

Richardson Highway/Steese Expressway Planning & Environmental Linkage Study Open House #2 Notes October 8, 2013



The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and DOWL HKM conducted a second Open House for the Richardson Highway/Steese Expressway Planning & Environmental Linkage Study on Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at the Noel Wien Library in Fairbanks, Alaska. The purpose of the meeting was to present corridor concepts under consideration and to gather information and concerns about the project corridor and concepts from stakeholders. Thirty-six people signed in at the meeting.

An advertisement for the meeting was published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner on October 3 and October 8. The meeting was also publicized via an advertising campaign on the DOT&PF Facebook site, on the KUAC Community Events online calendar, on KBFX's Charlie O'Toole radio show (October 7), and in a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner article on October 5. Meeting information was also shared with the Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System's Policy Committee, Technical Committee, and support staff and local media organizations.

The meeting was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the library auditorium. Steve Noble, project manager for DOWL HKM, gave a presentation on the project background, objective, corridor concepts, and next steps. Representatives from the project team were available to discuss project details, clarify information, and answer questions. Project materials included graphics depicting the four major concepts. The first three concepts showed improvements to the Steese Expressway and the fourth concept addressed improvements to the Richardson Highway.

The public was encouraged to provide feedback to project team members in person, on written comment forms, or via email.

The following is a summary of the public comments received and project team responses from the open house:

How do these concepts and projects affect roads and areas downstream of the project study area?

In general the impacts to areas outside of the study corridor are minimal. There are some improvements necessary to areas outside of the project area, but they are going to be needed whether or not these projects move forward.

The main problem in Fairbanks is North-South traffic flow. I strongly encourage you to pursue building Farmers Loop Extension so that it can provide alternative access to the commercial areas south of Old Farmers Loop and closing access to Trainor Gate Road. Leave options open for future expansion.

Thank you for your input.

When do environmental assessments occur?

Currently, a preliminary environmental review of each of these concepts/concepts is being conducted. This review will highlight any environmental red flags that may delay or hinder project development in the future. This information will impact what concepts/projects will move forward in this study.