviting the public to the event
9/9/19 to 9/12/19	Radio advertisements	Invitation to the event sponsored by the Mat-Su Borough, Alaska Railroad, and the City of Wasilla played on KSKA and others
9/10/19	Facebook post	Post on the DOT&PF Facebook page highlighting the event
9/17/19	Newspaper article	<i>Mat-Su Frontiersman</i> follow-up article about the event

Documents on file: Outreach, fact sheet, comment sheets, sign-in sheets, project graphics