



Public Involvement Summary - Mat-Su Transportation Fair Transportation Infrastructure Program 2021 (TIP21) Projects

PROJECTS:	49th State St Pathway Caswell Lakes Rd/ Bendapole Rd/ Passthebait Ave/ Lostaspinner Cheri Lake Dr/ Karen Ave/ King Arthur Dr Edgerton Parks Rd – Mt. Trails Dr and Pathway Engstrom Rd to Trunk Rd Corridor Fern St Upgrade and Pathway Hemmer Rd Extension South Hidden Hills Reconstruction Lakes Blvd Upgrade Lucille St and Pathway Upgrade MSBSD 2018 Pedestrian Projects MSBSD Shaw Elementary Access Old Glenn Pathway Phase 2 Palmer-Fishhook Separated Pathway Point MacKenzie Rd Reconstruction MP 0-7 Seward Meridian Parkway-Tambert Traffic Signal Smith Rd Extension & Pathway Tex-Al Dr Upgrade & Extension Trunk Rd Connector Multi-modal Wasilla Depot
GROUP:	Public
DATE:	January 25, 2024, 3 to 7 PM
LOCATION:	Alaska State Fairgrounds, Raven Hall, Palmer, AK 99645
OUTREACH:	See Table 1. Outreach
MATERIALS:	Fact sheets, comment sheets
STAFF PRESENT:	Cole Branham, Project Management Division Manager Paul LaFrance, Project Manager
ATTENDANCE:	256 people signed in at the event, many did not sign in



Event Summary

The event hosted over 100 different transportation related projects and programs from several different agencies, including the Mat-Su Borough and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Weather caused the event to be rescheduled from November 2023 to January 2024. Paul LaFrance and Cole Branham staffed booths covering the Borough projects listed above. They talked to many people about the projects and answered questions. Each project had a fact sheet and available comment sheets.

Public Comments

Members of the public made the following comments about each project. Verbal comments are summarized, and written comments are verbatim. Any emphasis is the commenter's own.

49th State St Pathway

- Four people stopped by the booth and wanted this pathway constructed as soon as possible. They do not feel safe walking/biking on the shoulder. Paul LaFrance explained to them that a failing retaining wall is delaying the project.
- A couple of people were excited about the connection this will make between Bogard and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway (and longer bike rides).
- An area resident likes to ride her bike and go for runs on the trails, including those at the frisbee golf course. Paul asked her if 49th State St had a separate pathway would anyone besides school kids use it. She said "definitely" because there are so few connections between Bogard and Palmer-Wasilla Highway. She also mentioned that because there is no dedicated pathway, she doesn't let her kids use 49th State St and knows other parents who have the same opinion.

Caswell Lakes Rd/ Bendapole Rd/ Passthebait Ave/ Lostaspinner St

- No comments.

Cheri Lake Dr/ Karen Ave/ King Arthur Dr

- Several people asked about the status and were in support of the project. Cole responded that the project is in winter shutdown and is scheduled to be substantially complete in August 2024.
- One person asked if the project is tied to the existing pavement. Paul answered that it is.

Edgerton Parks Rd – Mt. Trails Dr and Pathway

- Several people were excited about the pathway along Edgerton and up to the Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA). People stated how much they liked GPRA and that this will make it even better.

Engstrom Rd to Trunk Rd Corridor

- This was one of the most commented on projects. The majority of the comments were supportive.



- Four residents from the Settlement Ave and Stormy Hill Cir area stopped by. Two were in support and two were in opposition to the Northern Route. The two individuals who were in opposition to the Northern Route stated their homes would face the new road.
- Many people were aware of the existing congestion and connectivity issues as well as the proposed DOT&PF roundabout. They supported both projects.
- One person strongly opposed the Southern Route.
- A couple people voiced concerns about drifting and alternative access.

Fern St Upgrade and Pathway

- This project (along with Tex-AI) had the most questions and comments.
- Several people were concerned about speeding. They said the three different speed limits make it confusing and results in people speeding.
- People were somewhat disappointed that construction was not starting this summer.
- A couple of people stated that there is poor/dangerous sight distance on the hills by Leota Cir and Bluff Vista and would like to see this improved.
- There is a lot of surface water south of Leota. They believe that it migrates east to west and that Fern roadway is preventing it from moving west. They think we should place a culvert under Fern at this location.
- Three people stated that the proposed pathway should be on the east side of Fern. They did not understand why it wouldn't be put on the side with the most residential lots. Paul explained the additional right-of-way and utility impacts if the pathway were on the east side.
- Two people stated that the mailboxes near Leota should be relocated to the east side of Fern because it is dangerous to cross Fern.
- A couple of people stated that they walk/bike on Fern and that it is dangerous. They are happy for the proposed pathway.
- Several people asked that the north end of Fern be better maintained. Lots of bumps and potholes.
- Written responses to the prompt: What do you like about the project?
 - Wider road – bike path. Smoother road.
 - That it will eventually improve access! While waiting for the major reconstruction, is it possible to get Fern St maintained? It is difficult to drive through all the bumps and potholes.
- Written response to prompt: What do you dislike about the project?
 - Bike path on wrong side – should be on east side. Move post office boxes to east side. Fix grade going south from Leota to Birchtree.



- A) Blind hills at Leota St (a school bus stop) and at B) Bluff Vista Cir. C) The pathway should be on the east side of Fern St where the residential areas are. The west is Cottonwood Creek and wooded area. D) Three speeds on the same road are causing speeding.
- Written response to prompt: Additional comments.
 - Picking up US Postal at mailboxes at Leota St is dangerous!
 - Add culvert and drainage between Leota/Birchtree, drainage issue - flooding property.
 - Connect Fern north of Edlund east to Fairview Loop. Connect (S Trunk) Nelson to Fairview Loop.

