



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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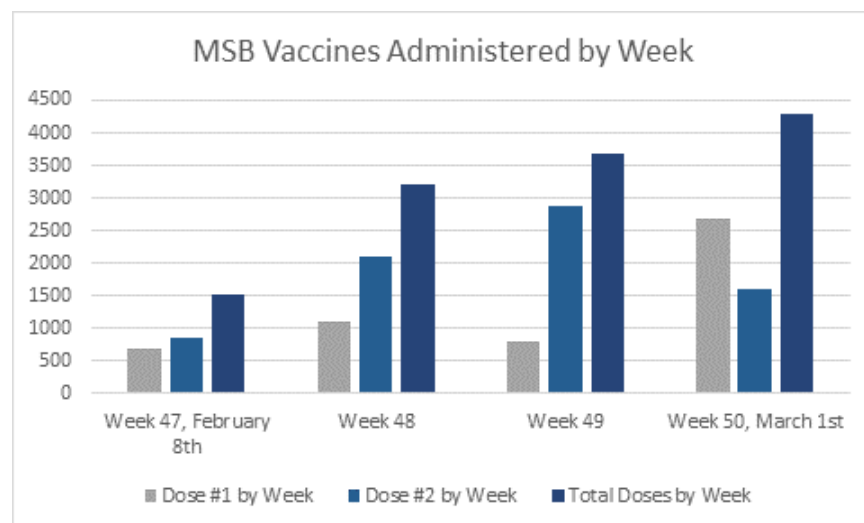
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 3, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

YMCA and Pool Usage: The Matanuska-Susitna Borough was approached by the swim director of the YMCA with a proposal to allow the YMCA to offer swimming lessons at the Wasilla Pool. After reviewing the request and comparing it with our available schedule(s) given current COVID-19 protocols, staff determined we do not have adequate pool time available to grant the request. The request by YMCA for pool time occurs during our busiest periods.

The Borough offers over 30,000 individual lessons annually (pre-COVID) and most sessions have nearly 100% occupancy. The remainder of the pool time is used by over 144,000 visitors for open swim, lap swim, swim club, swim team, physical education classes and private rentals. The YMCA's request would negatively impact public use, existing user groups and impact our ability to fulfill obligations to provide swim lessons and other swimming opportunities to our residents and their children.

COVID-19 Vaccination Weekly Update: As of this week, over 21,500 people in the Mat-Su have had both doses administered. As the new, single dose vaccine begins to become available, we will be reporting "all doses administered" as the number vaccinated.



Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

Wetland Mitigation Bank Map: A question was asked by an Assemblymember on what Borough parcels have been included in the Borough's wetland mitigation bank, Su-Knik Mitigation Bank (<http://www.suknikmitigationbank.com/>). Attached is a map created by Land Management and GIS staff illustrating designated parcels. The legend depicts colors for green, yellow and salmon. The color coding of these areas is based on estimating the soil viability for road construction. In other words, how expensive might it be to construct road access. This also lends itself to what it might cost to build or develop these areas. The parcels outlined in red already have conservation easements in place; parcels outlined in yellow have credits registered in the bank; and parcels outlined in black are designated for future use. Including additional parcels in the bank would require Assembly approval. This is unlikely in the near future unless the Borough made substantial credit sales for those parcels already delineated for credits.

The question centered around evaluating parcels in the bank or parcels reserved for future consideration that include smaller areas in addition to wetlands that may be useable. The concept is to potentially allow development on non-wetland areas of the parcel and only place a conservation easement on the wetland portion of the parcel. Staff do not recommend adjusting parcels designated for bank use. Based on staff review, the cost to construct access as well as subdivide the parcels would be greater than what we could regain by selling portions of the parcel. Additionally, it is likely we would have to pay our private partner some restitution for removing land from the bank. We do not know what this amount would be at this time.

A local land trust works with private landowners to place portions of private land in a conservation easement while leaving certain lands for the private landowner to develop. In this way, the landowner gets a tax break for the conservation easement, but they still get to develop their most desirable land. Borough lands were placed in the mitigation bank in blocks and the developable uplands were included in the bank as part of the overall wetlands analysis/computation. Removing these lands would not only be costly, as explained above, but staff believe this would also reduce the number and value of the credits.

West Susitna Access Public Outreach Meeting Summary: An Assemblymember requested a summary of the West Susitna Access project public meeting outreach that occurred in November-December 2020. AIDEA, with Borough staff support, held an online open house and virtual public meeting. A summary of the meeting comments are attached.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Arctic Winter Games

- Radio interview with MSB Purchasing Officer, Russ Krafft
<https://www.knba.org/post/mat-su-borough-submits-bid-host-2024-arctic-winter-games>

COVID

- Johnson & Johnson Vaccine: Thousands of doses available soon
<https://www.alaskanewssource.com/2021/03/01/thousands-of-doses-of-the-johnson-johnson-covid-19-vaccine-will-soon-be-available-in-alaska/>
- ADN - Mat-Su, highest COVID-19 case counts, lowest vaccine rates
<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/mat-su/2021/02/26/mat-su-now-has-the-highest-covid-19-daily-case-average-in-the-state-and-one-of-the-lowest-vaccine-rates/>

Fisheries

- Craig Medred- Fish farmers now control the market
<https://craigmedred.news/2021/02/25/winning-losers/>

Borough Business

- KTNA- Solid waste transfer site closure option
<https://ktna.org/2021/02/borough-solid-waste-transfer-site-closure-plan-is-hypothetical-unless-assembly-takes-it-up/>

Future media events

- KTNA- Discussion on various topics with Mike Brown - 10am - March 4, 2021
LIVE STREAM- <https://ktna.org/listen.html>

ATTACHMENTS



Public Outreach Summary

Online Open House and Virtual Public Meeting

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

West Susitna Access Road Project

Anchorage, Alaska
November 13 – December 20, 2020

West Susitna Access Road Project



Welcome!

The West Susitna Access Road Project meeting will begin shortly.

Webex Help: 866.229.3239

Visit us online: westsusitnaonline.org

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Introduction

This public outreach summary is used for tracking and documentation of public involvement activities. It outlines some of the public involvement strategies and tactics used to engage the public on the West Susitna Access Road Project. The summary includes a description of the November 13 to December 20, 2020, Online Open House and Virtual Public Meeting on December 3, 2020.

