

Subject: Highway to Highway	
Client: DOT	
Project:	Project No:
Meeting Date: 09/18/2008	Meeting Location: HDR, 4 th floor multipurpose room
Notes by: Erin Begier	

Attendees:

Arthur Yang, Darrel Hess, Eleanor Andrews, Sylvia Reyes, Paula Pawlowski, Jan Engan, Madeline Holdorf, Rick Henderson, Chiquita Cothron, Darrell Hess, Katherine Wood, John McPherson, RaeShaun Schmidt, Jerry Reilly, John Tolley, Jim Childers and Julianne Hanson

Topics Discussed:

Jim Childers gave a brief introduction to the project, and the meetings that had been conducted. At this stage, the project team wants as much feedback from the community as possible. Jim indicated that the team wants the community leaders to help us identify ways that we can better reach all members of the public to ask how this project might impact them for better or worse.

Julianne Hanson presented a PowerPoint presentation which included the following topics: Purpose, Who is Involved, History, Project Area, Needs, Safety, Diversity of Affected Corridor, Income Levels of those Surrounding the Corridor, Language Barriers, Overview of Public Meetings, Environmental Justice, Public Involvement Steps and How to Participate.

The floor was then open for questions and comments:

Eleanor Andrews – Voiced concern that construction could harm traffic routes and cause negative impacts to local businesses.

Eleanor Andrews – Raised concern that the project area may be subject to noise and air pollution, specifically in the Mt. View area.

Madeline Holdorf – Wanted to know what role the EIS played in the overall decision making and whether the project was a foregone conclusion. Jerry Ruehle answered that the project will have to go through a design phase for 2-3 years, the EIS is not the final decision document. John McPherson added that the no action alternative is also standard and remains an option.

Eleanor Andrews – Would like to have the project be part of the AMATS with KABATA, she also wanted us to work with the military. Answer – The EIS is in coordination with other agencies and they are aware of the traffic patterns.

Paula Pawlowski – Indicated that she avoids the area by cutting through the base. She suggested that there are a number of people who take the same route. She recommended that we try to find traffic statistics for people who cut through the base.

Sylvia Reyes – Mascot public transportation could be used for valley transport/commuter outreach. The team may want to contact Mascot.

Paula Pawlowski – Commended the team on trying to reach out to renters.

Eleanor Andrews – Suggested that the team contact the Anchorage School District Children in Transition Office, that they might provide more leads in reaching people.

Chiquita Cothron – Suggested that the team could reach more people by attending school open houses, Saturday markets, Wednesday markets, laundromats. She indicated that the team should consider how the current bus routes affect an individual's ability to attend meetings. Libraries too offer a great place to reach the public because they often offer low-cost entertainment.

Rick Henderson – Suggested that the team may want to include a person of color as a team representative. He indicated that may make the team and information more approachable. He said that using a person of color worked when he was conducting outreach as the Executive Director of the Mt. View Boys and Girls Club. He said the team may also want to use churches as a place or mechanism to get the word out.

Sylvia Reyes – Suggested the Chamber of Commerce, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the non-profit Tel Mundo TV station as existing mechanisms to reach people.

Arthur Yang – Suggested that we advertise on the radio.

Madeline Holdorf – Asked if there was a mock up of what it might look like after completion. Answer – at the end of October the team will present a mapped range of alternatives and eventually will help people visualize what the options may look like.

Sylvia Reyes – Does anyone on the team speak Spanish? Julianne Hanson – I don't. But we can refer them to a translator. Sylvia suggested that we list a Spanish speaker on the flyer so that they could take comments or questions and refer them to the project staff. She thought that this would make the team more approachable. Sylvia also suggested we talk to staff at local hospitals.

Paula Pawlowski – Suggested that we coordinate with the 2010 census. She knows of a 2010 census office that will be located near the project office (currently under renovation in the old Green Connection building). She also wanted to include the October public meeting in her next Bridge Builders newsletter. She requested that the team send her the information before the end of September and she would add it to the newsletter.