



# Memo

Meeting Date: **October 29, 2019**

Project: **Sterling Highway MP 45-60**

To: **Sean Holland & Jonathan Tymick, DOT&PF**

From: **Katherine Wood, HDR**

Subject: **Summary: October 29, 2019 Public Open House**

## *Project Staff/Agency Attendees*

Sean Holland, DOT&PF  
Jonathan Tymick, DOT&PF  
Al Burton, DOT&PF  
Matt Stone, HDR  
Mark Dalton, HDR  
Katherine Wood, HDR

Irene Turletes, HDR  
Vladislav Finko, HDR  
Lance Debernardi, R&M  
Ryan Goentzel, R&M  
Steve Noble, DOWL  
Kelly Kilpatrick, DOWL

## *Stakeholder Attendees*

Francisco Sanchez, U.S. Forest Service  
Jesse Labenski, U.S. Forest Service  
Karen Kromrey, U.S. Forest Service  
Representative Ben Carpenter  
Marcus Mueller, Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Konrad Jackson, Senator Micciche's Office  
Area residents and landowners

## Event Summary

On October 29, 2019, the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project hosted a Public Open House from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Cooper Landing Community Hall in Cooper Landing, Alaska. The purpose of this event was to provide information on the project, to share schedule and next steps, and to foster positive public relations and community goodwill. The meeting hosted about 85 attendees and provided them with an opportunity to meet the design team. Overall, the attendees provided ample feedback on a variety of topics.

## Advertising

The Public Open House was advertised on the project's website ([www.sterlinghighway.net](http://www.sterlinghighway.net)) and through outlets described in Table 1.

**Table 1: Advertising for the Public Open House**

Outlet	Date(s) Posted	Description
E-newsletters	10/1/2019 10/29/2019	565 individuals received one e-newsletter <i>notifying</i> them about the open house and one e-newsletter <i>reminding</i> them about the open house. The e-newsletters generated 37% and 40% open rates, respectively.



Outlet	Date(s) Posted	Description
Flyer	10/9/2019	Several flyers were posted in the Cooper Landing Community by Turletes and Dalton.
Cooper Landing Crier	10/3/2019 10/14/2019 10/17/2019 10/28/2019	The meeting was advertised on the local community e-newsletter, The Cooper Landing Crier.
Peninsula Clarion	10/14/2019 10/15/2019 10/25/2019	Two display ads were posted. One online ad ran for 16 days before the meeting.
Anchorage Daily News	10/15/2019	The Display ad was posted online.
Alaska Public Media	10/15/2019 10/28/2019	Two 30-second radio ads were aired.
Anchorage Daily News Community Calendar	10/1/2019	The meeting was advertised on the public calendar.
DOT&PF PI Calendar	10/1/2019	The meeting was advertised on the public calendar.
DOT&PF Facebook	10/29/2019	Facebook post about the meeting was made.
What's Up	10/1/2019	Shared on the public listserv.
GovDelivery	10/1/2019	Shared on the public listserv.
State of Alaska OPN	10/1/2019	Posted on the Alaska Online Public Notice website.

## Attendance

A total of 70 individuals signed in at the Public Open House (Attachment A). Based on an informal headcount, an additional 20 attendees did not sign in during the meeting. The meeting was also livestreamed on Facebook for individuals not able to attend the meeting in person. The livestream is further discussed in the following section.

Most of the attendees were local residents seeking to learn more about the current phase of the project. There were three attendees from Soldotna, two attendees from Sterling, and one attendee each from Anchorage, Hope, Kenai, and Kasilof. Representatives from the local U.S. Forest Service, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Alaska State Legislature were also in attendance.

## Facebook Livestream

The meeting was livestreamed on the DOT&PF Facebook page during the presentation. As of 11/5/2019, there have been 935 views of the livestream since it was posted on the Facebook page. During the Open House, there were between 15 and 25 viewers at any given time.

During the livestream, there were a few comments posted regarding the quality of the livestream and only one question was asked regarding the project. This question has been noted by HDR staff and will be answered.



