



Executive Oversight Committee Meeting Notes 07/29/08

Subject: EOC Quarterly Meeting	
Client: Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	
Project: Highway to Highway	Project No: 80510
Meeting Date: July 29, 2008, 10:00am	In Attendance: Dave Miller, Gordon Keith, Mayor Mark Begich, see sign in sheet
Notes by: Terry McConnell	

Gordon Keith (DOT&PF) called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. He gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the oversight committee. It is similar to a board of directors. They oversee progress made and coordinate on problems to be solved. The meetings are always open to the public.

The agenda for today's meeting and the meeting notes from May 1, 2008 were approved.

Project Status Update

Jim Childers (DOT&PF) gave a status report. The Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register July 11, 2008, so formal scoping has begun. The first Public Meeting will be held tonight at the Mountain View Community Center. The project is on schedule and within budget. A contract amendment is being drawn up to cover the next phase of work. (See Project Status Report handout) The EIS process is expected to take about 3 years, which means a Record of Decision in 2011. Mayor Begich asked that future Project Status Reports include the total funds available. Gordon Keith noted that number will fluctuate as funds are used or added to reflect changes as the project progresses.

John Tolley (MOA) gave a brief update on municipal progress. The focus over the last couple of months has been on completing the NOI and Purpose and Need Statement. All three parties (FHWA, ADOT&PF, and MOA) are in agreement on these. He said they are in the process of developing a coordination approach for coordinating within the departments of the MOA. They are developing a list of boards and commissions to be included as well.

Gordon Keith announced the upcoming public outreach meetings (see Project Status Report handout). Mayor Begich asked about the project website. It is available now at highway2highway.com. The public will be able to comment through the website. A CHUAC section will be added and provide updates throughout the process.

John McPherson said now that we are in the formal scoping process, participating agency invitation letters have been mailed to state agencies and federal letters are in progress. An agency kickoff meeting was held and a formal scoping meeting is upcoming. We are receiving input from agencies and the public as we develop the Purpose and Need for the project. We are

also developing the methodologies to evaluate cultural resource impacts, environmental justice issues, engineering, travel forecasting, and financing options.

Julianne Hanson gave an overview of public outreach activities that have occurred. Over 30 interviews have been conducted with community council representatives, schools, faith based entities and others to seek input on effective outreach activities, and to introduce them to the project. Census data was used to identify languages needed for Limited English Proficiency purposes. Over 46,000 postcards have been sent out and we are in the process of building an email contact list. This week we are holding two public meetings and a CHUAC meeting. We are receiving calls requesting a project presentation from various groups.

Mayor Begich asked if the project team has met with the Anchorage Assembly and was told not yet. He recommended the EOC Notebook be duplicated for the entire assembly and a work session be scheduled.

Citizens Highway Users Advisory Committee (CHUAC)

Gordon Keith said Darryl Hess (MOA) will be Chair of the CHUAC group. Darryl has skills and a history of community involvement that make him particularly qualified to be in that position. He has lived in Alaska since 1965 and looks forward to working with the group. Darryl noted that this project is unique due to the high level of cooperation between FHWA, MOA, and DOT&PF.

Julianne Hanson said the CHUAC has geographic representation from the Wasilla/Palmer area to Anchorage. It also has a broad demographic representation with varying interests. The purpose of this group is to hear all perspectives, not necessarily to have a consensus of opinions. Many of the members wear more than one hat, and therefore will be able to provide a wealth of experience and perspectives. The public is welcome to observe these meetings and public comment cards will be available at each of the meetings.

Jim Childers gave a status report on the permanent project office, to be located in the Green Connection building on 15th Avenue. Plans for the office are about 90% complete. The remodel will take approximately 35 days so we are looking at occupancy by the end of the year, with the potential to have a corner occupied earlier for public availability. Gordon Keith said the idea is to have all the staff co-located there.

EOC Comments/Discussion

Quarterly EOC meetings are to be held, with the potential to tie into project milestones. Today's milestone is the beginning of the formal NEPA process. The next meeting may coincide with opening of the project office or the receipt of the results of financing options.

Dave Miller (FHWA) asked about the schedule for sending out scoping letters. Jim Childers responded that letters to federal cooperating agencies and other agencies are being mailed this week. Mike Vanderhoof (FHWA) said we are currently working on the tribal letters. August 18 is a formal agency scoping meeting.

Adjourned at 10:50 AM