



Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Public Open House No. 3

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 4:30-6:30 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 third round of public open houses for the Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Milepost (MP) 82.5 to 94 Progressive Design-Build project on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the Sterling Community Center. 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. 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 68 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.

Preferred Design Alternative

- Suggestion to plant native wildflowers in the median throughout the corridor.
- Suggestion for a median break at On Par Lane.
- Suggestion for full highway access for Whistle Stop and the restaurant there.
- Suggestion to add a left turn lane to Devin Drive heading south towards Soldotna.
- Preference to maintain the 5-lane section between Boundary Street and Isbell Street because of the heavy commercial use in this area needs direct access to the highway.



- Suggestion to re-grade the hill near Penny Lane and Deville Road.
- Suggestion for a backage connection between Forest Lane and Murray Lane.
- Suggestion for alternate property access points along the corridor.
- Suggestion to add flashing yellow traffic signals seasonally alerting drivers of cross streets.
- Comment that fire trucks use a lot near milepost (MP) 89.5 to refill.
- Support for restricting crossing U-turn (R-CUT) design.
- Suggestion to move the frontage road between Self Street and Lois Street south closer to the highway.
- Request for a traffic signal at the Swanson River Road and Scout Lake Road intersection with the highway.
- Suggestion to move the memorial away from the weigh station.

Meeting Materials

- Suggestion to add the widths of medians and median breaks.
- Suggestion to add mile markers to the roll plots.

Public Involvement Efforts

- Appreciation for Open House events and format.

Other Projects

- Suggestion to add a second entrance to the post office in Sterling.
- Comment about the poor sight distance at Three Bears in Sterling.

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.