WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

IM No. 01-27

SUBJECT: Alternative "A", Main Street Rehabilitation

REQUESTED BY: Wasilla Planning Commission

PREPARED BY: Planning Staff DATE: March 19, 2001

FOR AGENDA OF: April 9, 2001

SUMMARY:

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation Downtown Traffic Study by Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc. has shown three alternatives for the City of Wasilla.

Alternative A - Main Street Rehabilitation

Alternative B - 5 Lane Main Street

Alternative C - 3 Lane Main Street with Knik Street Overpass

Public comments received show that most residents prefer Alternative "A". This option maintains Wasilla's small-town atmosphere, is more pedestrian friendly and does not require extensive additional right-of-way.

The City of Wasilla Planning Commission recommends the acceptance of Alternative "A".

FISCAL IMPACT: Vo Yes, amount requested: \$

Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of Resolution Serial No.: 01-10

MAYOR REVIEW/COMMENT:

Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachments:

Supporting Documentation

Date: Verified by:



CITY OF WASILLA

WPC Resolution No. 01-05 Introduced by: Planning Staff Approval Date: March 13, 2001

290 E Herning Avenue Wasilla, AK 99654-7091 Phone: (997) 373-9050

Fax: (907) 373-9092

WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 01-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION OF WASILLA ALASKA SUPPORTING AND RECOMMENDING TO THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL THE ACCEPTANCE OF ALTERNATIVE "A".

WHEREAS, the idea of an alternative high speed transportation corridor through the City of Wasilla and the relocation of the railroad tracks from their current location has been needed for many years; and

WHEREAS, a study is in progress which shows several possible new locations for the railroad; and

WHEREAS, should the railroad relocate an overpass would not be needed; and

WHEREAS, an overpass would jeopardize the opportunity for commercial businesses that could be located at grade level; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Tryck, Nyman & Hayes, Inc., provided a downtown traffic study showing several options for Main Street and Knik Street improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla Planning Commission hereby recommends to the Wasilla City Council the acceptance of Alternative "A", and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Alternative "A", Main Street, shall receive rehabilitation amenities such as, but not limited to: Sidewalks; Storm drains; Architectural Lighting; Landscaping, and Benches.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of Wasilla Planning Commission this 13th day of March, 2001.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED

Pamela K. Graham A Acting Planning Clerk

Stan Tucker, Chairman

AUMINISTRATION Phona: (907) 373-9055

CLERK'S OFFERE

FINANCE

LIBRARY

MUSEUM

Fax: (907) 373-9096

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Phone: (907) 373-9071 Fax: (907) 373-9072

PARKS AND RECREATION Phone: (907) 373-9053 Fax: (907) 373-9092

PLANNING Phone: (907) 373-9094 Fax: (907) 373-9089

POLICE

Phone: (907) 373-9077 Fax: (907) 373-9051

PUBLIC WORKS Phone: (907) 373-9095 Fax: (907) 373-9054



911 West Eighth Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99501 907.279.0543 • 800.770.0543 Fax: 907.276,7679

Email: Lindack@tnh-inc.com

MEMORANDUM

TO:

TNH Project Team

ADOT, Carol, Willie

City of Wasilla, Tim Krug

FROM:

Linda Cyra-Korsgaard

DATE:

February 21, 2001

SUBJECT:

Wasilla Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study

Public Involvement Summary - Public Meeting January 23, 2001

Thank you all for your involvement in this very successful public meeting. For your reference and information this package includes the following;

- a public meeting summary,
- a summary of written public comments received to date,
- · copies of the comments,
- public meeting handout,
- sign-in sheet,
- Frontiersman article and the
- mailing list.

The following is a summary of the public outreach program used to advertise the Public Meeting;

Mailed meeting announcements to mailing list - Jan. 10, 2001

Distributed Flyers by hand to local businesses on Main Street and City Hall - Jan. 12, 2001

Display Ad: Anchorage Daily News

Jan 15, 17, & 19, 2001

Display Ad: Frontiersman

Jan. 16, 17, 19, 23, 2001

Public Service Announcement sent to KTNA 88.5 & KMBQ 99.7 - Jan. 16, 2001

Please let me know if you have received any other comments or have questions or comments on the process.

