



# STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 2

November 17, 2022, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

## Meeting Objective

Review the PEL process and schedule and give an update on the PEL study. Share the updated purpose and need statement, the alternative screening criteria, and present the preliminary alternatives.

## Agenda

- 4:00 p.m. Welcome, introductions, agenda outline
- 4:05 p.m. PEL process refresher, schedule, update on traffic study
- 4:20 p.m. Purpose and Need Statement
- 4:25 p.m. Alternative screening criteria presentation and discussion
- 4:45 p.m. Preliminary alternatives presentation and discussion
- 5:05 p.m. Question & answers
- 5:25 p.m. Wrap up, action items, next steps

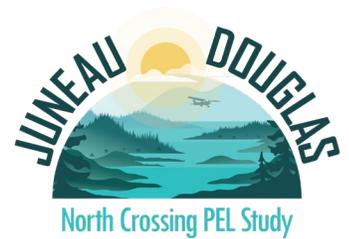
## Attendees

### Name

Marie Heidemann  
Kevin Jackson  
Christy Gentemann  
Steve Noble  
Renee Whitesell  
Nina Keller

### Organization

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
DOWL  
DOWL  
DOWL



Theresa Dutchuk	DOWL
Marella Gungob	DOWL
Michael Horntvedt	Parametrix
Christine Woll	City and Borough of Juneau Assembly
Craig Dahl	Juneau Chamber of Commerce
Matt Robus	Territorial Sportsmen
Rebecca Bellmore	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
Karen Larsen	Bonnie Brae Neighborhood Association
Winston Smith	Juneau Audubon Society
Ron Somerville	Mendenhall Wetlands Study Group
Laurie Craig	Mendenhall Wetlands Study Group
Alex Wertheimer	Mendenhall Wetlands Study Group
Katie Koester	City and Borough of Juneau
Ed Schoenfeld	Douglas Advisory Board
Brian Holst	Juneau Economic Development Council
Jesse Kiehl	Alaska State Senate
Julie Bednardski	North Douglas Neighborhood Association
Royal Hill	Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

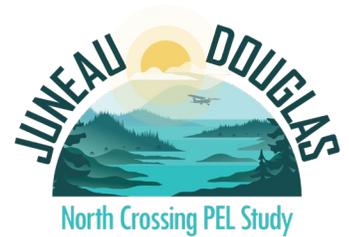
## Summary

Marie Heidmann (DOT&PF, Project Manager) opened the meeting by reviewing the meeting agenda, welcoming the committee members, and introducing the study team. She invited committee members to introduce themselves and the organization they represented. She went over the study schedule by reviewing past milestones and highlighted the current status. Marie mentioned the September Pop Up Listening Sessions, where approximately 150 participants at Eaglecrest and 100 participants at Safeway shared feedback on the study and a potential north crossing.

Renee Whitesell (DOWL, PEL Study Lead) then took over presenting. She began by defining the study area and reviewing the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Process, emphasizing:

- How the PEL study can be rolled forward into future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review processes
- The benefits of stronger linkages between transportation planning and project development

Renee then presented the Purpose and Need Statement and additional goals of the study and summarized the alternative development and screening process.



## Preliminary Alternatives

Steve Noble (DOWL, Project Manager) gave an overview of the Preliminary Alternatives Workshop and discussed how the pre-screening process narrowed the crowd sourced ideas heard so far down to eight viable alternatives.

### Bench Road

Steve shared that while not a preliminary alternative of the PEL Study, the concept of a Bench Road had been mentioned enough times by the public and Committee members to warrant evaluation by the study team. The Bench Road would be evaluated as a separate, standalone project that could potentially be included with an alternative moving forward. The team has heard from the public frustrations with the existing North Douglas Highway, particularly regarding safety.

