Public Involvement Plan

Date: March 23, 2018

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General Information

Project Scope and Background

Constructed in 2003, the existing roundabout interchange replaced two traffic signals with Alaska's first multilane roundabouts and converted Dowling Road from a substandard 2-lane road to a five-lane road. The roundabouts were designed to meet projected 2020 traffic volumes and the current traffic volumes at some of the approaches now exceed those projections, resulting in longer wait times. Right-of-way, utility, and other constraints were limiting factors during the original roundabout design. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has since implemented minor safety improvements to solve some problems with the existing interchange and acquired additional right-of-way.

The preliminary engineering phase of this project will evaluate different interchange types for the Dowling Road/Seward Highway intersection and ultimately design a replacement interchange suitable for anticipated traffic in the design year 2040. Replacing the existing bridge and making mainline and ramping improvements will be considered.

The goal is to provide an interchange that serves both motorized and non-motorized travelers, is cost-effective, easy to maintain, and efficiently conveys both large and small vehicles. Once a preferred interchange type is selected, the next step will be to design the new interchange. The reconstructed interchange will accommodate projected traffic volumes through 2040 and provide enhanced safety throughout the corridor.

Purpose of Public Involvement

The primary purpose of public involvement during preliminary engineering and detailed design is to provide education about possible solutions; timely and accurate information about the project to agency and public stakeholders; and to receive feedback that will strengthen the project design and limit any controversy. The team will acknowledge comments and concerns in the format received and provide feedback on how the input influenced project decisions, or if it did not, then why not. A secondary purpose is to develop a strong stakeholder contact list for use during construction.

Project Team

Owner
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
4111 Aviation Ave., Anchorage, AK 99519
Kevin Jackson, P.E., Project Manager, (907) 269-0641, kevin.jackson@alaska.gov
Jon Knowles, P.E., Project Engineer, (907) 269-0643, jon.knowles@alaska.gov
Breanna Mahoney, Environmental Analyst, (907) 269-0536, breanna.mahoney@alaska.gov
Shannon McCarthy, Public Information Officer, (907) 269 0448, shannon.mccarthy@alaska.gov
Agency and Public Stakeholders

Below is an initial list of stakeholders. These entities will be included in the project outreach and mailing list. This list will be updated throughout the project and provided to the construction team to use for construction communications.

Agencies

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
- Alaska State Troopers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

Public

- Area residents, property owners, and business owners, see mailing list boundary Figure 1
- Traveling public

Local Government Entities

- Abbott Loop Community Council
- Anchorage Fire Department
- Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions
- Anchorage Police Department
- Anchorage School District
- Area legislators
- Campbell Park Community Council
- Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)
- Taku/Campbell Community Council
Media
- Alaska Journal of Commerce
- Anchorage Daily News
- Anchorage Press
- Local television and radio stations (KTUU, KTVA, KSKA, etc.)

Other Organizations
- Alaska Trucking Association
- Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
- Bike Anchorage
- Homeowners associations

Tribal Entities
- Chugach Alaska Corporation
- Cook Inlet Regional Corporation

Utilities
- Alaska Communications Service – fiber optics
- Chugach Electric Association – electric power
- Enstar Natural Gas Company – natural gas
- General Communications, Inc. – communications
- Municipal Light & Power – electric power

The following table identifies general categories of stakeholders and their expected concerns as they relate to this project.

Table 1. Stakeholder Issues and Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder Issues / Concerns</th>
<th>Agencies</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Local Government</th>
<th>Emergency Responders</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Other Organizations</th>
<th>Utilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to trails</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle/pedestrian access</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction impacts</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design/interchange type</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy to drive</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency response</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intuitive flow</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moves traffic quickly</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agency Involvement Methods

Affected regulatory agencies will be consulted during project development to secure required permits and environmental clearances. DOT&PF, with support from the consultant team, will be responsible for coordination with agencies. Direct communications with agencies will be through the DOT&PF project manager. The DOT&PF environmental analyst will conduct agency coordination for the environmental document, including the agency scoping packet.

Public Involvement Methods

Website. The project team will launch a one page website at www.dowlingsewardinterchange.com using the DOT&PF template. The website will provide project information and team contacts.

Draft website content:

Dowling Road / Seward Highway Interchange Reconstruction

Dowling Road/Seward Highway Interchange Reconstruction
State of Alaska Project Number: CFHWY00359

Welcome
Welcome to the Dowling Road/Seward Highway Interchange Reconstruction website.

Current Status
The project is just getting underway. The team is soliciting information from the public on familiarity and use of different interchanges types. Please fill out a comment sheet to participate.

Want to talk about the project or request a presentation?
Contact Anne Brooks, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (907) 272-1877 or comments.brooksalaska@gmail.com.

Button: Sign up for our email list

Schedule
Preliminary engineering, environmental, and design efforts will proceed on the schedule outlined below.