Linda Cyra-Korsgaard, ASLA Public Involvement 343-0235 ph



Email: lindack@tnh-inc.com

Memorandum

o:

Project Team

ADOT&PF

From:

Date:

Subject:

Linda Cyra-Korsgaard, ASLA

Public Involvement Team Leader

STP-0525(12) 54302

Wasilla-Fishhook Road Rehabilitation

January 30, 2001

.

Public Meeting Summary

Public Meeting Summary

Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study
January 23, 2001
Wasilla City Council Chambers
5 pm to 7 pm

otal number of attendees, which signed in:

56 (sign-in attached, updated mail list attached).

lumber of attendees at the 6 pm presentation: 39

ber of attendees at the 7pm presentation to Planning Commission: 38 plus commission

bers

eam member present:

Willie VanNostrand, PE ADOT&PF Project Manager

Carol Larson, ADOT&PF Consultant Manager

David Post, ADOT&PF Area Planner

Arnold Harder, TNH Project Manager

Ron Goughnour, TNH Design Engineer

Linda Cyra-Korsgaard, TNH Public Involvement

Randy Kinney, Kinney Assoc. Traffic Study

Kevin Doyle, URS Corporation

A handout was distributed which outlines the Purpose & Need, the three Alternatives, a graph of estimated peak hour delay times and a Written Public Comments form (attached).

General Public Comments: Italics indicate team response.

- 1. The 5-lane alternative will devastate business on Main Street.
- 2. What is the population growth rate used in the traffic study? 3.5%
- 3. Get truck traffic out of downtown.
- 4. Likes Alternative C but would like to see the cross section of the overpass to understand the impacts of the embankments.
- 5. Concerned if Alternative A is chosen that it is a band-aid fix only. Team discussed the graph, the projection of Alternative A impacts alleviating current traffic delays. The current delays would not increase to current status until the year 2012.

Landscape Architecture

Email: lindack@tnh-inc.com

- 6. 12 years is a short span, wants to plan/build further in the future, and likes the 5-lane Alternative to solve the problem or Mr. Meads solution. Thinks A is a Band-Aid and does not like C.
- 7. Limited N/S corridors, favors making another N/S corridor by extending Seward Meridian to the Parks Hwy.
- 8. One person reported that there are no big businesses along the east side of Main Street and that is where the ROW takes, if any should be made to widen the road.
- 9. Supports additional stoplights to improve cross connections and turns.
- 10. No to the 5 lane
- 11. What is happening to the rest of Wasilla-Fishhook improvements? There were no changes in direction on the concept of improvements in the section from E. Bogard to Shrok, so the design of safety improvements is continuing.
- 12. City needs to take control of city growth and get the trucks out of Downtown and the Railroad moved south.
- 13. Seldon extension should be considered.
- 14. Many people commented that 10 12 years seemed like a long time, but projects take a long time to get built, so work on alternative transportation corridor improvements need to begin immediately.
- 15. Concern for pedestrians along Knik-Goose Bay Road. Thought that any pathway should be relocated one block east or west to get them away from the high level of traffic on Knik-Goose Bay Road.
- 16. Provide a corridor for all terrain vehicles along Main Street. Feels that Wasilla should provide the infrastructure to support winter snow machining and have a dedicated pathway connecting into the snow machine trail system to provide connectivity to hotels, restaurants, etc. That this would be an important link through town.
- 17. That Alternative C should be constructed with one-way streets and that the southern end should extend farther south.
- 18. Not enough information to decide which alternative they like. Profile information would be helpful to get an idea of the impact the overpass would have, generally like Alternative C the best.
- 19. Add a connection from the north end of Knik Street to Wasilla-Fishhook Road to help draw traffic down Knik Street even if Alternative C is not selected.
- 20. One attendee was concerned about the curve realignments and related safety issues for the roadway segment north of Bogard Road. Told her that those design plans were underway, curve realignments were being incorporated and that I'd check to see if we had a preliminary set of plans around for her to look at she left before reviewing the plans but was satisfied that the realignments were still in the works.
- 21. One gentleman felt that Alternative C was best because of the grade separation over the Parks Highway and diversion of traffic off of Main Street.
- 22. One gentlemen lived in the vicinity and was just happy that some type of transportation improvement was moving forward. He said he really didn't have a preference but when asked which one he felt would work best based on his familiarity with traveling within the City, he felt that Alternative C provided the best balance of necessary transportation improvements with the least physical disruption to the City.

