

# Holmes Road Rehabilitation

Project No. NFWY00816/0002535



## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE NO. 1

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
North Pole Branch Library, Multi-Purpose Room  
656 NPHS Boulevard, North Pole, AK 99705

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### Open House Summary

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted an open house for the Holmes Road Rehabilitation project on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at the North Pole Branch Library Multi-Purpose Room. Attendees began arriving at 4:45 p.m. The meeting was conducted in an open house format, without any formal presentation. Attendees signed in and received a project fact sheet. The open house featured project boards displaying the project area, schedule, goals, existing conditions, and public involvement information. Roll plots of the project corridor were placed on tables for attendees to discuss specific area concerns and document their comments. Project contacts were available for inquiries, offering an opportunity for public involvement and feedback on the project's development.

Twenty-four (24) participants signed in, including members of the project team.

### Question and Comments Summary

The following summary of comments are based on discussions with project team members, notes placed on the roll plot, written feedback received at the open house, and emails sent after the public meeting. Scanned copy of the roll plots and comment sheets have been saved.

### Traffic and Safety Concerns

- Many homes to the south of the corridor are rented to military personnel.
- Holmes Road is a connection to Fort Wainwright, which helps explain the drop in AADT east of Dennis Road.
- The Holmes Road and Dennis Road intersection experiences many more accidents than the (7) shown over a 5-year period
  - Suggestion for the project team to coordinate with S&S Towing and North Star Volunteer Fire Department for crash data.
- Many cars pass other vehicles within the corridor.
- There was a crash resulting in a fatality at a driveway east of the Holmes Road and Dennis Road intersection.
- There was a crash resulting in a fatality between Still Valley Road and Cheri Way.
- There have been multiple rollover accidents between Sherlock Lane and Doyle Drive in 2023 and 2024.
- There was a crash resulting in a fatality in 2018 at the intersection of Holmes Road and Doyle Drive, with one vehicle going approximately 110 miles-per-hour (mph).
- Vehicle speeds are at their peak on the stretch of road east of Lakloey Drive towards Badger Road during the early morning hours and late at night.
- There have been several accidents between Jeep Trail Road and Badger Road, including an animal-vehicle crash, a rollover, and fuel truck going off the road.

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- Many cars go off the road (especially in the winter) east of Lakloey towards Badger
- Support for updating Holmes Road to Peede Road for safety reasons.

### Drainage and Flooding Issues

- Bradley Road blocks surface water flow and floods Lakloey Drive.
- Lakloey Drive thaws before Bradway Road.
- No culvert across Almithni Avenue.
- Ditches along the southeast side of Lakloey Drive drain north to Holmes Road.
- Flooding at the property located on the south corner of Almithni Avenue and Lakloey Drive.
- The first two properties to the west of Sherlock Lane experience heavy flooding.
- There is a slough located between Sherlock Lane and Doyle Drive.
- Drainage issues on the property located along the south side of Holmes Road, across from Brown's Hill Quarry.
- The culvert crossing on the south side of the Holmes Road and Jeep Trail intersection does not drain properly.
- The property located at the southeast corner of the Holmes Road and Jeep Trail intersection experiences high water.
- Berms on the south side of Holmes Road, east of Jeep Trail, prevent water from draining into the ditch.
- There is a bog and creek bed located on the south side of Holmes Road, east of Jeep Trail.
- Improve drainage; don't decrease drainage

### Infrastructure Improvement Requests

- Walking and biking paths.
- Wider shoulders.
- Widen the roadway on the north side.
- Purchase 8 feet of property between Vasi Way and Still Valley Road to provide a more uniform right-of-way (ROW) width.
- Acquire right-of-way (ROW) between Lakloey Drive and Badger Road to the east.
- Increase the speed limit to 45 mph.
- Keep Holmes Road free of street lights.
- Refrain from removing trees on properties near the Badger gate end of Holmes (west of Dennis). Drainage already works well.
- Request to allow property owners to salvage their driveway culvert if replaced.
- Improve drainage.
- Clean out the ditch along the south side of Holmes Road, east of Lakloey Drive.
- Holmes east of Dennis needs upgrade to improve safety

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- Repair the culvert located on the north side of Holmes Road, west of Sherlock Lane.
- Add a culvert to Sherlock Lane.

### Wildlife and Environmental Concerns

- Moose are frequently seen around the western property boundary of Brown's Hill Quarry, leading to vehicles veering off the road.

### School and Community Concerns

- There is a school bus stop at the intersection of Lakloey Drive and Holmes Road where many children gather, and parents typically park around the intersection waiting for pickup.
- Concerns about property effects during construction.
- The corridor sees lots of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use; Multi-use trail?
- Concern about impacts to properties during construction