



Subject: Sterling Hwy MP 157-169: Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill – Public Meetings
Dates: Monday, October 23, 2017 – Anchor Point, Alaska
Tuesday, October 24, 2017 – Homer, Alaska
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Locations: Anchor Point Senior Center, Anchor Point, and
Homer Middle School Library, Homer

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and DOWL conducted two (2) public meetings for the Sterling Hwy MP 157-169: Anchor Point to Baycrest Hill project.

The purpose of the meetings was to solicit public comments and input during the design phase on the proposed improvements to Sterling Highway, with construction scheduled to start in 2020.

Ten (10) people were in attendance in Anchor Point and 18 were in attendance in Homer (signing in on the sign-in sheets).

The meeting announcements appeared in the following public communications:

- Newspapers: ADN, Peninsula Clarion, and Homer News local newspapers.
- Mailer: Informational brochure mailed to 673 area residents.
- Radio: Announced with a 30-second spot that ran ten (10) times on Homer public radio station KBBI.
- DOT&PF: Facebook Events and Online Public Notice website.
- Emailer: Constant Contact emailed to 84 area contacts.

The meetings were held as an open house format from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Representatives from DOT&PF and DOWL project team were present to discuss project details, clarify information, and answer questions until 7:30 p.m.

Meeting materials provided:

- Display boards: Project Corridor/Project Status; Proposed Improvements; Environmental; Proposed Typical Cross-Section and Proposed Passing/Climbing Lanes; Proposed Bridge at North Fork Anchor River; Proposed Bridge at Anchor River; Right-of-Way (ROW) Impacts; Project Schedule; How To Provide Input; and Next Steps.
- 12-foot roll plots of the project corridor with major proposed improvements and ROW impacts.
- 75% design drawings showing horizontal alignments (plan view) and vertical alignments (profile view).
- 21-page map book of the project corridor for project reference.
- Handouts: Map of project overview and comment form.

The public were encouraged to provide written feedback to the project team members on the roll plots, comment forms, project-specific interactive map (via project website), and project email.

The following is a list of typical questions received during the meetings, along with summarized responses:

- Will my property be impacted due to this project?
Specific impacts to private property will be addressed through the right-of-way acquisition process.
- Why is there so much guardrail?
Guardrail is included where necessary to avoid roadside hazards and minimize environmental and right-of-way impacts.
- Will there be turn pockets at various intersections?
New turn lanes are being proposed at Old Sterling Highway near MP 157 (southbound right turn), North Fork Road near MP 164 (northbound right turn), Old Sterling Highway near MP 165 (northbound left turn), and Diamond Ridge Road near MP 167 (northbound right turn).
- How long will construction take?
Construction is anticipated to begin in 2020 and will likely take two seasons to complete, meaning construction activities will likely extend through 2020 and 2021. The duration of construction activities at specific locations within the project corridor will be dependent on how the selected contractor chooses to sequence the work. The project permits and design specifications will also provide limits on the duration of some construction activities. The MP 157-169 corridor may be broken into multiple construction projects to accommodate available funding, which would impact construction scheduling and may extend the duration of construction activities within the project corridor as multiple projects are completed.
- What is the wildlife mitigation plan?
Moose warning signs are proposed between MP 160 and 163 to alert drivers to the potential for moose crossing the highway. Additional clearing along the corridor will improve visibility for the traveling public and minimize moose browse. Culverts at anadromous streams (Two Moose Creek, Beaver Creek, and Ruby Creek) and Diamond Creek will be replaced with new culverts improving fish passage.
- Will the speed on the highway change near Baycrest Hill (end of project)?
The project team is evaluating whether proposed improvement to improve the horizontal curves near MP 158.5 will justify extending the 55-mph speed zone farther south.
- Will you be cutting down trees on or near my property?
Trees will be cleared at various locations throughout the corridor to allow for realignment of the highway and to improve visibility. Trees located within the Sterling Highway right-of-way are property of the State of Alaska. As the project moves forward, we will evaluate whether trees cut down within the highway right-of-way can safely be made available to the public. Trees that need to be cleared on private property will be addressed through the right-of-way acquisition process.
- Where is my right-of-way/property lines?
Right-of-way/property lines were discussed with individual property owners at the meeting.

- Will the road be moving closer to my property?
Highway realignments at specific locations were discussed with individual property owners at the meeting.
- Are you going to fix the bad curve near MP 158?
The horizontal curve near MP 158 will be realigned to improve safety by providing a more gradual curve and better visibility.
- Where are the passing lanes going to be?
Passing lanes are proposed at the following approximate locations:
 - Southbound MP 159-160,
 - Southbound MP 161-162,
 - Southbound MP 164.5-166,
 - Southbound MP 167.5-169,
 - Northbound MP 159-160, and
 - Northbound MP 162.5-163.5.

Comments Received:

Many of the public comments received (including emails and one-interactive map comment) were from the surrounding property owners, and included written comments on:

- proposed design and safety improvements (in-support of the project and taking into consideration their concerns);
- additional safety areas of concern (turning lanes, new-passing lanes, change to speed limits, pedestrian crossing, and traffic signalization);
- construction (schedule, access to their properties, wildlife, tree removal, and right-of-way);
- helpfulness of the project team members in explaining modifications, plans, and timeline; and
- requests for wildlife crash data.

Comments received via email were responded to by the DOWL project team members.

Post Public Meeting Tasks:

- Update project website to include meeting materials: Display Boards, Project Area Map, Meeting Notes, and Map Book.
- Update project mailing and email contact lists.
- Update public comment register.