Online Open House and Virtual Meeting

On Friday, November 15, 2020, the West Susitna Access Road Project team kicked off an online, interactive, self-guided public open house on the project website that was available through Sunday, December 20, 2020. The Online Open House consisted of a total of 13 sections that outlined project information and 1 section that included ways to comment on the project. The purpose of the Online Open House was to invite the public to learn about the project and provide feedback on the upcoming project phases.

In conjunction with the Online Open House, the project team hosted a Virtual Public Meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2020, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at which 44 members of the public interacted with the project team through a WebEx Event (Attachment A).

Attendance

A total of 162 users visited the Online Open House on Thursday, December 3, 2020, with a total of 44 users (peak of 25 users at 5:00pm) visiting the site during the Virtual Public Meeting from 4:00pm to 6:00pm (Attachment B). For the duration of the comment period (November 13 through December 20, 2020), the site was viewed 1,327 times (Attachment B).

Advertising

The Online Open House was advertised in the following ways:

- Meeting information on the project website:
<http://www.aidea.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx>
- Postcard mailer to residents near the project area (total of 198; Attachment C)
- One advertisement in the *Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman* newspaper (Attachment D)
- Two E-Blasts sent to the project distribution list (total of 59 contacts; Attachment E)
- Personalized calls and email notifications, containing the meeting flyer (Attachment F), were sent to local stakeholders including the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Alliance, Alaska Miners Association, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, Resource Development Council, and Associated General Contractors of Alaska.
- Radio Public Service Announcements (Attachment G) played from December 1, 2020 through December 4, 2020 on KAYO 100.9 Classic Country and Kool 97.3.
- Announcements of the Online Open House and Virtual Public Meeting were delivered at the November 11, 2020 Mat-Su Borough Assembly Meeting and the November 19, 2020 Mat-Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting.

Summary of Comments

The comments received during the Online Open House and the Virtual Public Meeting (Attachment H) focused primarily on the details of the estimated project cost, mining claims, environmental impacts, outreach to affected landowners, and agency collaboration.



Attachment A

Virtual Meeting Transcript

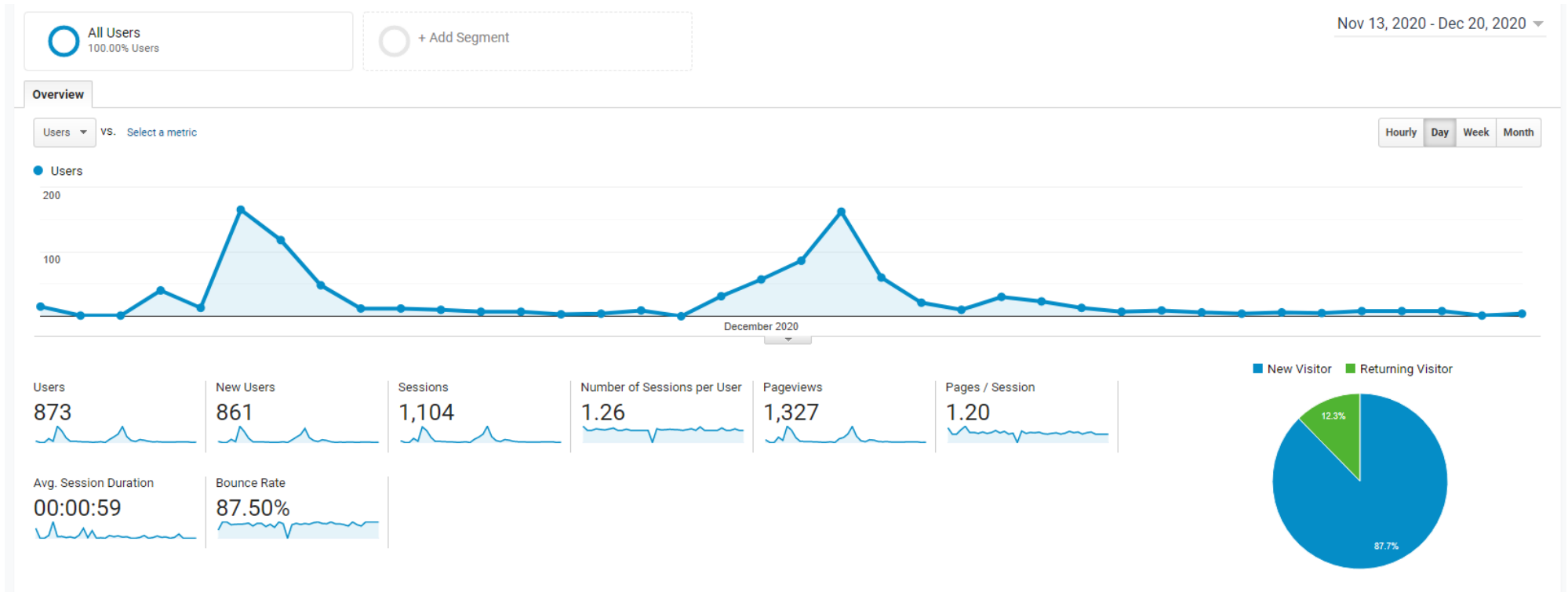
48	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kirsten	Dixon	Within The Wild Adventure Co	kirsten@withinthewild.com	4:22 PM	5:41 PM	78.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
49	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kirsten	Dixon	Within The Wild Adventure Co	kirsten@withinthewild.com	5:53 PM	5:59 PM	5.0 mins	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
50a	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Kevin	Masterson		contactkevinhere@yahoo.com	3:51 PM	6:09 PM	137.0 mins	N/A	N/A	There are 100s if not thousands of cabins and homesteads in the area of the proposed road. They are largely off-grid and cannot comment via email or web submission. You need to find another way to do outreach to those land owners.	5:50 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:55 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
50b												This area is the playground for Mat-Su and the greater Anchorage area; most of	5:52 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:55 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51a	December 3, 2020	4:00 pm Alaska Time	Eric	Lubell		lubellski@gmail.com	3:55 PM	6:03 PM	128.0 mins	N/A	N/A	Alan just mentioned a 2nd email address. Can you pls verify that address and speak to if it is a better or worse place to comment than the westsusitnaaccess.org email address? Which one is guaranteed to make the public record?	5:40 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:46 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51b												omits and under deliver on resource impacts and mitigation, how can the public be certain they are not left holding the bag on cleaning up the mess that is left behind once the private corporations and lease holders finish extracting resources and move on?	5:53 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:57 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51c												Being embroiled in years of expensive litigation isn't an option. The public does	5:54 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:57 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
51d												Sorry, first part of question: If and when the project proponents over promise...	5:54 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	5:57 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly
52	December 3, 2020	pm Alaska Time	Dan	Graham		dan@tfsengineering.com	4:05 PM	6:03 PM	118.0 mins	N/A	N/A	Thanks panel. Well handled.	5:59 PM	All Panelists	N/A	This question has been answered verbally.	6:01 PM	Kristi Shepherd	Publicly



