



Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Public Open House No. 4

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 4-6 p.m., at the Sterling Community Center, Gym

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 4-6 p.m., at the Soldotna Public Library, Community Room

Open House Summary:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and QAP, with DOWL and Stephanie Queen Consulting, hosted the fourth round of public open houses for the Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Milepost (MP) 82.5 to 94 project on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 4-6 p.m., at the Sterling Community Center Gym, and Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 4-6 p.m., at the Soldotna Public Library Community Room. The meeting formats were open-house style with members of the project team available to discuss the project and answer questions. Attendees signed in and received informational materials including a Fact Sheet, Frequently Asked Questions document, and Clearing Activities information sheet. The open houses featured project boards displaying key information such as the project area, timeline, highway design, right-of-way (ROW) encroachments, and planned clearing activities. Large roll plots displaying the highway design and planned clearing limits in the project corridor were located on tables for attendees to discuss design, ROW, and clearing concerns and document comments. These events provided a platform for public engagement and feedback on the project's development.

These open-house events were significant gatherings, drawing in a diverse group of approximately 45 attendees in Sterling and 41 in Soldotna. This included project team members and interested members of the public.

Question and Comments Summary:

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

Support for the Project

- Appreciation for the opportunity to meet project team members at the meeting
- Appreciation for regular project updates
- Support for the project safety improvements for summer visitor traffic
- Appreciation for public access to salvaged timber during ROW clearing



Design

- Suggestion to add a traffic light at Mackey Lake Road-Sterling Highway intersection with two turn lanes onto Mackey Lake Road to reduce congestion
- Suggestion to redesign the Devin Drive-Sterling Highway intersection to add two left-turn lanes and one lane crossing Sterling Highway or turning right onto Sterling Highway
- Suggestion to widen culverts under driveways
- Suggestion to add southbound turn lanes from businesses on the south side of Sterling Highway
- Suggestion to add northbound turn lanes onto and out of Whistle Hill Loop
- Suggestion to add a bus stop pull out at Lake Terrace Drive
- Suggestion to make one-way entrance-exit lanes for the weigh station
- Driveway relocation questions and concerns
- Request to retain access to Scout Lake via the Department of Natural Resources trail, also known as Lakewood Road
- Questions about how vehicles, especially those towing boats or trailers, would make U-turns
- Suggestion to extend Ken May Avenue to Boundary Street
- Request to remove the Ken May Avenue extension between S Jawle Steet and Pine Street
- Suggestion to lower the profile at the West Robinson Loop Road-Sterling Highway intersection to improve site distance for cars turning onto the highway
- Request not to connect Murray Lane to Lake Street Drive (proposed local road connection)
- Request for left-turn access onto the highway from Panoramic Drive
- Concern about light pollution from corridor lighting, and request for design to incorporate 'dark sky' principles
- Request to extend proposed Whisper Lake Street (local road) improvements further south to Grassy Vale Road intersection, to address existing grade and drainage issues

Public and Agency Notice:

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

- Newspaper advertisement in the Peninsula Clarion on February 20 and 27, 2026
- Radio advertisement on KSRM Kenai and KDLL Soldotna from February 24 to March 4, 2026
- Postcard mailed on February 18, 2026
- Email invite sent on February 11, 2026
- Press Release emailed to Peninsula Clarion, KSRM Radio Group, and KDLL Public Radio on February 26, 2028
- Facebook posts by Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities on March 3 and 4, 2026
- State of Alaska online public notice posted on February 5, 2026



Photos:



Open House No. 4 in Sterling, Alaska



Open House No. 4 in Soldotna

Action Items and Next Steps:

- Update FAQ Sheet based on comments and questions from the public
- Post Open House No. 4 Summary to the project website
- Distribute public comments to the project team and respond to concerns