North Spur Hwy Extension Project

02/08/2018 Public Meeting - Nikiski Community Recreation Center

Questions/Answers and Additional Information

The meeting recording is also available at www.kpb.us/NRDEXT

Meeting products: environmental assessment, project cover sheet, project imagery, Jacob Ladder mitigation project map, project design/engineering, FAQs sheets, display board with online address and contact information.

KPB representatives/staff: Wayne Ogle, Assembly Member District #3; Charlie Pierce, Mayor; John Quick, Chief of Staff; Scott Griebel, Interim Road Service Area Director; Henry Knackstedt, Roads Project Manager; Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager

McLane Consulting, Inc.: Gina Debardelaben, Project Engineer

Federal Highways / Western Federal Lands: Steve Morrow, Environmental Protection Specialist

Knackstedt provided a project description and brief update (see “Executive Summary 07/05/17” online). All permits have been completed and approved for the project. The environmental assessment process is currently in the public comment period. Make comments online at https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/ak/kenai/. Comment period closes 02/15/18.

Morrow provided a brief explanation of Western Federal Lands’ (WFL) role in the project, citing that they provide grant oversight to ensure that the project scope of work, permitting and costs are eligible for reimbursement. He stated that WFL holds the funds, not the borough, whereas the borough provides regular reports and requests for reimbursement. However, the borough has project oversight and responsibility for extending the road under the KPB Road Service Area powers. Morrow closed with the need to comment on the updated environmental assessment (EA). The original EA completed by Apache Corporation was for their development project; however under the borough’s scope, the project is for public access and use. Therefore, the EA had to be updated to reflect public purpose versus private industry. The public is encouraged to provide comments; comment period ends 02/15/18.

NOTE: Reference questions that were previously answered at the 06/22/17 for additional information.

Q: Are there pullouts and will they be located only on the beach side of the road?
A: The pullouts will vary in location and based upon the best topography to build them. They won’t be restricted to the beach side (west) side of the right of way.
Q: Will there be preference to local hire; local contractors getting a contract like this?
A: These are federal funds and local preference is not allowed. Any qualified contractor can bid on the project.

Q: How far into Gray Cliff subdivision will the road go?
A: The project extends to the Warmwood Drive intersection with the Kenai Spur Highway which is approximately 2.5 miles south of the northern boundary of Gray Cliff Subdivision, and southern boundary of Moose Point Subdivision.

Q: Will there be parking near Jacob Ladder access?
A: No; the design is to improve access and to mitigate damages to Otter Creek and adjacent wetlands.

Q: What happens five years after the project is completed and there are possible flooding issues?
A: After completion, the road drainage or potential flooding impediments will be evaluated and additional culverts installed. Since the project will be constructed over a two-year period, any drainage issues are anticipated to be identified while still under contract.

Q: Will the road be maintained? How do you define “maintained”?
A: The road will be maintained by the Road Service Area to ensure emergency response access. However, it will not be maintained at the same level of scheduled maintenance compared to populated subdivisions.

Q: Has there been any thought to installing security systems or will the troopers be patrolling the road?
A: The borough does not have law enforcement powers, nor are any borough roads under security surveillance.

Q: Will the Kenai Spur Highway, north of Halibouty Road be improved to handle the truck traffic?
A: This is a state road and the AK Department of Transportation & Public Facilities is responsible for maintenance.

Q: Have additional parking pads been incorporated into the project?
A: No; the project is restricted to building the road and pullouts within the existing borough right-of-ways only. Future construction equipment will likely need to utilize the road or approaches for staging until intersecting roads or driveways are constructed. The approaches to subdivision roads were limited to 30’ by this project particularly for limiting impacts to wetlands.

Q: What is the deadline to submit comments on the environmental assessment study?
A: February 15, 2018; comments may be submitted at www.kpb.us/NRDEXT.
Q: Have you asked the local oil companies to contribute financially to the project?
A: No.
[Reference the 06/22/17 Public Meeting Minutes for FAQs regarding project funding or historical funding.]

Q: Will Leif Creek Bridge be widened?
A: No; the transitions will be cut and filled to accommodate the approaches.

Q: Will more than one contractor be working on the job?
A: There will be one primary contractor for the entire job.

Q: Will ATVs or snow machines be cited for being on the road after it is finished?
A: The borough does not have policing powers; however, users will be expected to adhere to state laws regarding public safety. [This question was asked after the meeting was adjourned.]

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