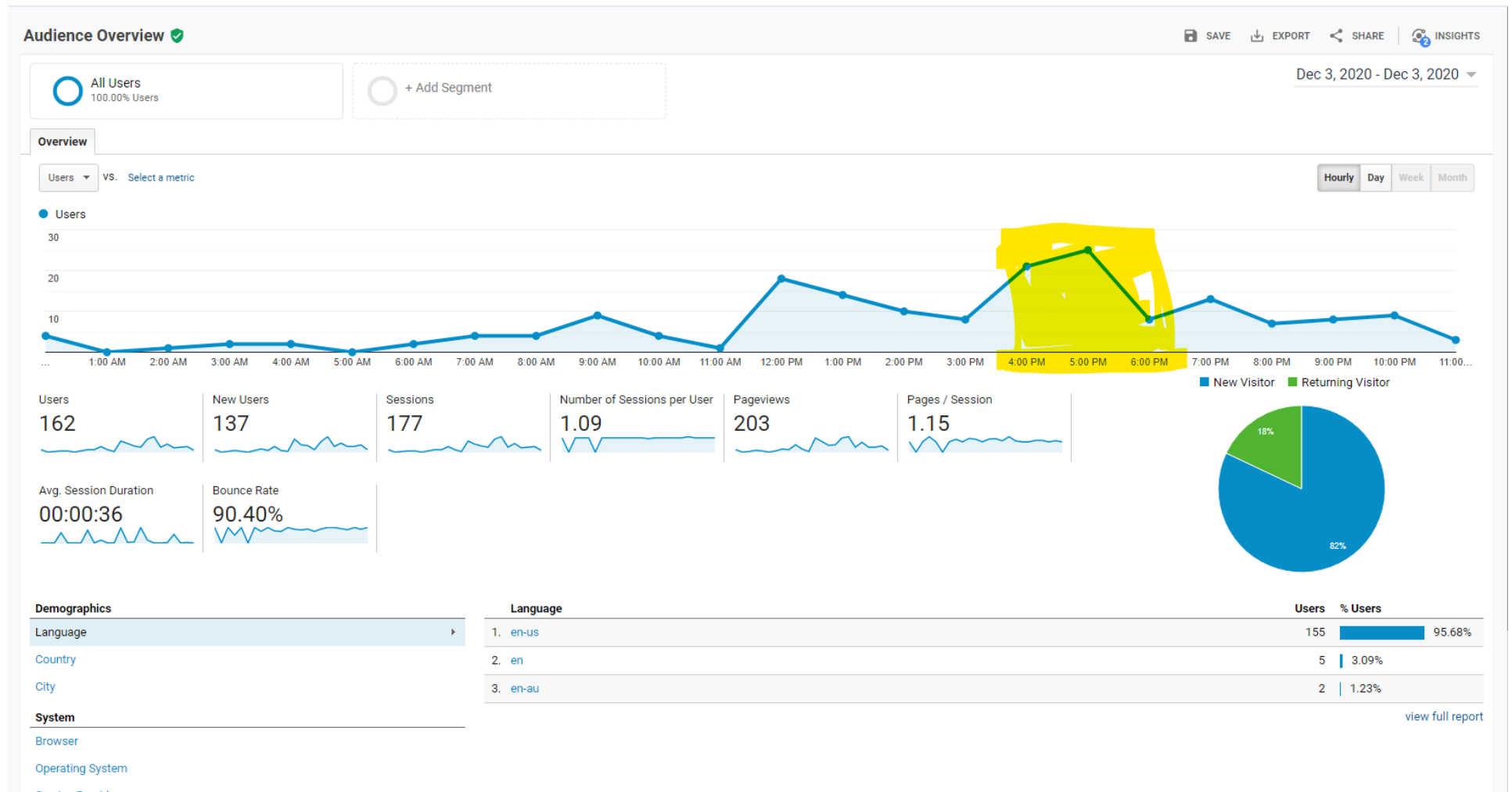
Attachment B

Online Open House and Virtual Meeting Data

Participation during the Online Open House comment period (November 13 through December 20, 2020)



Day of the Virtual Public meeting (December 3, 2020). There were a total of 25 users at peak time (5:00 PM) and an overall total of 162 users for the day.





Attachment C

Postcard

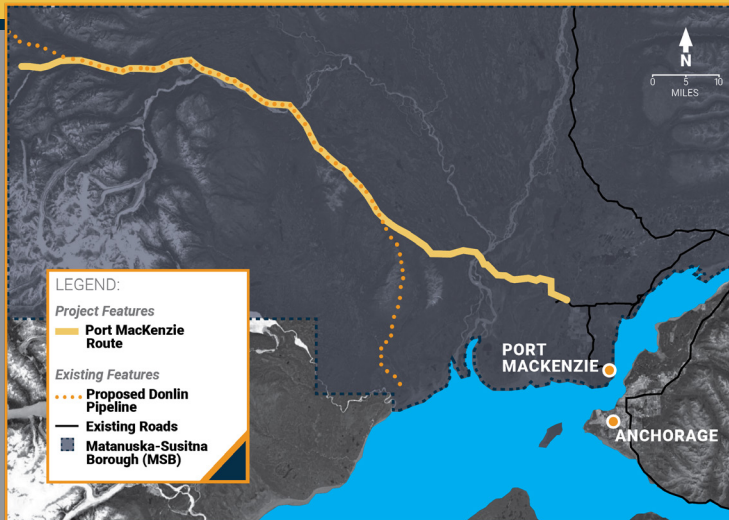
ONLINE OPEN HOUSE NOTIFICATION

West Susitna Access Road Project

Thursday, December 3, 2020



West Susitna Access
Road Project
C/O Alaska Industrial
Development and Export Authority
813 West Northern Lights Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx

West Susitna Access Road Project

Scan Me!



