

5.0 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

The Agency Scoping Plan (TPECI, 1999b) detailed the methodology for the scoping process for the O'Malley Road Reconstruction Project.

5.1 AGENCY SCOPING

Coordination with agencies was initiated through a request for scoping comments on July 29, 1999. Comments were received from federal and state agencies and the local government. An agency scoping meeting was held on August 18, 1999. Table 8 lists the agencies attending the meeting and a summary of scoping comments. Table 9 contains a summary of issues raised by the public.

**TABLE 8
 SUMMARY OF AGENCY ISSUES**

| Issues | Agency |
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| Wetlands Minimization (Moose Meadows) North side improvements less damaging Wetlands delineation Avoidance | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Environmental Protection Agency U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Little Campbell Creek Maintenance of fish passage and flow | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Department of Fish & Game U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Water Quality | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Project Terminus (before 90-degree turn on Hillside Drive) | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Traffic Signal Location | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Right of Way | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| Floodplain | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Craig Creek – removal of downstream obstacles | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Correct perched culvert under Birch Road at the south fork of Little Campbell Creek. | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Roadway Configuration—would it include left turn channelization | Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation |
| Alaska Coastal Management Plan/Coastal District | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| Essential Fish Habitat | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| Accommodate planned development near project corridor—Castle on O'Malley and church on southern end of O'Malley | Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Public Works |

5.2 PUBLIC SCOPING

Public scoping was initiated through newsletters, advertisements, a World Wide Web site, two public meetings, and several community council meetings. The public provided input through written surveys, a project telephone hotline number, and e-mail communication. Public meetings regarding this project were held on November 1, 1999 and September 6, 2000. Appendix A includes comments received from the public and agency scoping process. Table 9 contains a summary of issues raised by the public.

**TABLE 9
 SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC'S ISSUES**

| Issues Raised | |
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| Access and Driveways | Maintain access to businesses and personal property along corridor. Property owners concerned about changes to their driveways. |
| Aesthetics | Project should improve roadway aesthetics including vegetation, appearance. |
| Berms | Some berms exist to protect private property. |
| Curb and Gutter | Curb and gutter may be necessary to handle storm water and snow melt water. |
| Distribution of Hillside Traffic | Hillside traffic should be distributed throughout Hillside Roadways. |
| Grades | The roadway has steep grades in some areas. |
| Intersections | Intersections need improvements along O'Malley Road. |
| Left Turn Lanes | Provide left turn lanes at businesses and busy intersections to help flow of traffic. |
| Lighting | The issue is whether to provide additional street lighting along O'Malley road for safety, mitigation of moose/vehicle collisions, etc. Some members of the public favored additional lighting, others were opposed to it. |
| Mail Boxes | Public expressed an interest that mailboxes be clustered at intersections and pullouts. |
| Moose | Hillside resident's encounters with moose have increased. |
| Noise | Increased traffic results in increased street noise in adjacent businesses and residential neighborhoods. |
| Pathways/Pedestrians | Provide for pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian uses alongside O'Malley Road. |
| Public Transportation | Provide provisions in the roadway reconstruction for current and future public transportation needs. |
| Right of Way | Roadway projects often require additional right-of-way. |
| Roadway Condition/Maintenance | The road is in poor condition—upgrade is needed. |
| Roadway Widening | To accommodate projected traffic the roadway may need to be widened. |
| Shoulders | Roadway shoulders on O'Malley Road vary in width. Improvements |

| Issues Raised | |
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| | could affect roadway safety. |
| Signage | Streets signs along O'Malley Road could be larger type similar to the signs installed during the Rabbit Creek upgrade. |
| Speed | Traffic speeds along O'Malley Road are a concern. |
| Traffic Forecasts | Traffic forecast model should be understood. |
| Traffic Signals | Traffic Signals may be warranted on some intersections on O'Malley Road. Don't use stoplights as a means to control traffic on Hillside. Signals supported at Birch and Commodore. |
| Transportation Demand Management | Explore strategies for changing traffic demand. |
| Two-Way Continuous Left Turn Lanes | Provide for left turn movements on O'Malley Road. |
| Utilities | Overhead utilities are present on O'Malley Road, would it be possible to move them underground. |
| Wetlands | Protection of Hillside wetlands habitat is important. |

Appendix A contains the comments received on the EA and DOT&PF's responses. Public comment during scoping and project development is contained in Appendix A.