Hemmer Rd Extension South

- Several people were in favor of this project and liked the idea of extending the north-south leg of Hemmer to the Glenn Highway.
- One person suggested a traffic signal at the intersection of France Rd and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway to solve school traffic congestion problems.
- One visitor was against the project because they believed the road would take their land. They lived south of the east-west leg. I told them the road was currently proposed to the north (not on their property). They responded they would support the project in that case. They did not leave their name and it was unclear where exactly they live.

Hidden Hills Reconstruction

- One person was happy to see the road improved to his cabin (Phase 1). He would like to see the future phases (Phases 2 and 3) constructed as well.

Lakes Blvd Upgrade

- There were several comments on the poor quality of the roadway. People were happy to hear about the upgrade.
- One person stated that the entire road should be reconstructed (not just the portion we are doing).

Lucille St and Pathway Upgrade

- One person was happy that this project included a new/reconstructed pathway.
- One couple was glad to hear that the project included a new turn lane for Tanaina Elementary.

MSBSD 2018 Pedestrian Projects

- Generally supportive comments.



- One person asked if there are more school pedestrian projects planned. Cole responded there are planning documents, such as the Safe Routes to Schools showing future plans for pathways. However, there is no additional funding currently available.
- One person expressed frustration about the recent pathway paving to Colony schools. She didn't think the project addressed the route kids take and how kids get to the schools. She was also frustrated that it doesn't seem to get maintained well.

MSBSD Shaw Elementary Access

- No comments.

Old Glenn Pathway Phase 2

- One person strongly supported the project. He did not like how some of his neighbors were holding up this project. He said that it is dangerous to walk/bike along this road.

Palmer-Fishhook Separated Pathway

- There was a lot of excitement about this project and many people would like to see this project constructed soon. People were most excited about the connectivity of the Trunk pathway to this pathway and to the proposed Edgerton pathway.

Point MacKenzie Rd Reconstruction Milepost 0-7

- A few people commented on the existing low quality driving surface. They were happy to hear about the reconstruction. Phase 1 will be the first three miles. People wanted all 7 miles reconstructed.
- Paul clarified the project would not re-do what the State of Alaska already repaired as part of the earthquake repairs.

Seward Meridian Parkway-Tambert Traffic Signal

- People were pleased to hear construction is anticipated this year.
- Several people supported the added signal in front of the schools.

Smith Rd Extension and Pathway

- One person was happy to hear that a pathway will be constructed as part of the project.

Tex-Al Dr Upgrade and Extension

- The comments that follow came from people living on the west end of Tex-Al (the Wasilla-Fishhook Rd side).
- One couple was extremely concerned about current and future speeding. They felt that the speeding problem will get worse with the new project. However, they are not against the project.
- Several people stated that it is dangerous to walk/bike along this road. They were happy about the proposed pathway.



- One person marked up the plan set and had the following comments:
 - To help with the speeding problem, we should install a LED blinking speed limit sign or radar with speed display.
 - There is a well and septic system close to the infiltration basin near the start of the project on the south side of Tex-AI (see F1).
 - He pointed out quite a few parcels with driveways on both Tex-AI and on the side streets. He believed that quite a few of these driveways are not allowed on Tex-AI and should be removed. We should check to see if these driveways are permitted.
 - He pointed out that there was a "slit trench" on the south side of Tex-AI near Sta 22+00 (when road was constructed, contractor excavated a trench and used material for road, then buried trees/stumps in trench)
 - Near Sta 42+00 and 52+00 on south side, plat note (or platting board condition) prohibits driveways on Tex-AI. May not want to construct these driveways (on Tex-AI) as part of the project.
 - He pointed out a sight distance problem on the hill at Sta 44+00 and asked that we improve it.

Trunk Road Connector

- No comments.

Multi-modal Wasilla Depot

- Attendees took numerous flyers.
- The City of Wasilla covered this project at their booth.

Event Outreach

The event organizers conducted the following outreach for the event.

Table 1. Outreach Methods

Date	Outreach Method	Description
12/11/23	DOT&PF Online Calendar	Event posted to https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/calendar.shtml
12/11/23	Event website	Meeting notice posted on the website
12/13/23	Email notice	Save the date email notice to subscribers
12/19/23	Flyer	Flyer for sharing



Date	Outreach Method	Description
12/22/23	State of Alaska Online Notice	Event notice sent by DOT&PF to subscribers
12/22/23 1/25/24	Facebook post	DOT&PF Facebook post highlighting the event
1/11/24	Forwarding request to boards, commissions, and community councils	Request to forward email to subscriber lists
1/11/24	Forwarding request to groups	Sent request to forward to email lists
1/11/24	Forwarding request to legislators	Sent request to forward to constituents
1/11/24	Invitation to civil engineering students	Sent request to forward to students
1/12/24 to 1/25/24	News media advertising, Alaska News Source	Online website advertisement
1/13/24 to 1/25/24	News media advertising, <i>Frontiersman</i>	Online website advertisement and e-newsletter
1/18/24	Interview with Big Cabbage radio	Justin Shelby with DOT&PF answered questions and discussed the event
1/22/24 to 1/25/24	Radio advertisements	Invitation to the event ran on Alpha Media stations
1/22/24 to 1/25/24	Radio advertisements	Invitation to the event ran on Ohana Media stations
1/23/24	Email notice	Email reminder notice sent to subscribers