

Public Meeting Overview

Date: August 21, 2025, 5 – 7 pm (in person)
12 – 1 pm (online)

Attendance: Approximately 10 community members

Project Team Present:
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public
Facilities:

- ▶ Brett Nelson, Planning Chief
- ▶ Elzbeth Robson, Aviation Planner

RESPEC:

- ▶ Megan Flory
- ▶ Pat Cotter

UQAQTI Consulting:

- ▶ Joy Huntington

The project team gave a short presentation on the status of the project, current scenarios being evaluated, and a summary of the challenges. A focal point of the presentation outlined three potential scenarios: investing in Healy River, investing in another airport, and investing in a new airport. The opportunities and challenges for each scenario were shared with attendees. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period.

Meeting Themes

- ▶ Healy River Airport constraints
- ▶ Lease Lot availability
- ▶ Medevac needs
- ▶ Alternative airport locations

Discussion

Healy River Airport Constraints

Healy River Airport is on Alaska Railroad land and is bounded by a large bluff on the east side. The road and railroad prevent expansion to the south and west. The airspace is also constrained by surrounding terrain. Therefore, Healy River Airport cannot expand significantly.

Meeting Location



The meeting was held at the Tri-Valley Community Center in Healy, AK, and separately online via Teams.



User group needs

Attendees discussed the needs of various user groups, including tourism companies, medevac operators, and private pilots.

Lease lots

Attendees discussed the demand for lease lots at Healy River Airport and the project team outlined the demand at other airports in the study area. Discussion focused on the seasonal use of lease lots, how tie-downs are managed, and short-term leasing needs by the wildland firefighting operations.

Medevac operations

The identification of different user groups prompted a discussion on medevac operations. Summit Airport was discussed as having potential for medevac needs south of Denali National Park.

Infrastructure and services

Weather reporting, fueling services, and regular maintenance were discussed as important components of a functioning aviation system. Specific improvements discussed included ski strip availability and asphalt runway surfaces.

Conclusion

Attendees provided feedback on the three scenarios and helped explain medevac needs and limitations. The Denali Borough agreed to share the meeting poll via their regular communication channels. The next public meeting will present a preferred scenario for investment based on analysis and public input.

