

Dalton Highway State Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan (CPP)

Summary of comments received during public meetings:

Teleconference – September 10, 2008, 10:00am

Teleconference - October 7, 2008, 10:00am

Teleconference

WHEN: September 10, 2008; 10:00-11:00am

Participants: Paul Hugo, Naqsragmiut Tribal Office, Anaktuvuk Pass

Larry Burris, Nunamiut Corporation, Anaktuvuk Pass

George Paneak, Mayor—City of Anaktuvuk Pass, Anaktuvuk Pass Eric Kenning, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Anchorage

Michael Morry, Village of Anaktuvuk Pass, Anaktuvuk Pass

Aneta Synan, ADOT&PF Kathlene Rowell, ADNR

Summary of Comments:

Paul Hugo, Nagsragmiut Tribal Office:

- *Q:* "When referencing the 'byway committee' is that statewide or specifically for the Dalton Highway State Scenic Byway?" [Answer: Each State Scenic Byway has its own "byway committee." So I when I talk about the byway committee, I am referencing the committee specifically for the Dalton Highway.]
- Q: "Would this plan affect the North Slope Borough's land entitlements with the State of Alaska? [Answer: No, Corridor Partnership Plans are non-regulatory documents and do not address land use regulations, nor seek to limit landowner rights.]
- Is strongly opposed to off-road vehicle use in the corridor—snow mobiles and ORVs
 - Off-road vehicle use in the corridor would affect communities and wildlife, especially migrating caribou, wolves, and wolverines
- Does not want plan to identify location of archaeological sites to tourists
 - o Feels very strongly about this and wants to keep the sites confidential
 - o Identification of sites could encourage robberies
- Would like to see an increase in opportunities for the tribe to be involved with the planning effort
- Concerned about security along the Dalton
- Trash pick-up is a problem
- Need more rest stops
- Would like to see a search and rescue plan approved before the CPP goes through
- Would like to see a secured parking area at Coldfoot for Anaktuvuk Pass residents to leave their cars; residents could then fly to Coldfoot and drive to Fairbanks, therefore reducing travel costs for getting supplies

- Interested in more business opportunities for Anaktuvuk Pass residents; they do get tourist traffic almost daily flying into the community during summer

Eric Kenning, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation:

- Has been studying activities in the North Slope for the last couple years
- Biggest increase in recreation has been hunting
 - o Bow hunting is allowed within the five-mile corridor
 - As the number of hunters has increased in the area, popular places are becoming more crowded. Hunters are now looking for more remote locations
 - Flight services are flying hunters farther out and into ASRC lands; ASRC does not permit hunting on its lands
 - o This is a growing concern and ASRC is trying to get a hold of permitting
 - Some private and commercial pilots are flying north—to Happy Valley, Coldfoot, and/or Galbraith Lake—to meet friends/family members who drive there via the Dalton Highway. Then the pilot shuttles members out to hunting locations
 - o A lot of users don't understand land uses/ownership in the area; others choose to ignore it
- There are hiking groups who hike to Anaktuvuk Pass from the Dalton, then fly home. This is done in the reverse direction as well
- Supports education about ASRC lands and land use/ownership
- Does not support off-road vehicle use in the corridor
- Anaktuvuk Pass has a newly signed land use policy
- Ivishak River is becoming a high-use area
- Colville River is a big moose hunting area
- Is potentially interested in being an Advisory Team member

Larry Burris, Nunamiut Corporation:

- Echoed support of Paul and Eric's comments; aligned with the issues they discussed and feelings

Teleconference

WHEN: October 7, 2008; 10:00-11:00am

Participants: Sheila Baker, Native Village of Nuiqsut

Rosemary Ahtuangaruak, Nuiqsut John Nichols, North Slope Borough

Gordon Matumeak, North Slope Borough Planning Department, Nuiqsut

Dorothy Shockley, Legislative Aid to Senator Kookesh

Lucy Carlo, Fairbanks Aneta Synan, ADOT&PF Bill Kiger, ADNR

Summary of Comments:

Rosemary Ahtuangaruak, Nuiqsut:

- Need to avoid conflicts with subsistence issues
- Concerned about off-road use that tears up the tundra
- Trash, waste, no monitoring of use
- Limitations need to be placed
- Resource education
- Permit process for road use and resource use
- Speed limits; there are dangers year-round and police enforcement is needed
- CB radios should be mandatory emergency equipment
- Monitor use of equipment and take care of hazardous materials
- Education of travelers is needed concerning subsistence use and property rights
- Yearly assessment
- Expressed interest in being on the committee

Dorothy Shockley, Legislative Aid to Senator Kookesh:

- Supports Rosemary's statements
- There are no services along the Dalton; need to increase traveler awareness
- It is bad to rely on Alyeska for services
- Subsistence concerns
- Pollution and contaminants concerns; fragile environment
- Difficult for her to promote highway because it was not meant to be a tourist attraction
- Expressed interest in being on the committee