Online Open House Notification

Virtual Public Meeting
Join the project team live!

Thursday, December 3
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Please Join the Team by going to this link at the time of the meeting:



bit.ly/WSARP2020

Meeting Number (Access code): 146 816 6093 | **Password:** WSARS2020

To Join by Phone Call: 1-408-418-9388

Meeting Number (Access code): 146 816 6093



Can't join us on December 3? An online open house will be available to review project materials and submit comments between **November 13 and December 20, 2020**, at www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx



Interested in receiving project updates? Join our mailing list!

projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Josie Wilson, Public Involvement Lead, at (907) 644-2000.



Attachment D

Advertisement in the
Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman

Palmer closes facilities to slow the spread of COVID-19

BY TIM ROCKEY
Frontiersman.com

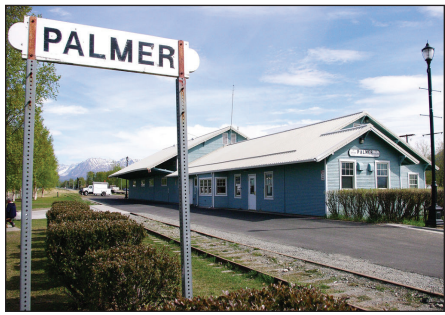
PALMER — On Friday, Palmer Manager John Moosey announced the closure of most city facilities as a precaution to slow the spread of COVID-19 in support of Gov. Dunleavy's emergency action.

The MTA Event Center, Train Depot, City Hall, and visitor information center are all closed to the public. The visitor information center restroom will remain open to the public and the library will be closed to in-person reading but will offer curbside delivery. The buildings will remain closed from November 13 until December 1.

"Please, be aware that additional impacts to the City services may occur. The city of Palmer will strive to provide full service in the safest way practical," wrote Moosey.

On Tuesday, the Palmer City Council will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m., for public hearing on Ordinance 20-016 that would enact a mask mandate in Palmer. The ordinance is sponsored by Deputy Mayor Sabrena Combs and Councilwoman Dr. Jill Valerius.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has generated a public health emergency that threatens to overwhelm our health system, endangering the lives and well-being of our cit-



izens. The Governor has issued an emergency alert asking citizens to remain diligent in social distancing and masking. The CDC recommends wearing masks or face coverings in public settings in addition to maintaining six feet physical distancing. In line with his recommendation, the city puts forth this emergency ordinance to preserve the health and safety of our community," reads the ordinance.

There were 584 new COVID-19 cases among Alaskans on Friday and there have been 21,275 total residents that have tested positive. In the Mat-Su, the 82 cases announced on Friday were tied for the second highest day since the start of the coronavirus pandemic with October 25. There have been 2,224 COVID-19 cases among Mat-Su residents. Of those, 626 were from Palmer and 247 of those remain active.

119 inmates test positive in Goose Creek COVID-19 outbreak

BY TIM ROCKEY
Frontiersman.com

POINT MACKENZIE — The largest prison in Alaska now has the largest outbreak of inmates who have tested positive for COVID-19.

After an inmate initially tested positive for COVID-19 on October 28, 119 inmates have now been confirmed as positive at Goose Creek Correctional Center, which houses over 1,300 inmates. Inmates have been required to quarantine after transferring facilities since the spring, but additional protocols have been put in place at Goose Creek due to the outbreak.

"All transfers in and out of Goose Creek have been suspended for the time being. Additionally, staff are now required to wear surgical face masks (not cloth coverings) as they provide a higher degree of protection. Finally, testing of the quarantine and isolation mods is being conducted every three days until no positive results are received for 14 days instead of on an as needed basis," said Department of Corrections Public Information Officer Sarah Gallagher.

An inmate at Goose Creek was the



FRONTIERSMAN FILE PHOTO

The Goose Creek Correctional Center.

first housed inside Alaska correctional facilities to test positive for COVID-19 in late April and the effort to limit the infection to just one inmate was commended by Gov. Mike Dunleavy. Now two weeks after the first inmate tested positive, 119 have now also tested positive. Of the housing mods that each contain approximately 100 inmates, one mod is quarantined and another mod is isolated with confirmed positive or symptomatic inmates. There have been 618 tests conducted on inmates. Only one member of the Goose Creek staff has tested positive thus far.

"Staff are advised to seek testing in the community," said Gallagher.

West Susitna Access Road Project Virtual Public Meeting



Virtual Public Meeting Details:

Date: December 3, 2020

Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Please Join the Team by going to this link at the time of the meeting:



bit.ly/WSARP2020

Meeting Number (Access code): 146 816 6093

Password: WSARS2020



To Join by Phone Call: 1-408-418-9388

Meeting Number (Access code): 146 816 6093

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.

Can't join us on December 3? An online open house will be available to review project materials and submit comments between November 13 and December 20, 2020 at

**www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/
WestSusitnaAccess.aspx**



Interested in receiving project updates?

Join our mailing list at
projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Josie Wilson, Public Involvement Lead, at (907) 644-2000.



Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
School Board Meeting
November 18, 2020
Regular Meeting 6 PM
MSBSD Central Office
501 N Gulkana, Palmer

Occupancy may be limited due to distancing

Tentative Agenda

Call to Order/Quorum/Pledge of Allegiance/Approval of Agenda
Oath of Office for Member Elected November 3, 2020
Reorganization of the Board – Selection of Officers

Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (as governed by BP 9323)
Borough and City Reports

Administrative Reports
A. Education Support Professional Recognition
B. Federal Programs

Superintendent Update /Student Advisory Board Report

Consent Agenda
A. Minutes, October 21, 2020
B. Request for Grant Acceptance – All Federal Funds

Action Items

Non-Action Items
A. Houston High School 95% Design
B. FY21 Legislative Priorities

Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items – (as governed by BP 9323)

Future Items/Future Business
December 2, 2020 6 PM Regular Board Meeting, MSBSD Central Office

Correspondence/Board Committee Reports

Comments from School Board and Administration

Executive Session (AS 44.62.310 & BP 9321)

All regular School Board meetings are broadcast on Radio Free Palmer KVRP 89.5
Live streaming is also available at www.matsuk12.us - School Board page

Publish: November 13 & 15, 2020

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD IN
FRONTIERSMAN
ARCTIC WARRIOR
THE PRESS
THE EAGLE
CALL TODAY 352-2264

Frontiersman
Publishes:
Wednesday
Friday - Sunday
Web Publishes: Everyday
Arctic Warrior: Every Friday
Anchorage Press: Every Thursday
The Eagle: Every Thursday

**102,000
READERS
BETWEEN GRIERWOOD
AND TALKIEENA**



Attachment E

E-Blasts

[View this email in your browser](#)

West Susitna Access Road Project



The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.

Online Open House

When: November 13 to December 20, 2020

Location: <https://westsusitnaonline.org/>

Virtual Public Meeting

When: December 3, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Location: Visit this link to join the meeting: bit.ly/WSARP2020

Meeting Number: (Access code):146 816 609

Password: WSARS2020

Interested in receiving project updates? Join our mailing list at

projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org

PROJECT WEBSITE

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

HDR

2525 C St

Anchorage, AK 99503-2651

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West Susitna Access Road Project



REMINDER: **December 3, 2020** **Virtual Public Meeting**

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.

Online Open House

When: November 13 to December 20, 2020

Location: <https://westsusitnaonline.org/>

Virtual Public Meeting

When: December 3, 2020 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Location: Visit this link to join the meeting: bit.ly/WSARP2020

Meeting Number: (Access code):146 816 609

Password: WSARS2020

Interested in receiving project updates? Join our mailing list
at projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org

PROJECT WEBSITE

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

HDR
2525 C St
Anchorage, AK 99503-2651

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



Attachment F

Project Flyer

West Susitna Access Road Project

Virtual Public Meeting Join Us!

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and industry partners, is in the pre-development feasibility stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities, that will diversify the state and borough economy and lead to job creation.



Online Open House

When:

November 13 to December 20, 2020

Location:

<https://westsusitnaonline.org>

Project Updates:

Interested in receiving project updates or have questions, email the project team at projectinfo@westsusitnaaccess.org

Virtual Public Meeting

**December 3, 2020
from 4 to 6:00 p.m.**

Visit this link to join the meeting:
bit.ly/WSARP2020

Meeting Number (Access code):
146 816 6093
Password: WSARS2020

Join by Phone Call:
1-408-418-9388

Meeting Number (Access code):
146 816 6093

Project Website:

<http://www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx>



Attachment G

Radio Public Service Announcement

1.0 West Susitna Access Road Project Radio PSA

Join the West Susitna Access Road Project team at the upcoming virtual public meeting to provide input and learn about the project. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2020 from 4 to 6 p.m. Visit bit.ly/WSARP2020 and use the access code: 146 816 6093 with password: WSARS2020 to participate in the meeting. The public is invited to view the online open house on the project website and provide comments from November 13, 2020 to December 20, 2020. Project website is: www.westsusitnaaccess.org/Programs/ProjectDevelopment/WestSusitnaAccess.aspx



Attachment H

Comment Log

Comment Number	Date	Comment Type	Commenter	Contact Information	Organization	Comment
1	11/18/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Tom Harris	a.tom.harris@gmail.com	Public	Please place me on your contact list to receive West Susitna Access information. Thank You Tom Harris Sent from my iPhone
2	11/27/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Steve H. Perrins II	Guide88@hotmail.com	Public	Can you please add me to your mailing list and include me in any project updates. Thank you very much, Steve H. Perrins II
3	12/1/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Russell Joyce	mail@westsusitnaonline.org	Public	Russell Joyce Rjoyce@mtaonline.net Please add me to any mailing list you compile in support of this project.
4	12/1/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Glenn Helmuth	helmuth@gci.net	Public	Glenn Helmuth helmuth@gci.net I support this, Alaskans need more access to our state, not everyone owns a plane or boat
5	11/23/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Willi Prittie	willi@mtaonline.net	Public	Dear AIDEA, Mat-Su borough, and others, I will log into your online open house and try to keep an open mind. But for now, I cannot imagine a worse use of public money in a difficult economic time than building a new long-distance road into an roadless area of Alaska, one that will only benefit large mining corporations. If this is such a great thing for Alaskans, then let the corporations in question build their own road with their own money and go through whatever permitting process is necessary to do so. Pebble is not even approved yet, and I sincerely hope it will never be approved. Make no mistake about it, this is simply another project to benefit the infrastructure that Pebble wishes to put in. I am not anti-mining per se, but I believe there are deposits that should remain in the ground until our grand kids or great grand kids are smart enough to figure out how to get it out of the ground without totally f___ing up everything in the process. To put a mine of the scale and type that Pebble would be in the middle of the watershed of the richest wild salmon spawning in the world is the ultimate in human hubris and folly. . .or perhaps it is being proposed only by people who really don't give a s_it because they don't live here and they really could care less about what kind of a mess they will leave and what impact it will have on an already stressed changing climate and environment? When are all you planner and development types going to get the message that we humans need too be doing and developing things VERY differently in the future? Sincerely, Willi Prittie Sunshine, Alaska
6	11/16/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Ted Eischeid	Ted.Eischeid@matsugov.us	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Subscribed. Thank you.
7	11/21/2020	Email to Project Email Address	James C Golia	jagolia909@aol.com		Please add me to this list Property Owner James C Golia 714-420-3225