2004 to 2006: Seward Highway: Rabbit Creek Road to 36th Avenue Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Engineering
2007-2013: Design of reconstruction from Dowling Road to Tudor Road
2013-2019: Design and reconstruction from Dimond Boulevard to Dowling Road
January 2018 to July 2019: Dowling Road Interchange Public Involvement
Dowling Road/Seward Highway Interchange Reconstruction - Public Involvement Plan
February 8, 2018: Anchorage Transportation Fair
February 2019: Anchorage Transportation Fair
July 2019: Public Meeting/Plans, Specifications, & Estimate
January 2018 to November 2019: Environmental Activities & Permitting
January 2018 to August 2018: Preliminary Engineering Report, including Traffic & Safety Analysis
August 2018 to December 2018: Design Study Report
August 2018 to November 2019: Plans, Specifications, & Estimates
2020 to 2021: Construction

**Project Scope**
The goal of the project is to provide a Dowling Road/Seward Highway interchange that serves both motorized and non-motorized travellers, is cost-effective, easy to maintain, and efficiently conveys both large and small vehicles. The reconstructed interchange will accommodate projected traffic volumes through 2040 and provide enhanced safety and mobility throughout the corridor.

This project will evaluate interchange types both with the existing bridge and with a replacement bridge.

**Project History**
Constructed in 2003, the existing roundabout interchange replaced two traffic signals with Alaska’s first multilane roundabouts and converted Dowling Road from a substandard two-lane road to five lanes. The roundabouts were designed to meet projected 2020 traffic volumes and the current traffic volumes at some of the approaches now exceed those projections, resulting in longer wait times. There were also right-of-way, utility, and other
constraints that were limiting factors during the original design. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has since implemented safety fixes to solve some problems with the existing interchange and acquired additional right-of-way.

**Documents**

Seward Highway Major Investment Study  
2018 Dowling Road/Seward Highway Reconstruction Public Involvement Plan  
2015 Interim 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan  
2010 Anchorage Bicycle Plan  
2007 New Seward Highway Rabbit Creek Road to 36th Avenue Environmental Document  
2007 Anchorage Pedestrian Plan  
2007 Anchorage Bowl 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan with 2027 Revisions  
1997 Areawide Trails Plan

**Links to area projects**

Dowling Road: Old Seward to Lake Otis Parkway Pavement Preservation  
Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2040 Update  
Old Seward Highway: Dimond Boulevard to Dowling Road Pavement Preservation  
Seward Highway: Dimond Boulevard to Dowling Road Reconstruction, Phase 1  
Seward Highway: Dowling to Tudor, AWWU Access Roads  
Seward Highway: O’Malley Road to Dimond Boulevard

**Mailing List.** The public involvement team will develop a postal mailing list and email list for the project. The initial list will include the agency and public stakeholders listed above. The mailing list boundary, extending from International Airport Road on the north to Lake Otis on the east to Lore on the south and to Old Seward on the west, is shown below in Figure 1. The list will be updated as needed throughout the project. In addition, we will coordinate with the other Seward Highway project team to solicit use of their lists to get information out to interested stakeholders.

![Figure 1 Mailing List Boundary](image)

Dowling Road/Seward Highway Interchange Reconstruction - Public Involvement Plan  
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**Print Media.** The project team will send an initial mailer to stakeholders to introduce the project and solicit feedback. Other print media will include fact sheets, comment sheets, and frequently asked questions to be updated periodically throughout the project.

**Media Communications.** Local media will receive informational project communications such as postcards and newsletters and any earned media will help keep the public informed throughout the project. The single point of contact for all external media communications is Kevin Jackson, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager.

**Meetings.** Two open-house style public meetings will be convened for this project in addition to attendance at the 2018 and 2019 Anchorage Transportation Fairs. The first open house will be in June, 2018. The second meeting will be at completion of plans, specification, and estimates. Meeting tasks will include outreach, meeting materials, attendance, documentation, Civil Rights Title VI reports, and follow-up. Other meetings will be arranged by request and could include presentations at homeowner association meetings, community council meetings, and chamber of commerce meetings.

Meeting outreach will give two weeks of notice and include a combination of the following: newspaper advertisements, mailers, email notices and reminders, State of Alaska online notices, GovDelivery notices, Central Region DOT&PF online public involvement calendar events, online community calendars, roadside message board at intersection, boosted posts on DOT&PF’s Facebook page, and radio advertising.

The meetings will be scheduled so they do not conflict with other standing meetings in the area. Table 2 shows standing meetings as of the date this document was prepared. Friday is not included as it is typically a date of poor meeting attendance.

**Table 2. Standing Monthly Meetings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1st  | Anchorage School Board, 6:00 p.m.  
Planning & Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m.  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, noon |  | Platting Board, 6:30 p.m. |  |
| 2nd  | Planning & Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m.  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, noon | Anchorage Assembly, 5-11 p.m. (typical, but subject to change) | Urban Design Commission, 6:30 p.m. | Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions Technical Advisory Committee, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Anchorage Parks & Recreation Commission, 6 p.m.  
Public Transit Advisory Board, 5:30 p.m.  
Taku/Campbell Community Council, 6 p.m. |
**Week 3rd**
- **Monday**: Anchorage School Board, 6:00 p.m.
  