Engineering Surveying $_{P.\;11}$ Landscape Architecture



Email: lindack@tnh-inc.com

- 23. A couple that owned property along Knik St. and Susitna were very opposed to the five-lane alternative due to right-of-way impacts. They felt that some type of improvement should be provided but weren't comfortable with how the Knik St. overpass might impact them and how traffic would circulate south of the Parks Highway. They noted that the area was a mixed land use of residential and business even though it was zoned commercial. Encouraged them to provide written comments voicing their concerns even if they couldn't choose an alternative that they felt was best.
- 24. Received several inquiries about whether or not a presentation was going to be made and at what time. 6 pm and 7 pm
- 25. Received a couple questions about signals, their location, and inquiries regarding construction schedules for the Bogard/Nelson realignment and the Palmer-Wasilla extension.

dividual Comments:

andy Mead suggested a variation to Alternative C – Close intersection of Henning/ Main and E. wanson/Main, divert traffic around "Downtown", provide brick pavers at intersections, provide rategically placed parking nodes on the exterior streets to Downtown, thereby creating a pedestrian iendly downtown core.

on Shiesl – The City of Wasilla appreciates that ADOT&PF is listening to their concerns about Main at to come back with these alternatives. Public Works has not settled on an Alternative, PW has been goals, 1) more pedestrian friendly streets, 2) Safety, 3) traffic flow. Favors moving Railroad to be south and the city has spent \$50,000 on a study to prove to the Railroad that is it feasible and eneficial (less at grade crossings). Favors Alternative, A which will give the city and borough, time a solve the overall transportation network issues in Wasilla. City opposed to Alternative C. Wants idewalks and streetlights included in Alternative C.

on Shiel, Wasilla Public Works Director – need to re-valuate the requirements for school speed ones when most of the students are being bused to and from school, and providing a pedestrian verpass for any students that do walk to school crossing the southern end of Wasilla-Fishhook Road.

Oan Kelly – (retired ADOT Planner) currently on the Transportation Committee, encourages folks to onsider all the transportation network options that could alleviate the Main Street Traffic concerns prior to spending the money which would be involved in Alternative C. Spoke of the Palmer Wasilla extension, moving the Railroad and Parks Hwy. South. Suggested the public and the Planning Commission come to the Transportation Board meeting on Feb. 6, @ 4pm @ Assembly Chambers in Palmer. This meeting will address the overall Palmer-Wasilla area traffic plan. Recommended that everyone not take a firm position until after that meeting.

lim Colver, Mat-Su Borough Assembly Member – Borough wants a non-motorized separated pathway along Wasilla-Fishhook all the way to Shrock, probably on the east side to connect to other projects. Get all current trail plans from Sandra Garley, Borough Planner. He is currently working on the N. Crusey Trail Project. Supports traffic calming efforts to make a better pedestrian sity.

Engineering Surveying P. 12 Landscape Architecture



Email: lindack@tnh-inc.com

arl Euwer – Detailed his drainage problem with surface water running from Main Street down aulson Street then ponding in his back yard at 291 E. Paulson Ave., a business the "Children's buse".

on Bennet, Wasilla City Council Member, talking as an individual citizen – Believes that the current buntown area along Main Street is the "Historical Downtown Wasilla" and that the area around the 'asilla-Palmer Hwy/Parks Hwy Intersection is the new downtown area of Wasilla. He believes that hen the Wasilla-Palmer to Glenwood connection is constructed even more traffic will be using the stail/services provided in this area then along Main Street.

nn Kilkenny – very strong support for Alternative B and wanted to get started on it right away. By see end of the meeting she had changed her mind about and now supports Alternative A.