8			Mark Miller	mark@talaheimlodge.com	Talaheim Lodge	I would like to comment on the upcoming virtual meeting on the access road. I hope that this road planning doesn't continue until we can have a real live meeting. A virtual meeting can't cover real live bodies in a room discussing this issue. Most of the tourist businesses in the valley and many of the private businesses have been hurt by the covid lockdowns and travel restrictions. The only people that haven't been hurt are state and local employees. I think it's about time you suffer with us and plan on a real meeting sometime this spring when interested parties can all group together and perhaps ask questions to the developers that this road will benefit. Good Fishing, Mark Miller Lodge Owner PO Box 1072 Willow, Alaska 99688 talaheimlodge.com (907) 440-0614
9	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Rachel James	rachelannjames@gmail.com		Thank you for the presentation. Please give some specifics regarding the 3000 mining claims you mentioned earlier in the presentation: Who holds the claims and are they Alaskan? If not, where are they from, please provide details on the company/companies.
10a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Jason Rockvam	jrockak@yahoo.com	Wilderness Place Lodge	The are is mainly wetlands, and a volatile floodplain. Surface water contamination is unavoidable. How can you convince the public that this is environmentally responsible? Not just the road but logging, gas, development are inevitable future threats.
10b						Overall, the road development is of minor concern. After the road is built, it is built. That opens access to many people for many uses. There must be guidance and a plan for the area at large before you propose access to this special, wild area.
11	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Lynn Fuller	lfuller@mtaonline.net		You indicated that this project is driven by both resource industry interest and by significant interest from the public for the road. Do you have any documentation of the public interest?
12	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Eric Booton	ebooton@tu.org		On station 6, which part of the process are me at? Is it MSB Assembly Approval?
13	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Brittany Hartman	brittany@agcak.org	Associated General Contractors of Alaska	Hey Josie! It's Brittany with AGC. I have a brief comment to put on record simply stating taht AGC looks forward to watching this project progress. How do I get in the queue?
14	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Ted Eischeid	ted.eischeid@matsugov.us	Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB)	What's the rationale for not allowing participants being able to seei who else is on the meeting? Not allowing this does not help build trust.
15	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Melissa Heuer	melissa@susitnarivercoalition.org	Coalition For Susitna Dam Alternatives	Do you know when this will be posted?
16	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Kendra Zamzow	klzamzow@chickaloonnsn.gov		Will AIDEA commit to having an independent third party, possibly through the MSB, to review the estimated costs?
17	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Israel Payton	israelbof@gmail.com		Pretty easy, to find the stakeholders, get on Mat su bourgh website tax map and send mail outs.
18a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Bob Loeffler	bobl@jadenorth.com		I'm just curious. How many attendees are there?
18b						You are estimating the cost of the road in Ph II. What is the width of the road you are designing to? And what is the width of the bridges you are cost-estimating? Thanks.

19	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Wayne Brosman	pcgwhb@gmail.com	Pacific Consulting Group	Thank you for your hard work team! I am looking forward to this project working for everyone locally and for all of Alaska.
20a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Tom Harris	a.tom.harris@gmail.com	KI Energy for Alaska Village Initiatives	If this is a public meeting, why are the names of the attendees hidden?
20b						Please listen to the concerns of the private land owners. The track record you boast of does not exist. Where are the salmon going. If you really want to brag about wildlife just take the time to compare the wildlife harvests of other states vs. Aaska.
20c						When you have time the data to compare is available.
21	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Steve Perrins	guide88@hotmail.com	Rainy Pass Lodge	I sent in a comment email but never heard back a response, can you check if it was received at your end?
22	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Jillian Jablonski	jjablonski@ttcd.org	Tyonek Tribal Conservation District	N/A
23	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Jok Bondurnat	n3829j@yahoo.com		will any attempt be made to prevent decimation of game in the road area?
24a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Kevin Materson	contactkevinhere@yahoo.com		There are 100s if not thousands of cabins and homesteads in the area of the proposed road. They are largely off-grid and cannot comment via email or web submission. You need to find another way to do outreach to those land owners.
24b						This area is the playground for Mat-Su and the greater Anchorage area; most of the State's population. A road through it to largely benefit a few commercial mine operations and find a mission for Port Mackenzie.
25a	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Eric Lubell	lubellski@gmail.com		Alan just mentioned a 2nd email address. Can you pls verify that address and speak to if it is a better or worse place to comment than the westsusitnaaccess.org email address? Which one is guaranteed to make the public record?
25b						omise and under deliver on resource impacts and mitigation, how can the public be certain they are not left holding the bag on cleaning up the mess that is left behind once the private corporations and lease holders finish extracting resources and move on?
25c						Being embroiled in years of expensive litigation isn't an option. The public does not want to be stuck subsidizing the profits of a few private corporations or lease holders.
25d						Sorry, first part of question: If and when the project proponents over promise...
26	12/3/2020	Virtual Public Meeting	Dan Graham	dan@tfsengineering.com		Thanks panel. Well handled.

