

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting and Location: Angoon Open House @ Angoon Elementary School Gym

Date and Time: Monday, September 25th, 2024, from 2:00–4:00pm

Format: In-person, open house style

Attendees:

- Pauline Jim
- Frances Daniels
- Shayne Thompson
- Crystal Parkin
- James Parkin
- Emma J Demmert
- Frank Jack III, Kootznoowoo
- Sally Joseph
- Annie Braley
- Sheri Singson
- Raynelle Jack
- Frank Jim
- James Washington
- Doris Williams
- Donovan Kookesh-Booth
- Lisa Kookesh-Booth

City of Angoon:

- Kara James
- Nicole Walker
- Kristi Kookesh

Angoon City Council:

- Jesse C Daniels
- Harriet M. Silva

DOT&PF & Public Involvement Staff:

- Whitney Hamilton, DOT&PF
- Christy Gentemann, DOT&PF
- Misty Butler, DOT&PF
- Hrant Harutyunyan, DOT&PF
- Natalie Lyon, RESPEC
- Megan Flory, RESPEC

NOTES:

- The open house was originally scheduled for September 23 but was rescheduled due to inclement weather. The staff at the City of Angoon and Chatham School District were instrumental in coordinating the new meeting.
- 17 members of the public signed into the meeting. There were also three City staff, three DOT&PF staff, and two RESPEC staff.
- Attendees were encouraged to visit each table (Environmental, Design/Construction, and Project Timeline) to learn about the project and ask questions. They were also encouraged to provide written comments (forms were provided at the sign-in table and on the comment table, which had chairs and pens).
- Six written comments were received from the community.
 - “The locker and toilet paper roll dispenser key is unavailable to the city. Bathroom doorknob on right side is hard to unlock and lock. Not sure who provides toilet paper.”
 - “Need rows for cars going on the ferry like in Juneau.”
 - “Possible construction in spring or fall to limit closure during winter months when flying is less reliable. Adding more piles to accommodate bigger ferries so we can be added to runs that are already going by if our ferry goes down or special events are going on. Possible stop gap service during construction from a catamaran.”

- “Have you thought of moving the ferry terminal to a different site to give access to more variety of vessels? Things to consider with the 3-month closure: weather; replacement of the ferry such as catamaran runs; vouchers for discount travel on AK seaplanes.”
- “I would like to see the outbound dolphin that was installed for the fast ferry (and never used) removed or the existing dock/warehouse improved upon so as to accommodate fuel and freight barges.”
- “I have questions about the hiring. Who is getting hired? Are you going to be hiring locally or bringing out some workers?”
- Discussion with local Angoon residents during the public open house indicated that there is a large clam and mussel bed north of the ferry terminal and berries and beach asparagus in the high intertidal area. One sticky note was added to the Environmental Poster indicating the location of the clam and cockle bed.
 - The Environmental staff will conduct additional research on mitigation measures that are feasible for the project. Initial proposed measures include:
 - Construction activities are to be localized and temporary;
 - Mooring locations for construction barges or boats will be chosen carefully to minimize damage to the shoreline and existing shellfish beds;
 - Construction equipment will not be permitted to operate from the shoreline north of the dock within the existing shellfish bed;
 - Certain areas will be maintained during construction for public access to subsistence resources;
 - The project will not result in significant changes to the availability of subsistence resources.
- Five comments were added to the Timeline Poster.
 - Request for DOT&PF to return to Angoon after the environmental phase of the project is completed to gather more community input.
 - Request that project information be posted at the school, senior center, and ACA building and be faxed to the senior center at (907) 788-3805.
 - Advice that it is easier for the ferry to arrive/dock when the water is at high tide.
 - Advice that the lift should have solar power as a main or backup energy source.
 - Recommendation that construction should occur in spring/summer (from March onward) and a request for more information about the hiring process.

KEY THEMES FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Summer construction would be better than winter construction. The weather during the summer provides more reliable transportation alternatives.
- “What’s good for the ferry is good for the community.”
- Communication and information sharing are greatly appreciated and should continue throughout the project.

For the full list of comments received from the public during the open house and comment period, please see the comment and response tracker posted on the project website. The tracker will be updated with responses from DOT&PF in early December 2024.



Photo 1. It was a beautiful, sunny day in Angoon for the public open house.



Photo 1. The refreshments table at the Angoon open house.



Photo 2. Attendees visit the Design & Construction table with Misty and Hrant.



Photo 3. Misty explains the design to an attendee.



Photo 4. Whitney and Christy staffing the Environmental table.



Photo 5. Attendees visit the Environmental table with Whitney and Christy.



Photo 6. Megan staffs the Project Overview & Timeline table.



Photo 7. The M/V LeConte approaches the Angoon ferry terminal.



Photo 8. The DOT&PF and RESPEC team flew with Ward Air to get to Angoon.