

**Western Alaska Access Planning Study
Deering Public Meeting Notes
January 24, 2011**

Open House

5:00pm-7:00pm

Project Team Representation

AK DOT&PF: Alexa Greene
DOWL HKM: Steve Noble, Chase Nelson
NANA: Abraham Snyder

Attendance

4 visitors over the course of the open house.

Open House Questions & Comments

AK DOT&PF and DOWL HKM set up for a public meeting at the City building. Maps were displayed on various tables around the room. Because of the small number of attendants it was decided to just have an open house instead of a presentation. Visitors came and asked questions and made comments on the potential road alignments.

Questions & Comments

Q = Question R = Response C = Comment

Q: Will the road come to Deering?

R: None of the studies alternatives will come directly through Deering. However a route to western Alaska will impact more villages than just the ones that are on the road.

Route 1 would be the closest route to Deering, which was not selected as the preferred alternative, but DOT&PF has not chosen their preferred route yet.

C: It would be good to consider a road from Deering to Nome. There is already two roads/trails that lead south; the road to Udica, and the Imnachuk trail. These roads could easily lead to the Taylor Highway.

C: There is a hot springs up the Imnachuk Trail. If the trail was made into a road, we would be able to draw tourists to Deering.

Q: I don't think this is the first time this has been studied. Why is the State studying this again?

R: You are correct, over the past century a road to western Alaska has been studied many times for many different reasons. One of the primary reasons for doing this study was to compile as much information from all the studies we could.

We know the road will be very expensive, and if the State were to move forward with the project, we'd want to make sure we are moving forward with the route that will have the most benefit for the most people.