

Public Open House No. 2

December 12, 2022, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Juneau Arts & Culture Center

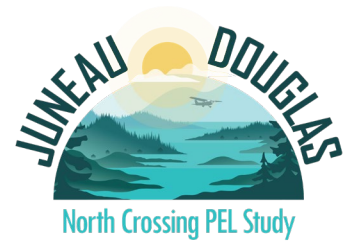
The Alaska Department of Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) hosted the second Public Open House for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study on Monday, December 12, 2022, at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center (JACC). Attendees began arriving for the event at 3:45 p.m. While there was no formal presentation, attendees had the opportunity to view project information shared on project boards, including the PEL Study background and progress to date, study schedule, study purpose and need statement, preliminary alternatives, and initial screening criteria. Attendees had the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions of the study team members present. Feedback on the preliminary alternatives and initial screening criteria was collected at the Public Open House and will be collected through February 3, 2023, via an online survey and any other communication method preferred by the public.

In addition to ten study team members, over 100 members of the public, elected officials, and media attended.

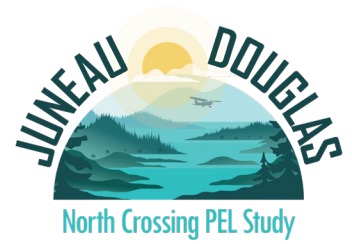
Question and Comments Summary

Comments received verbally and in writing were mixed as to support for or against a north crossing. A survey to gather feedback on the preliminary alternatives will remain open until February 3, 2023. The following comments summary is based on discussions with study team members and comments submitted in writing during and via email following the Public Open House.

- Concerns about Fish Creek Park
- Support for designs that protect the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge (Refuge) and concerns about impacts to the Refuge
- Concerns about Fritz Cove wildlife habitat
- Preference to balance wetland impacts, airport impacts, and construction costs
- Concerns about impacts to homes and neighborhoods
- Residents that are impacted by specific projects should have their comments weighted more heavily
- Concerns about noise, light pollution, and viewshed impacts
- Concerns with building a north crossing prior to building a bench road or improving existing roads
- Support for a bench road
- Upgrading utility services prior to building a north crossing
- Support of opening development on Douglas Island
- Support for a north crossing if it leads to increased affordable housing options



- Improvements for freight transportation
- Support of a north crossing to provide emergency access when access to the Douglas Island Bridge is blocked
- Would improve public safety
- Concerns that additional traffic on North Douglas highway would lead to safety issues
- Concerns about marine transit and access to the Mendenhall River
- Concerns that Native communities and organizations are not included in the process
- Comments that a project must be cost effective
- Unnecessary use of taxpayer money that could be used for other projects
- Concerns about future maintenance costs
- Concerns that a north crossing would lead to additional pollution
- Questions about when a project could feasibly be expected
- Questions about when an environmental or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document would be available for public review
- Concerns about a lack of formal presentation at the Public Open House
- Concerns about a lack of a live online public meeting
- Concerns that the purpose and need statement is specifically focused on transportation rather than the entire depth of issues and concerns of a north crossing
- Support for an alternative that is farthest from the Douglas Island Bridge
- Support for using lands owned by the State or CBJ
- Design a bridge structure that minimizes environmental disturbance
- Concerns for impacts to recreation activities
- Concerns about impacts to fishing
- Concerns that habitat baseline data is incomplete or insufficient
- Questions about the screening criteria and evaluation process
- Support for specific alternatives or locations:
 - Sunny Point
 - Vanderbilt
 - No build
 - Mendenhall Peninsula
 - Salmon Creek
 - North Airport
 - At the intersection with Lemon Creek



- Requests to eliminate or avoid specific alternatives:
 - Mendenhall Peninsula
 - North Airport
 - Eagle Creek
 - Salmon Creek

Action Items and Next Steps

- Update Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) based on comments and questions from public.
- Post meeting materials to project website.
- Distribute online survey for additional comments to the study team.
- Distribute public comments to the study team and respond to concerns.