



Meeting Notes

05/01/08

Subject: Executive Oversight Committee Meeting	
Client: Alaska DOT&PF	
Project: H2H	Project No: 80510
Meeting Date: 05/01/08	In Attendance: Dave Miller, Gordon Keith, Mayor Begich, see sign in sheet
Notes by: Sandra Cook/Dina Thompson	

Gordon Keith (DOT&PF) called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm. He gave a brief statement about what the EOC goals were and his vision of the project.

The EOC will provide policy level guidance for team resources, including allocation, coordination, and guidance. The project team will report to the EOC with updates on engineering, financial, and project status. There should be public notice for the meetings in the press. The H2H is an important project that should get a special branding to increase public awareness. The H2H project is an outcome of the 2005 LRTP. Implementing this project will lead to completing the NHS through Anchorage. Mr. Keith noted that this could take 20 years for full build-out. Mr. Keith announced that Jim Childers will be the DOT&PF project manager.

Dave Miller from (FHWA) noted that the structure for the EOC meetings is important. Together with DOT&PF and MOA – all support the project and that the three agencies compliment each other. Dave announced that Mike Vanderhoof will manage the environmental phase of the project for FHWA.

Mayor Begich (MOA) stated that the LRTP is important to reduce traffic congestion, improve community revitalization, and to help implement the community’s vision. The three governments will work together on this “generation project” and that support from the public is crucial. Mayor Begich announced that John Tolley will be the Project Manager for the MOA. He noted that coordination with Mat-Su is also an important part of this project.

Frank Richards (DOT&PF) said that the project is part of Connect Anchorage and will help with traffic congestion, and reconnect neighborhoods bisected by heavy surface traffic. He noted that Governor Palin supports the project and that she feels it’s good for all of southcentral Alaska. The project needs to gain the legislature’s support.

Project Team Status Report

Jim Childers (DOT&PF) introduced the consultant team, including John McPherson, Project Manager; Kevin Doyle, Environmental Lead; Mike Tooley, Engineering Lead; Julianne Hanson, Public Involvement Lead; and Sandra Cook, who will act as a liaison with the EOC members, and then gave a project overview. He presented a status report in the form of a 3-ring binder to the EOC. Once the project office is open, he intends to hold the weekly team strategy meetings there. The intent is to have a Record of Decision within a 3-year time period. The current 4-month contract period, which began in March and will end in June, is to initiate project activity, to focus the project team, prepare methodology papers, prepare a Coordination Plan and

develop a schedule for a 3-year process. Items that are currently being worked on include pre-NEPA activities, a Public Involvement (PI) plan, and a project office at the former Green Connection on 15th Avenue, which he hopes to have ready for the team occupy in middle to late August.

John McPherson (HDR) introduced HDR task leads and described the subcontractors on the team. John summarized what the team's been doing, as well as what will happen within the next few months. HDR is currently providing monthly progress reports, developing a coordination plan, public participation plan, coordinating with agencies, and working on the website. In the future, newsletters will be sent and the EOC binders will be updated. Julianne Hanson will be the contact for public questions. John gave a summary of recent activities, which included the Mayor's Open House, a Fairview Task force meeting, and completion of the annotated bibliography. Ongoing project tasks will include maintenance of the administrative record and preparing and distributing meeting minutes.

Kevin Doyle (HDR) gave an update on environmental activities and went over a NEPA timeline for the project. There are 33 NEPA categories as part of the Environmental Impact Statement. Scoping includes capturing the long history of project data and will likely examine the LRTP corridor, other alternatives, e.g. type roads, funding requirements, to identify reasonable alternatives. He explained how the team has integrated SAFETEA-LU requirements into the approach to scoping and project development.

Julianne Hanson (HDR) gave a presentation on the proposed public involvement plan and noted that the PI process includes a range of tools and will include collaboration with agencies and the public on developing the PI methodology over the next several months. She expects formal (two or three) scoping events to be held for agencies and the public in addition to a wide range of other tools and involvement opportunities. There will be lots of meetings and other events to help identify and address issues of concern.

Mike Tooley (HDR) gave a brief engineering update. The team has determined that the Design Year will be 2035 with construction anticipated around 2015. HDR is currently gathering project data. Surveying activities should start within the next 2 weeks. Dave Miller let Mike T. know that Al Fletcher will be the engineering manager for FHWA.

NEPA Process

Mike Vanderhoof (FHWA) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the NEPA process. The NEPA process is the backbone of FHWA decision making. Decisions need to be made on best overall public interest. An explanation of project needs should be developed. One of the most important elements of NEPA is Purpose and Need. It's important to note that NEPA is procedural, not substantive. Mike briefly explained 23CFR771.125 (b) and 40CFR1506.9.

EOC Discussion and Coordination

Gordon recommended that the EOC hold quarterly meetings; or more frequently when key milestones occur. The other members concurred. The EOC will help deal with public relations issues. Much of the discussion focused on the Citizen/Highway User Advisory Committee (CHUAC). DOT&PF and the MOA will identify possible CHUAC membership. MOA and DOT&PF decided that the Citizen Highway User Advisory Committee (CHUAC) should consist of up to 20 people. DOT and MOA will each create potential CHUAC lists and then merge them. This should be completed by the third week of May. They felt it would be useful for the CHUAC chair or consultant to give a report/update to the EOC at the EOC meetings. They asked that Julianne's slide be brought back up, which showed some groups that should be considered for CHUAC membership. Mayor Begich suggested that Mat-Su agencies, Truckers Association, ER-Chugiak Chamber of Commerce, and a KPB representative also be considered as possible CHUAC members.

Gordon thanked everyone for attending.
The meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.

