

# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING No. 1

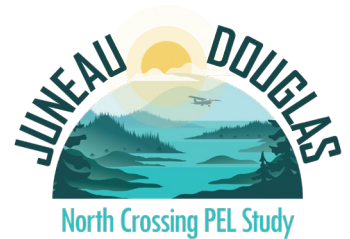
April 25, 2022, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, via Teams

## Meeting Objective

- Introduce the study, technical stakeholders, and the PEL study process.
- Discuss the study vision, review background materials and other data, and discuss the emerging themes that will form the purpose and need statement.

## Attendees

Marie Heidemann, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Christy Gentemann, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Joanne Schmidt, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Emily Haynes, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Greg Lockwood, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Leslie Daugherty, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Chrissy McNally, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Nathan Purves, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)  
Irene Gallion, City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)  
Katie Koester, City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)  
Alec Venechuk, City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)  
John Bohan, City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)  
George Schaaf, City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)  
Liz Ortiz, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)  
James Rypkema, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)  
Adeyemi Alimi, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)  
Rob Morgenthaler, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Don MacDougall, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Sarah Markegard, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Catherine Yeargan, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Kate Kanouse, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)  
Roy Churchwell, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)  
Daniel Teske, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)  
Jesse Lindgren, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)  
Randy Vigil, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Jennifer Mercer, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Linda Shaw, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
David Gann, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Margaret Custer, Southeast Alaska Land Trust



Patty Wahto, Juneau International Airport  
Cody Hargreaves, Alaska Airlines  
Lynae Craig, Alaska Airlines  
Christopher Hill, Delta Airlines  
Steve Noble, DOWL  
Renee Whitesell, DOWL  
Rachel Steer, DOWL  
Theresa Dutchuk, DOWL  
Nina Keller Horne, DOWL  
Emily Anderson, DOWL  
Jovie Garcia, DOWL  
Morgan McCammon, DOWL  
Michael Hornvedt, Parametrix

## Summary

Marie Heidemann (DOT&PF Project Manager) and Steve Noble (DOWL Project Manager) welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Marie and Steve provided team introductions, acknowledged the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting members in attendance, and reviewed the agenda outline.

Steve introduced the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process, reviewed the preliminary schedule (including Virtual Public Meeting/Open House #1), went over the PEL Study background, some of the existing conditions, and a map of the study area. Steve provided an overview of the recent population observations including traffic and housing in the Juneau area. All this data helps inform the PEL study's Purpose and Need (P&N).









Steve explained what a P&N statement is and its importance to the study. He provided an overview of emerging themes which will help develop the P&N for this PEL study.

### Emerging Themes Discussion

The TAC members were moved into three (3) moderated break-out rooms facilitated by Nina Keller Horne (DOWL Planning), Theresa Dutchuk (DOWL Environmental), and Michael Hornvedt (Parametrix). A volunteer team captain reported back to the group on the Emerging Themes:

- Which are the most important issues to you?
- Why?
- Are we missing anything? (In terms of potential P&N for this project.)

## EMERGING THEMES FOR PURPOSE & NEED

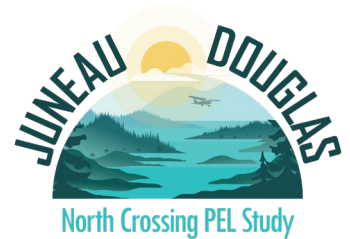
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|---|--|
|  Economic Impact                                 |  Developable Land |
|  Emergency Response                              |  Redundancy       |
|  Travel Time and Congestion                      |  Population       |
|  Active Transportation Facilities and Recreation |  Utilities        |

The following summaries reflect the discussion and opinions shared in the breakout rooms.