## Q&A

A question and answer session followed the presentation. The following questions and answers were discussed:

- Q: Can the CM/GC change the design?
- A: Yes, the CM/GC will be able to collaborate on design ideas as they are developed. However, we will still need to stay within the confines of the EIS.
  
- Q: Is this project based on studies from 2004? A lot has changed since.
- A: No, the alternatives analysis was completed back in 2004. The EIS includes data and studies that are up to date through 2015.
  
- Q: Is there a need for Congressional approval for the land swap?
- A: No. The land swap concept was approved in the Russian River Land Act. No Congressional approval is needed.
  
- Q: Can vehicles drive along the old road?
- A: Vehicles will be able to drive the old road between MP 46.5 and MP 56. In the areas where improvements are made along the current alignment (approx. MP 56-58 and MP 44.5-46.5), the old road will be built over and the remaining unconnected sections will be removed. On the east end, portions of the old road may be used to construct the pathway.
  
- Q: Based on the CM/GC contract type, it seems like one contractor gets the whole project. Is that the intent?
- A: No. The CM/GC purpose is to provide insight on constructability and innovation during the design process. At the end of the CM/GC contract, the contractor selected will have an opp
  
- Q: What's the best way to go about obtaining a new bike path, either through town or on the new alignment?
- A: Adding a new pathway to the new alignment isn't included in the EIS and Record of Decision. To date, the resource agencies have encouraged DOT&PF to keep the road footprint as small as possible. If we pursued adding a pathway, we would increase the footprint of the road and increase all the impacts, and would need to re-enter the environmental/EIS process—we are not pursuing ideas that would require us to re-do the EIS. We are moving forward with the EIS decisions. If the community is interested in adding a pathway either on the current highway or the new alignment, they would need to nominate that as a potential pathway in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) process. More information is available at <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip/stip/projects/index.shtml> or you can email [dot.stip@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.stip@alaska.gov).



- Q: Can you move the start of the new alignment back to Quartz Creek? By starting the new alignment at MP 46.5 you are splitting the community in two.
- A: No. The current concept, which includes the new alignment leaving the existing alignment at MP 46.5, has been portrayed consistently to the public since 2004. Changing this would require DOT&PF to re-enter the environmental process. We are not pursuing ideas that would require us to re-do the EIS.
  
- Q: Why is the project providing a pedestrian bridge across the Snow River as mitigation and not instead providing any mitigation to project in the community?
- A: Mitigation projects are tied to specific impacts. In this case, the project impacts the connectivity of the Resurrection Pass National Recreation Trail, managed by the US Forest Service. To mitigate this impact, the US Forest Service requested that the DOT&PF provide mitigation by connecting portions of the Iditarod National Historic Trail via a pedestrian bridge across the Snow River. DOT&PF agreed to this mitigation. By removing through traffic from the existing highway, the project will improve the pedestrian experience through Cooper Landing. The EIS process determined that no mitigation was necessary for pedestrian improvements through town since the project is anticipated to improve the pedestrian experience.
  
- Q: Why aren't you providing a pedestrian/horse crossing for the new highway at Quartz Creek Rd?
- A: The roadway is at grade in this location. Adding a crossing would require tunneling under the highway or building the highway up, and this would be costly. DOT&PF will look into feasibility further and provide additional information at our next meeting.

## Comments

There was one formal comment form submitted during the Public Open House (Attachment B). The comment stated: "Great meeting! Very informative." This is an individual comment and does not necessarily represent the overall community's questions, concerns, and feedback. These specific questions will be addressed via updates to the FAQs and in the next public meeting.

These additional comments were noted by the project team during the discussion with the community in the open house:

- I like the project and alignment. I'm almost 80 years old. Get going!
- Pathway**
- I like the separated pathway between Quartz Creek and Cooper Landing. I would like to see the new pathway follow the old highway as much as possible.
  - I would like to see a separated pathway along the entire route.
  - Can the DOT&PF build the culverts and bridges larger so that we don't preclude the possibility of adding a future pathway.
- Water/Drainage/Utilities**
- Some of the homeowners along the Kenai Lake shoreline and Langille Road get their household water by intercepting surface flow. How will the new highway affect this collection? If the surface water goes away will the DOT drill our wells?
  - Will the DOT address drainage changes along the Old Sterling Highway due to the construction of the new highway? Just don't outlet the water below the old highway as there will be property/structure and driveway impacts.