= Engineering



Email: lindack@tnh-inc.com

Written Public Comment Summary

Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study **Public Meeting**

Revised

February 21, 2001

s of February 21, 2001 TNH has received 17 written responses (attached). Of those 17 responses;

- supported alternative A- Main Street Rehabilitation, 11
- 0 supported alternative B-5-Lane Main Street Alternative
- supported alternative C 3-Lane Main Street with Knik Street Overpass 3
- responses did not express support of a particular alternative. 3

ther ideas expressed included;

- If overpass alternative chosen, design it aesthetically with sidewalks and trails.
- Alternative to C is an Overpass with 6 lanes on Knik, not main
- Supportive of moving the Railroad to the south, out of town
- Supported additional signals along main
- Supported a signal at Lucille and Parks Hwy.
- Move the Post Office Questioned expanding the modeling area

see attached Frontiersman Article dated January 26, 2001.

James & Mildred Tapscott

P. O. Box 871276 Wasilla, AK 99687

(907) 376-5571 mjtap@mtaonline.net

RECEIVED

MAR 1 2 2001

Planning Department

TO:

Wasilla Planning Commission

FROM:

Jim & Millie Tapscott

DATE:

March 11, 2001

SUBJECT:

Wasilla-Fishhook Road downtown traffic

We feel Wasilla should take advantage of the present opportunity to obtain funding to upgrade both Main and Knik Streets.

Serious consideration should be given to the long-term view of what an over-pass will contribute for a more efficient traffic resolution. Is there a proposal to eliminate the Parks Hiway entirely? Or will it eventually become a street? Will there be schools in that area in the future or will there be a need for auto and foot traffic to that section of Wasilla?

We feel strongly that we need to encourage D.O.T. to come up with a well-conceived, architecturally pleasing over-pass that will serve Wasilla's long-term growth.

· Your input will be an important element in the process of design of this project. ৈ প্ৰত্ৰুত এই ুল্যা প্ৰশং are considered, we have provided this sheet for your convenience. If the space of the self asal, first free

> **ADOT&PF** Vasilla-Fishhook Road Howntown Traffic Study Informational Open House January 23, 2001

Email address:

COMMENTS (Please print or type) िटामकरमा वास्त्र केल त. संव ', faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@. . :

Note: To mail, fold along solid lines on the back of this sheet and tape, so that the address is shown. Comments should be returned to TNH, Inc. by 4:00pm, February 15, 2001.

Email address:

From-MAILBOXES ETC.

Written Public Comments

Your input will be an important element in the process of design of this project. To ensure that your views are considered, we have provided this sheet for your convenience. If the space is not sufficient, feel free to include additional sheets.

ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road **Downtown Traffic Study** Informational Open House January 23, 2001

COMMENTS

(Please print or type)

Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

Ms. Cyra-Korsgaard,

My name is Colleen Hamblen and I am writing in reference to the Wasilla-Fishook Road, Downtown Traffic Study. I attended the open house on January 23, 2001 and was impressed with the amount of work and study done on the project.

I live on Knik-Goose Bay Road, therefore my difficulty with the traffic is the left turn lane conjection. I understand the primary focus of concern for the city is the through traffic conflict vs. those turning north, However, the only proposal to lessen the conjection going south was the 'C' option, with an overpass. This is the option I favor.

To make a left turn onto Knik-Goose Bay Rd. from the Parks Hwy, when there is a train blocking the intersection, or after school has let out, (and as many as six or eight busses are also turning left with each one stopping at the rail road crossing), can be quite frustrating. Either of these occurances also creates an overflow of cars onto the Parks Hwy. which often extends beyond the Left Turn Only lane. In fact, I would go so far as to say the major back ups, and I mean this in the context of the only times I have been required to wait through multiple light changes at this intersection, are during the circumstances mentioned above.