### Breakout Room 1, Discussion:

- Interest in opportunities for additional non-motorized facilities, especially cross-country skiing.
- Many park properties and conservation lands on Douglas Island – potential for increased access and impacts.
- Will be important for DOT&PF to know if proposed project is within or outside of the PM<sub>10</sub><sup>1</sup> maintenance area. Will the Juneau Airport (JNU) need to meet the maintenance area requirements?
- Primary concerns will likely be impacts to migratory birds and eagles. Look at needs for permits as a result of project activities and potential impacts to non-listed marine mammals (sea otters).
- Bird habitat is important to consider for both for transit and hunting. Would a bridge impact hunting? On both sides of the airport? Wetlands to west of airport is very significant to bird habitat. Concerns about pile driving versus piers, and other crossing options, that could influence wildlife and refuge users.
- Endangered species act consultation on humpback whales and stellar sea lions. Anticipate working with DOT&PF and the USACE. Interested in design and potential mitigation early in the process.
- Adjacent landowner concerns about development impacting use and access. Also, potential for recreation in the area and opening new recreational areas.
- Three or four beach access trails along North Douglas Highway and a boat launch. Fish Creek Park is a consideration. Large park parcel at tip of Mendenhall Peninsula and Spuhn Island.

<sup>1</sup>particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers



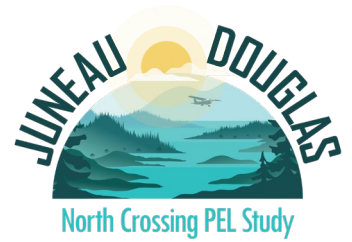
- Would love to see improvements to Outer Point boat launch.
- Interested to hear more about a Bench Road. Traffic is very loud, a lot of hauling at Eaglecrest. The highway has too much traffic without a shoulder.
- Would be nice to have a second access route.
- One participant highlighted the need to consider Fish Creek Park.
- Consider the value of local resources.
- Consider the protection of wildlife.
- One participant noted that agreement on P&N has been a challenge in the past.
- One participant considered that traffic congestion did not necessarily rise to point of a need.
- A participant enquired whether there could be a side-by-side option?
- Consider wetlands preservation.
- There are concerns about the speed of the road along North Douglas Highway, especially for active transportation users.
- Consider air quality conformity.

#### **Breakout Room 2, Discussion:**

- Many of the same issues were raised as Breakout Room 1 (refer to summary).
- Consider wildlife, especially waterfowl.
- The project area contains great deer habitat.
- The area under consideration is a resource rich area.
- New development could conflict with existing use of shotguns.
- Consider conservation values in the PEL process.
- Make sure any project recommended from the PEL study preserves flight procedures.
- One participant noted they were interested in the study and happy to participate.
- One participant noted that specificity regarding agency interest is difficult without identified alternatives.
- Consider access to Tongass National Forest (TNF) lands.
- Consider cultural and archaeological impacts.
- One participant noted that congestion leads to safety and emergency response concerns.

#### **Breakout Room 3, Discussion:**

- One participant highlighted the need to consider preservation of flight procedures, particularly when determining the height of structures.
- One participant commented that a local perspective is that access is decent, and shoulders should be available.
- Several participants questioned whether there was a demonstrated need for development
- People who live on North Douglas do not want development.
- Infrastructure should accompany development, i.e., schools, utilities, land use and zoning, is needed to define/support housing density.
- Consider which goes first – development of a north crossing or steps for housing development.
- CBJ has development constraints – existing highway and infrastructure does not facilitate higher density development.



- The demand for the project should be about accessing existing infrastructure.

Steve captured the discussion live in the presentation, and mentioned the Partnering Agreement benefits, schedule of upcoming workshop, and meetings. He concluded the meeting by thanking the members for their participation and requested any additional input be sent to the project team. He reiterated the project contacts, project website, and project email.

## Action Items/Next Steps

### **Project team:**

- Post meeting materials to project website
- Distribute online survey to committee members for additional comments on the emerging themes discussion

### **Committee members:**

- Provide any additional input using online survey
- Participate in the Virtual Public Meeting #1 on May 11, 2022, and upcoming committee meetings
- Monitor email for future project updates