- **Tuesday**: Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, noon

**Week 4th or last**
- **Monday**: Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, noon

**Social Media.** The project team will provide content to DOT&PF’s Central Region Public Information Officer to upload to social media pages (open house information, project progress updates, photographs, etc.).

**Surveys.** Online surveys will increase access and response rate at key public feedback points and will be in conjunction with in-person opportunities.

**Compliance Matrix.** Brooks & Associates will prepare a compliance matrix detailing how the project meets current planning documents.

**Stakeholder Communications.** Brooks & Associates will receive, forward, document, and prepare responses for DOT&PF approval.

**Public Involvement Documentation.** Throughout the project, all incoming and outgoing communications with the public and other project stakeholders will be filed electronically. Upon completion of the design, Brooks & Associates will prepare close out documentation in accordance with DOT&PF policy. Documentation will include a comment and response summary, indexed public involvement documents, and a chronology.

A tentative schedule for public involvement activities follows.

**Table 3. Public Involvement Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Involvement Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing list preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update as needed</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public meetings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018 Anchorage Transportation Fair</td>
<td>February 8, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House #1 Draft Design Study Report</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Anchorage Transportation Fair</td>
<td>February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open House #2 Plans, Specification, and Estimates</td>
<td>June 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project kickoff</strong></td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request to forward to constituents: Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions Municipality of Anchorage Area elected officials Community councils Bike Anchorage Alaska Trucking Association Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Homeowners Associations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization/small group meetings</strong></td>
<td>To be determined Attendance by request Attendance by request Attendance by request Attendance by request Attendance by request Attendance by request Attendance by request Attendance by request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website launch</strong></td>
<td>February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Update as needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction kick-off</strong></td>
<td>April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media advertisement State of Alaska Online Notice/GovDelivery Request to forward to constituents: Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions Area elected officials Community councils Bike Anchorage Alaska Trucking Association Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Homeowners Associations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Documentation</strong></td>
<td>June 2018 Beginning to end of project October 2019 October 2019 October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Involvement Summary in Preliminary Engineering Report Respond to/document public input Comment response summary Public involvement chronology Closeout documentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civil Rights Compliance

The project team will comply with Title VI, Environmental Justice, Limited English Proficiency, and Americans with Disabilities Act regulations and take measures to ensure that the project is available to all. The team reviewed the 2016 United States Census Bureau data to determine how to best comply.

**Population of Anchorage**
298,000

**Health**
With a disability, under age 65 years: 8%

**Age and Sex**
Persons 65 years and over: 10%
Female persons: 49%

**Income**
Per Capita Income: $38,000
Median Household Income: $81,000
Median Family Income: $59,000
Persons in poverty: 7%

**Language**
Language other than English spoken at home: 18%

**Race**
White alone: 65%
Two or more races: 8%
Asian alone: 10%
American Indian/Alaska Native alone: 9%
Hispanic/Latino: 9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 3%
Black alone: 6%

Actions to ensure compliance with civil rights:

- Prepare a mailing list for the stakeholders within the mailing list boundary to ensure people of all races and income levels near the project receive notice and have opportunities to comment.

- Insert the following language in all notifications sent to project stakeholders:

  *The DOT&PF operates Federal Programs without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: dot.alaska.gov/tvi_statements.shtml. To file a complaint go to: dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml.*

  *The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this public meeting should contact Jill Reese, 1-907-269-0772 or TDD number 711. Requests should be made at least 5 days before the accommodation is needed to make any necessary arrangements.*

- Use DOT&PF Title VI sign-in sheets for all public meetings.

- Prepare a Title VI report for all public meetings.

- Make DOT&PF civil rights brochures available at public meetings and events.

- Convene events in venues that meet accessibility guidelines.

- Provide interpretation or translation if requested or if the project team decides it would be beneficial.

- Provide parallel online opportunities to comment at all stages of the project to increase accessibility.

Dowling Road/Seward Highway Interchange Reconstruction - Public Involvement Plan
Environmental Documentation

To support environmental documentation for the project, the public involvement team will document all communication with the public and agencies. An issues/response summary will be prepared and regularly updated. All documentation will be captured electronically for the project administrative record.

The following statement, required by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration and the DOT&PF, recognizes assumption of Federal Highway Administration responsibilities for environmental review, consultation or other actions required by environmental law. This text will appear on environmental documents and reports.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are going, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

Communications

Kevin Jackson, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager, will review all public involvement communications with the public and initiate communications with agencies.

The single point of contact for media inquiries is Kevin Jackson, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager.

All public involvement telephone and email communications will be documented by email and shared with the team.

Approval

[Signature]
DOT&PF Project Manager

5/17/18
Date