Other reasons, beyond the apparently purely selfish one, for my prefrence for option 'C' are: saftey issues, financial issues, and future planning issues. First, there are no short cuts from Knik-Goose Bay Rd. to any health care facilities that don't cross the rail road. Fairview Loop Road is the only road that provides a seperate access for emergency vehicles which would bypass a train blocking the road, but it adds two miles, and a much slower safe speed of travel, to the Valley Hospital in Palmer. When time is of the essence, this can mean life and death. My second and third concerns coinside with each other. Why spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on a temporary fix only to have it not, independently, fix anything? It appeared from the open house that option 'A' was nothing more than window dressing the current infrastructure. Option B' was a fix that would drive out several businesses, create more traffic problems along Main Street and it's cross roads to the north, and then only solve the problem to the year 2012. That sounds like a 10+ year fix. but if the project doesn't get started until 2004, (as was stated at the open house), and isn't done for a year or more after that, it is more like a six or seven year fix. When added to the fact that even then, the short term benefits of it depend on IF the Alaska Rail Road can move it's tracks, and IF future DOT plans alter the road system. A lot of its are required, on the part of other entities before option 'B' is viable. I would rather see the necessary money spent to independently solve the road conjection in a way that will work toward the long term future benefit of the area.

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.02/06/2001 12:22

Written Public Comments

Your input will be an important element in the process of design of this project. To ensure that your views are considered, we have provided this sheet for your convenience. If the space is not sufficient, feel free to include additional sheets.

ADOT&PF
Wasilla-Fishhook Road
Downtown Traffic Study
Informational Open House
January 23, 2001

Name:		
Address:		:
Email address:	•	•
COMMENTS		
(Please print or type) Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed	(lindack@tnh-i	inc.com)

I am in favor of amendment A for the 3 lane expansion of Main St. As an owner of Valley Chiropractic Clinic in Wasilla my husband and I have watched this town grow for the last 16 years that we have been residents. I believe a three lane expansion of Main St. will help keep the small town atmosphere that we cherish while exploring other comidors for traffic flow would help all the commuters get home at a decent hour. A stop light at the corner of Main and Swanson would also help with the congestion and reduce the number of accidents and near misses at this intersection at peak times. Another option would be a different flow pattern for the post office as it become a traffic nightmare and certain times of the day. You may reach me at 907-373-2022 if you have any further questions or email at lightmathet.com. Thank you.

Cindi Martin 400 N. Main St. Wasilia, AK 99654

Note: To mall, fold along solid lines on the back of this sheet and tape, so that the address is shown. Comments should be returned to TNH, Inc. by 4:00pm, February 15, 2001.

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ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study Informational Open House

nformational Open Hou January 23, 2001

Name:	· 10 years ago of supported the
Address:	Couplet (Act. C). It was designed
Email address:	differently then intersecting.
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	the RR relocated South of
	· Olisse speed up planning on
	a complet/expressivary
- mag-	
	to route Parks Huy trrongh- traffic out of town to the south as per Dan Kelly's proposal.
4.4	
	Anne Lilkenny

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ADOT&PF

Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study Informational Open House January 23, 2001

Name:	BURD	ETT B.	LEN	T, LANDS	APE ARCHITECT
Address:	314	SPRAHS	WAY	WASILLA	AK. 99654
Email address:	=-3d@	mta.net	a3d	(Qacion	et
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COMMENTS

(Please print or type)
Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

JAN. 23, 2001

IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE KNIK STREET OVERPASS

15 THE FAVORED SOLUTION, THEN THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE WILL
HAVE A MAJOR VISUAL IMPACT ON THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THIS

STRUCTURE SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT --
IT SHOULD BE LIGHT, NARROW IN SECTION WITH OPEN GUARD

RAILS AND GENEROUS TRIANGULAR OPENINGS ON THE ENDS NEXT

TO THE ABUTMENTS, UNDERNEATH. IT SHOULD BE A NARROW,

BEAUTIFUL PAINBOW - LIKE ARC WHEN VIEWED FROM THE SIDES.