27	12/4/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Denis Ransy	denisnak@gmail.com	<p>I request that you put me on the stakeholder list to notify me during this process and send communications to my postal mail address. I listened to your December 3, 2020 virtual public meeting.</p> <p>I am completely opposed to this proposed project. There is no way that the plentiful fish and game in the West Susitna area will maintain itself with this industrial development throughout the area. Many folks have concerns about maintaining salmon runs and putting in the right culverts for fish passage and such things. Well, as of now in December 2020, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has gone public with a possible shutdown of the Cook Inlet commercial fishery. As a retired gillnetter in several areas in Alaska, I find this completely unacceptable. Since well before statehood, the headwaters and wetlands above all fisheries were very remote and undeveloped visited only by occasional pilots and wilderness travelers. This is why fisheries survived. No one was upstream dumping arsenic, bringing thousands of gallons of fuel, diverting water flows, creating sewage, and so on.</p> <p>This is exactly why Pebble Mine is being shut down. Headwaters and wetlands have to be preserved. Fish are ultimately floating belly up.</p> <p>Spawning grounds are trashed.</p> <p>The West Susitna area is accessible right now. There are aircraft, boats, snow machines, ATVs, and recreational trails. Hunting and fishing is available year round. Thousands of Alaskans have property as homesteaders, recreationists, clients, and just plain wilderness travelers.</p> <p>Some folks do want better access. They want to cruise out in comfort in their highway pickups and RVs keeping clean and dry all the way and never missing a meal or a convenient rest stop or campground. That is not the essence of traditional, last frontier, traditional wilderness travel. And you can be sure that they will complain when the fish and wildlife populations become more regulated due to human impacts.</p> <p>Game will gradually be diminished. Fishing creeks will be wiped out. I have already seen areas that get so-called "improved" access. The fish and wildlife always gets hurt in the long run. The road will be a gift to a few industrial developers namely out of state corporations with money to burn. And we, the public, will be left with dealing with the negative impacts.</p> <p>Off grid residents and property owners of the area may never get a chance to testify. Their lives will be turned upside down with little to no say in the matter.</p>
28	12/10/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Pat Daniels	patdinalaska@yahoo.com	<p>Please see the attached. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for your time.</p> <p>Thanks, Pat Daniels 907-315-3301 patdinalaska@yahoo.com</p>
29	12/12/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Blythe Marston	blythe.marston@gmail.com	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>Although I have previously commented on the West Susitna Road Project I was unaware of the virtual open house held last week. Could you please provide me all information that was presented at that meeting and a status report on the project? Also, I would like to be placed on your outreach list as an interested party so that I will be notified of future developments, requests for comments, and meetings regarding the West Susitna Access Project.</p> <p>Thank you, Blythe Marston</p>
30	12/14/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Robin Song	robinsong2004@yahoo.com	<p>Greetings~I just finished reading the report about the onproposed road on the West side of Cook Inlet. I live in Talkeetna and have been an active participant in fighting against the building of the Su Dam. It is with heavy heart that I read what is being proposed with this road and the impact it would have on the relatively pristine wilderness on that side of the Inlet, the wildlife, salmon streams, and the pressure- once again- to raise the issue of the dam.</p> <p>Human greed is indeed insidious, and knows no bounds. The future of the wilderness, its wildlife, the safety of salmon, migratory birds... all of that vanishes in the face of what money can be made from extracting minerals, oil, and whatever else humans decide is more valuable.</p> <p>It was a long, exhausting fight to get the Su Dam project scrapped. And it wasn't because of the devastating impact on Salmon or the concerns of all the down-river communities that the dam could collapse in a big earthquake. Ultimately it was the price tag to build the monstrosity that wasn't needed in the first place.</p> <p>And here we are again; having to 'fight the good fight' to get humans to see that building a road, bridges, culverts, etc., in sensitive habitats where fish, birds, plants, and mammals will once again lose out to man-made destruction and pollution, is the wrong thing to do, just to bring more money to those who have no interest in preserving Alaska's beautiful wilderness for the future.</p> <p>It is with weary but hopefully heart that sane minds will prevail and this nightmare of an ecologically disastrous road will never be built.</p> <p>Sincerely, Robin Song Talkeetna</p>

31	12/10/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Eric Anderson	MTA 1740 S. Chugach Street Palmer, Alaska 99645 office: 907-761-2795 mobile: 907-355-2795 eanderson@mtasolutions.com	MTA	<p>Hello, I noticed the West Susitna Access Road Project on the Borough website on Monday. Unfortunately I missed the presentation but the website has a lot of good information. Roads are critical for the development and expansion of industry and a community but along with the road the broadband infrastructure is also vital. I would like to propose for your planning the placement of conduit along the right of way for future fiber optics. This would be used in the future to help speed development in the area by provided the lowest cost possible to place a fiber network. The borough could either sell or lease the conduit to a provider or a mine operator. Donlin mine has plans to place fiber along the proposed gas pipeline for the purpose of monitoring but also for their our broadband needs. As identified in this project there is an extensive section where the pipeline and road are in the same route and a conduit for fiber optic would be valuable to the pipeline project. Further in order to gain access to the existing fiber optic network the road provides the shortest path. In the Palmer and Wasilla area Donlin and any other future develop would have access all fiber networks owned by MTA, ACS, GCI and AT&T, which together provide access to five fiber optic routes through Alaska and out of the state to multiple points in the lower 48 states. Conversely fiber extended to the Beluga and Tyonek area will dead-end. There is currently no existing fiber connecting Beluga and Tyonek to the rest of the state. MTA has the largest fiber optic network in the Matanuska Susitna Valley and as the local co-operative is very interested in the expansion of economic opportunity. If MTA can be of any assistance in the plan process please let me know.</p> <p>Thank you, Eric</p>
32	12/21/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Jok Bondurant	n3829j@netscape.net	Public	<p>Greetings; The Mat-Su Borough has areas served by roads, and also a lot of the kind of wild, roadless area that makes Alaska the awesome place we have long appreciated. It would be unwise to permanently convert the Susitna and Yentna into another place penetrated by roads and the massive changes that follow them. It is especially sad when the proponents want to do this for the nebulous benefit of possible resource development that can't even make its presence and identity known in the public eye.</p> <p>The Mat-Su Borough has areas served by roads, and also a lot of the kind of wild, roadless area that makes Alaska the awesome place we have long appreciated. It would be unwise to permanently convert the Susitna and Yentna into another place penetrated by roads and the massive changes that follow them. It is especially sad when the proponents want to do this for the nebulous benefit of possible resource development that can't even make its presence and identity known in the public eye.</p> <p>A good example of the value of this wild area is the Iditarod Trail and sled dog race whose mystique comes from the wild undeveloped areas it passes through. Wildlife will be another inevitable victim of the proposed road, as it has near every road pushed through the back country so far in our state. When masses of the urban population can quickly access and put pressure on the resources there, it will have a dramatic negative effect.</p> <p>It is disingenuous to list timber as a resource that justifies the road, considering the disastrous record of timber production in the upper Susitna Valley. The mines in the area impress me as being mom and pop level deposits. The moms and pops are probably there because there isn't a road through their country. There is no Prudhoe Bay-like resource that demands nor justifies a road.</p> <p>In short, there is no reason for the road that would justify the great harm done. There is mainly an abstract desire on the part of some folks to "develop" a large swath of Alaska, without much respect for the great pristine value that many of us find in the area's wildness.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jok Bondurant</p>
33a						<p>To whom it may concern at AIEDA, Please accept the attached comments on behalf of Trout Unlimited as part of the Online Open House for the West Susitna Access Road Project.</p> <p>Thank you, Eric Booton</p>
33b						<p>Thank you for hosting the Open House and Virtual Public Meeting for the proposed West Susitna Access Road Project. Please accept the following comments regarding the proposed project on behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU). We encourage AIEDA, and the State, to not move forward with the West Susitna Access Road Project because of the significant adverse impacts it will have to the area's important fish and water resources, its impacts to local businesses that rely on the remote character of the region, and the unnecessary costs and financial burden this project will cause for the State of Alaska's already short budget. Trout Unlimited has strong local roots -- with approximately 1,100 members and 20,000 supporters throughout the state that are passionate anglers, lodge owners, fishing and hunting guides, and commercial fishermen, among various other occupations. TU is dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, and has long participated in effort to protect and conserve fishery resources within southcentral Alaska.</p> <p>Many of our members and supporters frequent the Susitna River's west-side tributaries and other nearby areas for hunting, fishing and extended wilderness trips. Additionally, our business members operate lodges, guiding and outfitting operations, fly-in trips, or multiple-day rafting trips on the very rivers that will be impacted if this road is built. These businesses are viable because the region is wild and difficult to access, where clients can get a remote wilderness experience with healthy habitat, intact river systems and robust fish and wildlife populations.</p>

