



Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Public Open House No. 1

Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 5-7 p.m., at the Sterling Community Center

Open House Summary.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and QAP, with DOWL and Stephanie Queen Consulting, hosted the first public open house for the Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Milepost (MP) 82.5 to 94 project on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, in the Sterling Community Center Gym. Attendees began arriving for the event at 4:30 p.m. The meeting format was open house style, with no formal presentation. Attendees signed in and received informational materials including a Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The open house featured project boards displaying key information such as the project area, timeline, crash statistics, traffic data, and potential design alternatives. Large roll plots of the project corridor were located on tables for attendees to discuss specific area concerns and document their comments. Project contacts were available for inquiries, while aerial roll plots invited attendees to pinpoint and discuss specific concerns within the project corridor. This event provided a platform for public engagement and feedback on the project's development.

The open house event was a significant gathering, drawing in a diverse group of over 140 attendees. This included members of the project team, interested members of the public, elected officials who have a stake in the project's outcomes, and media representatives covering the event.

Question and Comments Summary.

The following comments summary is based on discussions with project team members, comments submitted in writing via comment forms, comments noted on the roll plots, and emails following the open house.

Safety, Traffic, and Congestion

- Request to keep the speed limit at 55 miles per hour (mph).
- Request to reduce the speed limit to 45 mph near the KPB Solid Waste Facility.
- Consider lighting the corridor to reduce vehicle and animal accidents.
- Concerns with light pollution, utility cost, and maintenance if the corridor is lit.
- Concern that a separated multi-use path is not necessary and doesn't improve safety for drivers.
- Support for a multi-use path for pedestrians and bikers.
- Request for increased state trooper presence.
- Concerns with very moose crossing areas near Hugh Street and Vickis Way.



- Concerns with intersections and turning patterns at:
 - Evergreen Drive
 - Nina Robinson Avenue
 - Whisper Lake Street
 - Murray Lane
 - Forest Drive
 - Schultz Street
 - Solid Rock Bible Camp
 - Mackey Lake Road

Corridor Design

- Request for access lanes when making a right-hand turn onto the highway.
- Support of the five-lane roadway with center two-way left turn lane.
 - Maintains driveway and property access.
- Concerns with a five-lane roadway with center two-way left turn lane.
 - Not necessary.
 - Potential collisions in the center two-way left turn lane with driver use from both directions.
- Support of four-lane divided highway with depressed median.
- Concerns with a four-lane divided highway with depressed median.
 - Restricts driveway and property access.
 - Increased difficulty for trailers.
 - Restricts U-turns.
- Request for passing lanes and waysides.
- Request for turn lanes at:
 - Scout Lake Loop Road
 - Evergreen Drive
 - St Theresa Road
 - Lake Terrace Drive
 - Pine Street
- Request for a traffic light at:
 - Forest Drive
 - West Robinson Loop Road
 - Mackey Lake Road
- Concerns about relocation of Scout Lake Loop Road.
- Concerns with drainage and flooding near Walker Street.

Construction

- Consider diversion lanes with flaggers during construction.

Maintenance and Operations

- Request for improved snow removal.



- Concerns with frost heaves and bumps from West Scout Lake Loop Road to MP 85.

General

- Requests for a formal presentation during the public meeting.
- Recreation concerns at Scout Lake.
- Request for all terrain vehicle (ATV) use on the separated pathway.

Public and Agency Notices:

Project stakeholders were notified of the public open house via the following methods:

- Newspaper advertisement in the Peninsula Clarion on June 8 and June 22, 2024.
- Radio advertisement on KSRM Kenai from June 17 to June 26, 2024.
- Radio advertisement on KDLL Soldotna from June 19 to June 25, 2024.
- Post card mailed on June 12, 2024.
- Email invites on June 11 and June 24, 2024.
- Facebook post from Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities on June 17, 2024.
- State of Alaska online public notice on May 28, 2024.

Action Items and Next Steps:

- Update FAQ Sheet based on comments and questions received from the public.
- Post video presentation and Open House No. 1 Summary to the project website.
- Distribute public comments to the project team and respond to questions.