



State of Alaska Project No. 58106

Subject: Sterling Hwy MP 157-169: Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill—Public Scoping Meeting

Date: September 15, 2014

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Homer Middle School, 500 Sterling Highway, Homer, AK 99603

MEETING NOTES

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and DOWL HKM conducted a public scoping meeting for the Sterling Hwy MP 157-169: Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill project on Monday, September 15, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Homer Middle School. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit comments and input from the public on a proposal to reconstruct Sterling Highway from MP 157 to 169. Nineteen people were in attendance with 19 people signing in.

The meeting announcement appeared in the September 4th edition of both the Homer News and the Homer Tribune weekly local newspapers, and an informational brochure was mailed to 673 area residents. The meeting was also announced with a 30-second spot that ran ten times on Homer public radio station KBBI, on the Alaska Business Monthly website, on the State of Alaska DOT&PF Facebook page, and on the State of Alaska Online Public Notice website.

The meeting was held as an open house from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with a presentation from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Representatives from the project team were present to discuss project details, clarify information, and answer questions until 7:00 p.m.

Project materials included display boards with project background, typical sections, and project schedule; as well as a ten-foot roll plot of the project area and proposed improvements.

The public was encouraged to provide written feedback to the project team on roll plots, on comment forms, through the project-specific interactive map, or via email.

The following is a summary of the public questions/comments made during the meeting and project team responses:

State of Alaska Project No. 58106
September 15, 2014 Public Scoping Meeting Notes

There are some places along the road, next to a bluff for example, that the road could not be widened another 8 feet without dropping off. What would you do there?

Our emphasis will be to move the road away from a drop off or the river. If we can't do that, we will find the best solution to accommodate it, which may involve using fill. We will coordinate with agencies to make sure our plan minimizes environmental impact. In the floods of 2002 there were many repairs made on an emergency basis, and repairs made in haste are not always the highest quality repairs.

You obviously look at crash data for moose. Do you also look at crash data for head-on collisions, and how far back do you look? Are you aware of the accident history at MP 168.5?

We look back about 10 years—for this project, that included the years from 2002 to 2012. And yes, that's one of the curves we are focusing on improving. There are two sections in the project that will require horizontal alignment and that is one of them.

Roll Plot Comments

- MP 158-159: Straighten out the curve between these points. It gets icy on the shady part of the road.
- MP 159-160: Put a passing lane here, near the gravel pit.
- MP 160.5: The river in this area has a truncated meander.
- MP 161: Make the bridge wider.
- MP 162.4: Be advised there's lots of scour in the river near the road here.
- MP 163.8: Be advised there's lots of scour on the Anchor River here.
- MP 164.4: Add auxiliary lanes turning right on to N. Fork (northbound), as the angle makes turning difficult.
- MP 164.9: There is often black ice here.
- MP 165.5-167.5: Would like to see a climbing lane here.
- MP 167: Would like to see left and right turn lanes here.
- MP 167.09: Add a right and a left turn lane onto Diamond Ridge Road. This is a heavily used area for summer access to recreation area.
- MP 167.1: Intersection is elevated relative to Diamond Ridge Road. Cars have difficulty getting up the hill in winter coming out of Diamond Ridge Road.

State of Alaska Project No. 58106
September 15, 2014 Public Scoping Meeting Notes

- MP 167.5 to 169: Align the road so it makes a direct connection between these points (many options drawn on various roll plots).
- MP 168.5: Make a new back access to Dutch Boy.
- MP 168.5: Move the new alignment towards the area that doesn't have any homes, etc.

Written Comments

- Wetlands? Drain to river! Will the road be maintained by the state?
- Please do not increase the speed limit.
- Please look carefully into the entry area to Dutch Boy property as it is very dangerous at any time. As for the bridge at Norman Lowell's driveway, it would be grand to have it wider to accommodate the huge motorhomes and cars. Having a wider roadway will be appreciated for our safety.