33c						<p>Improve Public Notice & Engagement Public notice for the West Susitna Access Road Project has been minimal and ineffective so far, as reiterated numerous times during the December 3rd Online Open House. TU would not have known about the proposal had it not been for the Susitna River Coalition. Similarly, many of our business members who own sportfishing lodges or operate in the area were unfamiliar with the proposal until contacted by TU. TU also requests to be included on your stakeholder list and would appreciate being notified of upcoming meetings, comment periods, and release of documents and studies. Please re-visit your public notice strategy to help better disseminate information about this proposal and associated comment periods to the public. The west Susitna River basin is a popular destination for hunters and anglers throughout southcentral Alaska, please ensure that an effort is made to notify individual hunters and anglers throughout the region as well.</p>
33d						<p>Study Economic Loss The numerous hunting and fishing lodges and operators in the west Susitna River basin are viable not only because of the healthy fish and game populations of the area, but because they offer a remote wilderness experience. Remote recreation is an important economic driver for the region, and creates a demand that few others can meet. Several lodges commented during the Online Open House that this project has the potential to severely alter or terminate their business. These are serious concerns that must be taken more seriously. Trout Unlimited highly encourages AIEDA to conduct an economic loss study during the Feasibility Study for the West Susitna Access Road Project.</p>
33e	12/21/2020	Email to Project Email Address	Eric Booton	Eric.Booton@tu.org	Trout Unlimited	<p>Impacts to Fish Habitat Impacts to fish habitat as a result of building the West Susitna Access Road Project is a large concern for Trout Unlimited and our supporters. Intact river systems and healthy fish habitat are a dwindling resource. The West Susitna Access Road Project would cross through an area rich in wetlands and rivers and require 24 bridges and approximately 440 culverts. The road will have sprawling impacts to our rivers, streams and wetlands. And as we have seen before, each culvert, stream crossing and disturbed stream or wetland adds up to a much larger cumulative impact as sedimentation and erosion increases, and access for salmon to important spawning and rearing habitat is blocked or impeded. The consequences of improperly constructed or poorly maintained culverts has been observed throughout the MatSu Borough. Studies have found that 80% of the borough's culverts failed to allow adequate fish migration and affected access to more than 400 miles of rearing habitat for juvenile fish. The Borough and State have spent more than \$18 million in recent decades replacing around 115 of these culverts that blocked salmon migration, and that's only a portion of the culverts that need replaced. While recent road construction projects have sought to meet state standards for allowing salmon passage, there is a large backlog of problematic culverts and growing costs associated with road maintenance that continue to draw from the already thin budgets of local governments and state agencies. The West Susitna Access Road would need to be built to the fish friendly culvert standards of the Matanuska Susitna Borough, at a minimum, in order to best limit impacts to fish and their habitat. This means that adequate fish passage and culverts for nearly 500 stream, river, and wetlands crossings would need to be researched, designed and constructed for the full extent of the 108-mile road and draws into question the economic viability of the proposed project.</p>
33f						<p>Transparency As a "road to resources", the impacts to fish habitat and water quality associated with the West Susitna Access Road Project are not limited to those associated with only the development of the road. There is an untold amount of impacts that will occur as a result of this road and the development projects it will support. These future impacts need to be simultaneously weighed when determining whether or not the proposed project is in the best interest of Alaskans. Little has been made public about what industries and projects intend to utilize the West Susitna Access Road other than Nova Minerals, a foreign mining company, who as we heard from businesses and area landowners during the December 3rd Online Open House, has proven to be a bad actor so far. All of the industries and projects interested in utilizing the road need to be released to the public for transparency, to have any idea what the true impacts of the proposed project, aid in analysis of the proposal, and judge the economic potential. The West Susitna Access Road Project is being proposed for the benefit of private industries to access development projects for their gain, while simultaneously impacting an unknown amount of public lands and resources. Additionally, it is unclear as to whether the road will be private, public or some sort of hybrid. This needs to be clarified for all parties and stakeholders. If the road is built, it should inherently be public, however its construction would still clearly be for the benefit of resource development projects. Public money should be reserved for clear, public benefit and not be spent to subsidize roads for the benefit of private industry, especially as we experience routine budget shortfalls.</p>
33g						<p>Conclusion Thank you for accepting and considering these comments from Trout Unlimited. The construction of the West Susitna Access Road Project will come at a large cost to existing area businesses, the regions fish and their habitat, and be an unnecessary expense to the State of Alaska's limited budget and should not be further pursued. Should AIEDA move forward with the West Susitna Access Road Project, we ask that the necessary measures be taken to provide appropriate public notice and time for stakeholders to learn about the project and provide meaningful comments. Additionally, please include adequate fish passage in the preliminary engineering and an economic loss study in Phase II research and disclose the potential resource development projects that may come of this road and whether it will be public, or not - decision makers and the public cannot truthfully weigh the cost and benefits of the West Susitna Access Road Project without having accurate information</p>