- The new highway alignment impacts utilities. Where will the new utilities go? Will the utilities need more land from me in addition to what the DOT is going to take?

**Clearing**

- How much clearing will there be for both the temporary tie-in and the final intersection? Some of the temporary tie-in roadways will have to be removed and is there more clearing required for that than the final intersection?

**Intersection Questions**

- What will the final intersections of the Old Sterling Highway and the new highway look like? Will there be turn lanes?
- For cars turning left out of the Old Sterling and New Sterling Highway intersections (west and east ends), how many lanes of traffic will they have to cross? Will they turn into the “fast” lane? There will be a lot of cars waiting, especially on the west end for people shuttling their cars between Sportsman and Jim’s Landing.
- On the far east end, beyond the project, at Russian Gap, residents traveling east must turn onto Russian Gap Road by making a left from the “fast” lane and hope that there is no oncoming traffic. The situation will be worse with the faster speeds due to the improved highway and right lane at the Quartz Creek intersection. Can there be a left turn lane/pocket?  
How are you connecting the new pathway to the existing safety trail at the Phase 1B BOP?
- Have you looked at grade separating intersection at the East End Old Sterling Hwy connection? Traffic will back up for turning vehicles in the summer months.

**Private property impacts**

- How will the Old Sterling Hwy end on the east for Phase 1B? Most homeowners along the lake share the same opinion and do not want a cul-de-sac as it will become a de facto party spot, campsite, bathroom, and location for other bad behaviors. There is also a security concern. Terminate with a turnaround/cul-de-sac closer to the intersection and sign the remaining highway as a private driveway, maybe even add a gate.
- Judy Gilliland does not want to sell any of her property. However, she is open to hearing offers from the state if the project needs to acquire land from her.
- Judy Gilliland is concerned about how her new driveway will look and turning in and out of her driveway in all directions. Currently, it’s difficult to see oncoming vehicles when stopped on her driveway landing waiting to turn onto the highway.
- For truck maneuverability, please maintain two driveways for Sunrise Inn & Gas. One on “frontage road”, the other on Quartz Creek Rd.
- Residents along “frontage road” at the Phase 1B BOP welcomed the project. It will move all the traffic away from their driveways.



## Event Materials

Table 2 outlines all of the materials that were presented during the Open House.

**Table 2: Event Materials**

Materials	Description
Handouts/Materials available for review	Project Fact Sheet Frequently Asked Questions Project Comment Form DOT&PF General Comment Form ROW Brochures Relocation Brochures Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Executive Summary of the EIS Record of Decision
Graphic Posters	Meeting Purpose Schedule Intersection Renderings
PowerPoint Presentation	The presentation included information on the current state of the project and the future steps.
E-newsletter Sign Up	Sign In Sheet included an option to sign up for the email updates.

## Media

There were no media representatives identified at the Public Open House.

Table 3 identifies the media response following the meeting.

**Table 3: Media Response**

Outlet	Date	Link
Peninsula Clarion	10/29/2019	<a href="https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/dot-meeting-on-bypass-scheduled-for-tuesday/">https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/dot-meeting-on-bypass-scheduled-for-tuesday/</a>
KDLL 91.9 FM	10/30/2019	<a href="https://www.kdll.org/post/dot-taking-comments-cooper-landing-bypass#stream/0">https://www.kdll.org/post/dot-taking-comments-cooper-landing-bypass#stream/0</a>
Peninsula Clarion	11/2/2019	<a href="https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/work-on-bypass-to-begin-in-2020/">https://www.peninsulaclarion.com/news/work-on-bypass-to-begin-in-2020/</a>
KTUU	11/5/2019	<a href="https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Alaska-road-project-to-start-in-2020-include-largest-bridge-564508361.html">https://www.ktuu.com/content/news/Alaska-road-project-to-start-in-2020-include-largest-bridge-564508361.html</a>
Associated Press	11/5/2019	<a href="https://apnews.com/7439aaffd4684a17802529529b33ad9c">https://apnews.com/7439aaffd4684a17802529529b33ad9c</a>
ADN	11/5/2019	<a href="https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2019/11/05/kenai-peninsula-highway-project-to-start-in-2020-will-include-alaskas-largest-bridge/">https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2019/11/05/kenai-peninsula-highway-project-to-start-in-2020-will-include-alaskas-largest-bridge/</a>

