

West Dowling Road Connection Project
OPEN HOUSE/PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

An Open House/Public Hearing was held for the West Dowling Road Connection Project on January 16, 2007 for the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation and Draft Air Quality Conformity document. The meeting was held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Taku Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska. Sixty-five people signed in at the meeting. The West Dowling Road Connection project proposes to extend and reconstruct Dowling Road from Old Seward Highway to Minnesota Drive using federal funding through the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The environmental document has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide project information, a public review of the EA document, and to provide the public the opportunity to comment on the project and documentation. The meeting included a PowerPoint presentation that ran continuously through the meeting (attached) and nine information stations. The stations were staffed by project team members and included the following information:

- √ Project History and Purpose
- √ Power Point Presentation
- √ Municipality of Anchorage – Raspberry Road
- √ Wetlands & Tina Lake
- √ Improvements to Campbell Creek Greenbelt
- √ Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)
- √ Right-of-Way
- √ What's next
- √ Court Reporter/Comment Station

The meeting was announced through a postcard mailing to 592 businesses and residents in project area, and in display ads placed in the Anchorage Daily News. Email announcements were also distributed to the What's UP listserv, and to the internal project contacts. In addition to the meeting announcement the advertisements and the postcards directed the public to review the document online at www.dowlingroad.com, the Z.J. Loussac Public Library, and ADOT&PF Central Region Office.

Comments Received

A total of 2 comment forms were collected, and three oral comments were recorded at the meeting. In addition, 12 emailed comments were received. The comments focused primarily on the following concerns:

- √ Maintenance of proposed action landscaping
- √ Impacts to property values
- √ Safety issues with traffic flow
- √ Plans for Right-of-way acquisition