



Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Public Open House No. 3

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex

Open House Summary:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and QAP, with DOWL and Stephanie Queen Consulting, hosted the third round of public open houses for the Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Milepost (MP) 82.5 to 94 Progressive Design-Build project on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex. Attendees began arriving for the event at 4:30 p.m. The meeting format was open house style, and a pre-recorded presentation was played at 5:30 p.m. Attendees signed in and received informational materials including a fact sheet and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. The open house featured project boards displaying key information including the project overview, team, design approach, schedule, preferred design alternative elements, public comment summary, and ways to make comments. Large roll plots of the project corridor and preferred design alternative were located on tables for attendees to discuss concerns and document comments. 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 approximately 48 attendees. This included project team members, interested members of the public, and interested elected officials.

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 immediately following the open house.

Safety

- Support for the preferred alternative 4-lane design as the safer alternative.
- Concern a 5-lane design may decrease safety.
- Request to keep pedestrian paths distanced from highway shoulder.

Preferred Design Alternative

- Support for local road connections linking Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) roads to provide alternate routes to access the highway.



- Question about the connection between Murray Lane and Lakeshore Drive.
- Support for providing wildlife under crossings in areas known for moose habitat.
- Suggestion not to use fencing around wildlife crossings.
- Support for maintaining the 5-lane section between Boundary Street and Isbell Street because of the commercial properties and businesses.
- Suggestion for a school bus pull-out near Lake Terrace Drive because a significant number of children use the bus stop here.
- Support for the restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT) at Murray Lane.

Public Involvement Efforts

- Appreciation for Open House events and frequent communications sharing accurate project information.
- Resident said they did not receive a postcard, so the project team suggested they include a mailing address on the sign-in sheet to add to the stakeholder register.
- Suggestion to add mile markers and a scale to the roll plots.

Project Timing

- Support for the project being constructed sooner.

Public Notice:

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

- State of Alaska online public notice posted on May 13, 2025.
- Facebook post from Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities on May 13, 2025.
- Newspaper advertisement in the Peninsula Clarion on May 23 and June 6, 2025.
- Email invites sent May 27 and June 3, 2025.
- Postcard mailed on May 28, 2025.
- Radio advertisement on KSRM Kenai from June 3 to June 11, 2025.
- Radio advertisement on KDLL Soldotna from June 3 to June 11, 2025.
- Press release distributed to local media outlets on June 6, 2025.

Action Items and Next Steps:

- Update FAQ document based on comments and questions from the public.
- Post Open House No. 3 Summary to the project website.