### Mendenhall Peninsula

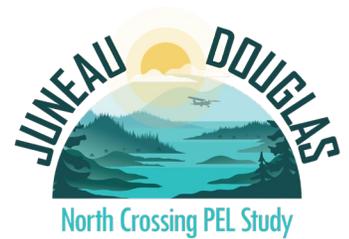
Following Steve's presentation on the Mendenhall Peninsula route, a participant asked if this route would propose to use an existing road, such as Engineer's Cutoff. Steve shared that the study team had not ruled anything out yet and was considering how an existing road could be upgraded to handle additional traffic as well as considering construction of a new road along the top of Mendenhall Peninsula. Each would have various environmental and neighborhood impacts that would be evaluated at a later phase. Steve noted the similar conditions between the North Douglas Highway and the existing roads on Mendenhall Peninsula.

A participant commented on the airport and considerations for any evaluated bridge height. Steve replied that the Technical Advisory Committee included airline representatives and the Airport Manager.

A participant suggested that the study team look to crossings in Florida for inspiration, as there are many structures connecting islands and the mainland. Steve shared that the team is considering various structures, including bridges, embankments, causeways, tunnels, and others. The next phase will include additional engineering analysis for the appropriate structures to consider for any alternative moving forward.

### North Airport

Steve presented on this option that after short evaluation, a crossing in the location would need to be a tunnel due to the airport constraints. A participant shared that he thought that would not be an issue and it appeared to be 500 feet away from the runway. Steve corrected that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has strict regulations on clearing requirements and lighting.



## Sunny Point and Vanderbilt

The discussions on these options began with questions for how they could tie into Egan Drive and use existing intersections. Steve shared that a proposed structure would likely be similar to the existing bridge, with two lanes, shoulders, and a multiuse pathway. These alternatives would likely tie into existing signalized intersections on the Juneau side of the crossing and look like the existing bridge on the Douglas Island side.

Steve commented that the study team was developing an origin-destination study using data collected from March to June 2022. A participant confirmed that this data would include those traveling to Eaglecrest for skiing.

The conversation turned to a previous attempt for funding of a second crossing through a failed ballot proposition. There was some disagreement by participants on the funding mechanism and reasons for failure.

A participant asked for information on how far away from salmon streams a crossing would be required to be. Steve shared that crossings near and over streams were permitted with special design features, such as a fish passage culvert.

## Twin Lakes

Following the description of this preliminary alternative, participants asked for additional details on what this crossing would look like on the Douglas side and if the team was considering a traffic signal or a roundabout for this route. Steve reiterated that the exact locations for termini and design features have not yet been evaluated.

A participant requested additional information on how a Bench Road would tie in as this route is near the Bonnie Brae neighborhood.

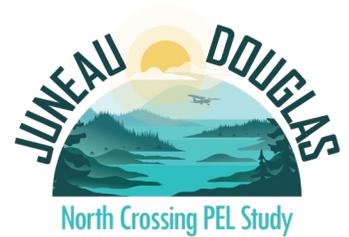
## Salmon Creek , Eagle Creek, and Downtown

Following the presentation on these options, a participant asked for additional clarification on the benefits comparing these alternatives, adding that these alternatives are closer to the existing bridge and would have less travel time savings compared to alternatives further west.

## Alternative Screening Criteria and Discussion

The presentation then moved into the portion on Level 1 and Level 2 screening, presented by Steve. Afterwards, the meeting was opened for comments and questions.

A participant asked what geotechnical work could be reused from previous studies. Steve shared that the study team has the data from previous studies and is including it as part of the evaluation process.



Due to glacial rebound, some would have to be redone. A participant suggested that the rebound would have more impact on a tunnel than a bridge structure. Steve reiterated that this is unknown and would be evaluated at a later phase.

A participant suggested that for the options west of Salmon Creek, a tunnel would have less impacts on the environment.

Steve concluded the meeting with final remarks, invited the committee members to attend the second Public Open House on December 12, 2022, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center (JACC), and thanked the members for their participation. He reiterated study contact information, the study website, and the study email.

## Action Items

### Study Team:

- Post meeting materials to the study website.
- Provide the Stakeholder Advisory Committee with a map of the draft preliminary alternatives and meeting materials electronically.

### Committee Members:

- Provide additional feedback by November 30, 2022.
- Participate in the Open House No. 2 on December 12, 2022, and upcoming committee meetings.
- Monitor email for future study updates.