HDR will continue to monitor the outlets, and relay any additional published pieces on the project to DOT&PF.



## Follow Up

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All attendees who provided contact information and agreed to sign up for the email list will be added to the email list. The attendees were encouraged to visit the project website for future updates.

HDR will continue to monitor the project email and respond to any comments received.



Attachment A: Sign In Sheets



Sign-In Sheet  
Please  
Print Legibly

Sterling Highway MP 45-60  
Open House - October 29, 2019  
Cooper Landing Community Hall 5:00-7:00 PM



Name (Please print)	E-mail	Address, City, State, Zip Code	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)
Kimi Neis	niceinalaska@yahoo.com			
Jerry Neis				
ROBERT GIBSON	robert@arctic.net			
Joe & Paul McMatha	jbdemate@gmail.com			
ERICA MILLER	ericamillerart@yahoo.com	PO Box 74 Hope, AK 99605		
Janet Mitchell	jmitchell_17@hotmail.com	Box 764 C.L. 99572		
Yveth Lucena	KFCS@ATT.net	Box 663 CL 99572		
GLADYS NICHOLS	BGLAD_1999@YAHOO.COM	Box 783 C.L. 99572		
Ron Bessel	N/A	3610' 6 MIER RD Sterling		
RICHARD HEUSSER	rdheusser@aol.com	35794 RUSSIAN GAP RD		
NORM BLAKELY		BOX 537 SOLDOTNA, AK		

\*This information is **voluntary**. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation by the public in all projects and programs administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.  
Race Categories: White (W), Alaska Native (AN), Native American (N), Black (B), Hispanic (H), Asian (A), Pacific Islander (P), and Other (O). Page 1 of





Sign-In Sheet  
Please  
Print Legibly

Sterling Highway MP 45-60  
Open House - October 29, 2019  
Cooper Landing Community Hall 5:00-7:00 PM



Name (Please print)	E-mail	Address, City, State, Zip Code	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)
KATHY RECKEN	krecken@gmail.com	Cooper Landing 99572	F	W
JOHN VANDERHOFF	nvanderhoff@yahoo.com	Cooper Landing 99572	M	W
MIKE GEPHARDT	GEPHARDT@ARCTIC.NET	Cooper 99572	M	W
DAVE BRUMMEL	davebrummel@yahoo.com	Seward AK 99669	M	W
PAT HARRISON	PAT.HARRISON@KIEWIT.COM	Anchorage 99516	M	W
Michael Link	Michael@BBSRI.org	Cooper Landing	M	W
Charles James	charyle@worldmags.org	" "	F	W
ED Martin JK		Cooper Landing		
Howard Romig	howardromig@gmail.com	Cooper Landing	M	W
JJ Brown	jjbrownhunt@hotmail.com	" "	M	W
Mitchel Dickerson	mitchel_dickerson@live.com	18095 LANGILLERD, Cooper Landing, AK	M	W

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Sign-In Sheet  
Please  
Print Legibly

Sterling Highway MP 45-60  
Open House - October 29, 2019  
Cooper Landing Community Hall 5:00-7:00 PM



