



Public Open House Summary

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Project: South Tongass Highway Rehabilitation

Subject: **June 21 Public Open House in Saxman, Alaska**

Project Staff/Agency Attendees:

Keith Karpstein (DOT&PF)

Jim Scholl (DOT&PF)

Chris Croft (HDR)

Allison Biastock (HDR)

Carol Snead (HDR)

Public Open House Summary:

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, the South Tongass Highway Rehabilitation project hosted a public open house from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at the Saxman Community Center in Saxman, Alaska. The purpose of this event was to share information about the project's preliminary design, scope, and schedule, and to solicit public feedback. Approximately 30 people attended.

Meeting Materials

- Handouts (project fact sheet, comment sheets)
- Graphic posters featuring project information
- Project strip map on a central table upon which attendees could write comments

Comments

Comments Summary: Generally, the open house attendees were very supportive of the project. The primary themes involved safety improvements, including requests for guard rails, better signage, safer parking, and potential for wildlife/vehicle conflicts. Some attendees express concerns about the project's impacts to private property and likely right-of-way acquisitions.

Four formal written comment forms were received.

In addition, the following informal comments were noted by staff while engaging with open house attendees.

Informal comments received by staff:

- We love this bike path, there needs to be more of them in Ketchikan!
- In the winter, we could possibly ski on the pathway if there was enough snow and it was maintained.
- I ride my bike to work on this pathway at least 50x per year.
- You should mail postcards to everyone on South Tongass next time you hold a public meeting.
- The pavement is in poor condition.



- Concerning posted speed through Saxman: why is the posted speed 30 MPH but the posted speed in the Mountain Point area is 20 MPH?
- Several requests for lowering the posted speed through Saxman to 25 MPH. Concerns were mostly arising from the high volume of residents and tourists crossing South Tongass.
- Requests for expanded bus areas on South Tongass.
- A few attendees commented on bald eagle trees.
- A lot of attendees commented that “we need this project.”
- Some expressed concern about the busses turning at the Bear Clan Street intersection. Since the curve radius was so sharp the busses get way to close to personal property.
- “Thank you’s” were shared for the plan to fix and improve the bike/ped path.

Comments written on the tabletop strip map

- Are you going to deal with water and sewer issues before you pave?
- When you put fencing along the path, deer get caught between the uplands and the beach resulting in traffic problems.
- Culverts all need to be replaced.
- “Dead Man’s Curve” - label added to highway just south of Dogwood Place (off Forest Park Drive).
- Re: Forest Park Drive:
 - School bus will not go up this hill
 - 2 school bus shelters
 - Borough bus stop blocks traffic in lane going south
- Re: sea-side properties at MP 4
 - 2 culverts collapsed, one on beach and one missing the bottom
 - Was a trout stream
- Are you going to move the power lines?
- Don’t forget drainage, when the path first went in, waterfalls came down our yard.
- The property lines are incorrect.
- Near mile 4.75 (by mile markers): I walk the path almost daily and its so bad right here. My dog and I would appreciate new, new, new. (*referring to pathway*)
- Just north of mile 5 on map: Existing bike path stops here.
- Re: parcel one north of Surf/South Tongass intersection: 3 drains come into ditch from property.