



Tetlin to Fort Knox Corridor Study

Advisory Committee Meeting #1

Notes

May 9, 2022

Attendees: A table listing the Advisory Committee Members who attended this meeting is attached.

Meeting Purpose/Introductions: CRW/DOT&PF provided welcoming remarks, an overview of the purpose of the meeting and the committee. The committee members introduced themselves and shared what they each love about the community they live in.

Roles and Responsibilities: CRW provided an overview of roles and responsibilities.

DOT&PF: DOT&PF's mission is to Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure. DOT&PF is responsible for providing a safe and efficient transportation system for Alaska, providing access to goods services and economic opportunities. DOT&PF's planning, project development, enforcement and compliance programs work within a regulatory framework which will be a large part of conversations moving forward. DOT&PF is funding this study, in part, due to public concerns about potential future impacts along the highway corridor. DOT&PF's role for this project will be to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) and manage a contract for a third-party consultant to develop a long-range corridor level study.

The **hired planning consultant** will be responsible for broader public involvement outside the Advisory Committee process, studying previous plans, collecting data, reviewing regulatory authority, suggesting a prioritized list of projects, potential funding sources, potential policy and regulatory changes, and recommendations for implementation, which may include legislative or mitigation measures. While DOT&PF is responsible for hiring a third-party consultant to develop this corridor plan and providing information to be included in the plan, DOT&PF is not writing the plan. DOT&PF will participate to listen

and answer questions.

Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee's role is to assist in scoping the work for the RFP that will be advertised to hire a third-party contractor, and provide advice to the third-party contractor based on community, subject area, or technical expertise. The Advisory Committee is designed to represent multiple viewpoints.

CRW: CRW is providing facilitation and project management/planning support to DOT&PF. CRW will be the neutral facilitator for the TAC. CRW does not have a stake in the outcomes and recommendations. CRW will also help DOT&PF develop the RFP language, assisted by input from the Advisory Committee, and will serve as a neutral liaison working with the Advisory Committee, hired contractor, and DOT&PF. Following this first Advisory Committee Meeting, CRW will take the lead on all future Advisory Committee Meetings. Meeting agendas, invites, and notes will be sent by CRW staff.

Study Need and Background: CRW provided an overview of the understood geographic area of this corridor study, describing it as bigger than a single community or planning organization. CRW discussed the immediate driver to the conversation, which is the proposed ore hauling from Tetlin to Fort Knox using the public highway system. There are still a lot of unknowns regarding Kinross's plans, but the current proposal is to truck ore via the highway system for approximately 5 years. CRW mentioned that while this is the main driver, it is only one element of highway use and safety. The Corridor Plan will look 20 years into the future and reflect other elements such as tourism, military expansion, resource development, transportation and land use. This study should consider big picture – multiple modes, multiple use groups, multiple needs along the full corridor. The Study, once finalized, can be used by all interested parties/organizations as a tool for community, business, and project development. It can be used for other agencies and organizations to pursue funding and project opportunities, and it's a way for businesses to think about how to be a good neighbor.

Public Comments: CRW/DOT&PF summarized public comments heard to-date and shared that the public and stakeholders have already started providing comments to DOT&PF based on Kinross's initial statements. , The concerns have been heard, which is why this committee has been formed and a study initiated. Some suggestions and concerns are very specific to Kinross's proposed project, which is outside DOT&PF's mission and regulatory authority. Other comments that have been provided include:

- Traffic volume, including freight volume
- Level of service

- Bridge and pavement functional lifespan
- Highway maintenance and seasonal use
- Sight lines and grades
- Safety (including school bus safety, delays and passing lanes, and demands to public safety/first responder)
- Regulatory authority including driveway permitting, weights, and enforcement
- Creating alternative truck routes
- Air quality impacts
- Need for segment analysis as well as corridor-level analysis

All public comments will be saved, provided to the Advisory Committee, and shared with the hired contractor that will conduct the Corridor Study.

Wrap Up and Next Steps: CRW provided an overview of the following next steps:

Study RFP Timeline - CRW will have a draft RFP to DOT&PF by the first week in June, with the intent that DOT&PF will advertise the RFP starting the third week in June. The goal is to have a contractor on board by the end of July.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting - **Wednesday, May 25, in person** (note; subsequently changed to May 26th). CRW will send out a calendar invite and additional information later this month. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and develop the corridor study elements, which will be used to shape the RFP scope of work. The third Advisory Committee meeting will be held in early August, once the contractor is selected. All Advisory Committee meetings will be advertised and the public is invited to observe and provide public comments. The contractor will develop a public involvement plan and will use publicinput.com (a public engagement tool) and other tools to engage communities and residents more broadly.

Action Items: Advisory Committee Members to provide bios for the project website; review website and sign up for newsletters, encourage others to do the same; and provide a list of technical topics they would like to learn more about at future meetings.