Name (Please print)	E-mail	Address, City, State, Zip Code	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)
Mike Frette	mfrette@alaska	7545 Foxridge 420 Anchorage <sup>99518</sup>	M	W
MARY L. MOLEND A	SUNRISE@KRETTIC.NET	19041 SHERMAN CLAYTON CT, CL, AK		
Vince Beltrami	vbeltrami@me.com	#1 Just Deers Ct. Cooper Landing		
Mike Smith		Cooper Landing	M	
Pete & Karalee Hansen	phansen@alaska.net	Kenai AK	M&F	
Janet Bentley	pwbeber@arctic.net	Cooper Landing	F	
LISA Dickinson	lisadickinsonak@gmail	Cooper Landing	F	
Jaratta Cadieux	jette.cadieux@gmail.com	" "	F	
Jon Jarvis	jjc@arctic.net	Cooper Landing	M	
Carrie & John Williams	williams@arctic.net	PO Box 614-35555 S. Face Pl. CL	F	W
Wolfgang Joyce	wolfgang.joyce@alaska.gov		M	W

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Sterling Highway MP 45-60  
Open House - October 29, 2019  
Cooper Landing Community Hall 5:00-7:00 PM



Name (Please print)	E-mail	Address, City, State, Zip Code	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)
Sylvia Montalbo	smontalbo@hotmail.com	12630 Madher Dr. Anch, AK		
Theo Leonard	tleonard@gmail.com	P.O. Box 873 C.L.	M	
Michelle Donahue	trndonahue4@aol.com	PO Box 788 Cooper Landing AK 99572	F	
Tommy Gossard	tommyginny@arctic.net	POB 657 CL AK 99572	M	
RAY Wilkes	beancreeker@yahoo	P.O. Box 871 Cooper Landing	M	
Jim Amundsen	Jim.Amundsen@Alaska.gov		M	O
Frank Turpin	fgturpin@gmail.com	Box 1163 Sterling 99672	M	
John Thomas	smtjohn@yahoo.com	PO Box 670, CL. 99572	M	
LAURIE RADZINSKI	L.RADZINSKI@GMAIL.COM	PO BOX 587 CL 99572	F	
Ron Graevenhast	—	POB 785 99572		
Mary Lambe	mjl@acsalaska.net	23362 Katie St. Kaslof 99610		

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Sign-In Sheet  
Please  
Print Legibly

~~Public~~ Sterling Highway MP 45-60  
Agency Meeting - October 29, 2019  
Cooper Landing Community Hall ~~1:00-3:00 PM~~



Name (Please print)	Agency	E-mail
	ADDRESS	
Ted Wallace	34593 Grafton Circle 3rd Fl. Jt AK 99572	tadwallman@exade.net
Heather Pearson	PO BOX 508 Cooper Landing AK 99572	heather@mightykenai.com
Diane Hershaw	112 Rose Garland Rd Soldotna AK	bigblues1953@yahoo.com
Ed Griner		ed.griner@gcinc.com
JocDemotia	2009 g sterling Hwy Cooper Land	
Jen Herpe	PO BOX 653 99572	jen@KRFF.com
Alexa Sherry Kime	PO Box 857 99572	akhorsemen@gmail.com
Sharr & Wayne Hoedler	PO Box 537 419190 Bean Creek Rd	Wkoehler@hotmail.com smskoehler@yahoo.com
Kristen Helgren	PO Box 853	thrushwood2@gmail.com
MONA PAINTER	POB 711 Cooper Landing AK 99572	painter@arctic.net

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Print Legibly

Sterling Highway MP 45-60  
~~Agency Meeting~~ - October 29, 2019 5-7  
 Cooper Landing Community Hall ~~1:00-3:00~~ PM



Name (Please print)	Agency	E-mail
	ADDRESS	
NORMAN Starkey	COOPER LANDING	Nstarkey@gci.net
Glen MAURIN	COOPER LANDING	GlenTM1941@gmail.com

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Attachment B: Written Comment





# Sterling Highway MP 45-60

Public Open House

[www.sterlinghighway.net](http://www.sterlinghighway.net)

Please share your comments.

Comments can also be e-mailed to  
[sterlinghwy@hdrinc.com](mailto:sterlinghwy@hdrinc.com)

*Great Presentation !!*  
*Very informative*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the project e-mail list.