IT SHOULD HAVE BOTH A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ON ONE SIDE AND
IMPORTANTLY - A MULTI- PURPOSE TRAIL ON THE OTHER.

DOTPF NEEDS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CITY OF WASILLA AND THE ALASKA PAILROAD REGARDING MOVING THE PAILROAD OUT OF THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THE CONCEPT IS A GOOD NONE AND WOULD ELIMINATE MANY DANGEROUS AT-GRADE CROSSINGS. IF THIS GETS A "GO AHEAD" IT WOULD PROVIDE MUCH GREATER ROOM AND FLEXIBILITY FOR UPGRADING THE PARKS HIGHWAY THROUGH TOWN.

CC, WASILLA PUBLIC WORKS PLONING.

Note: To mail, fold along solid lines on the back of this sheet and tape, so that the address is shown. Comments should be returned to TNH, Inc. by 4:00pp. 19ebruary 15, 2001.

9073732029

Written Public Comments

Your input will be an important element in the process of design of this project. To ensure that your views are considered, we have provided this sheet for your convenience. If the space is not sufficient, feel free to include additional sheets.

ADOT&PF
Wasilla-Flshhook Road
Downtown Traffic Study
Informational Open House
January 23, 2001

Name: 114, -(AM25 MAPTIN / NAUSY CHIRONDACTION
Address: YOU A. MAZH ST! CUNIC, IXC.
Email address:
COMMENTS (Please print or type) Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)
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FOR MANY ST. PEHABILITANTON.
MY BASHS ALL AG BUDANS
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> ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study Informational Open House

January 23, 2001

Email address:

COMMENTS

(Please print or type)

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Written Public Comments

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ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study Informational Open House January 23, 2001

Name: Theodore Lee Wa

Address: 3874 Grex Or Wasilla 99054

Email address: Walden @ Fogethisg. Com

COMMENTS

(Please print or type)

Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

I want afternatives A Thanks Muchley.

Lille Walden 1-26-81

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ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study Informational Open House January 23, 2001

Vame:	
Address: Po. Box 873027, WAS	SILLA AK 99687
Email address:	
COMMENTS (Please print or type) Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-r	
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based on my present	Guseness Convention
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

ALASKA LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC.

Post Office Box 92225 Anchorage, Alaska 99509 (907) 258-2788 FAX (907) 272-0630

DATE:

1/245/01

PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 1

TO: Tryck, Nyman and Hayes

FAX: (907) 276-7679

ATT: Arnold Harter

REF: Wasilla Fishhook Downtown Traffic

COMMENTS:

Thank you for your presentation on the referenced project. During the meeting I raised the point that your traffic model has not tested the impact of traffic pattern changes which would result from construction of a by-pass corridor in conjunction with the proposed railroad alignment.

This modeling is appropriate not only because a by-pass for high speed traffic and trucks would potentially extend useful life of your design alternatives, but also because the magnitude of probable resultant improvement in service for downtown Wasilla might be valuable in weighing the overall appropriateness of by-pass implementation. This is an issue which the DOT should disclose to the community.

In this regard the planned upgrade of the Trunk Road to the Bogard-Selden Extension should also be tested.

Incidently, it appears that your three lane option (A) could function as the first phase of the three lane with Knik overpass option (C), should the community receive no help from additional road corridors and your worst case scenario actually come to pass.

FROM: Bill Tucker, General Partner Fairview Parks Investors, Ltd.

Cc: City of Wasilla

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

ALASKA LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC.

Post Office Box 92225 Anchorage, Alaska 99509 (907) 258-2788 FAX (907) 272-0630

DATE:

1/26/01

PAGES INCLUDING COVER:

Tryck, Nyman and Hayes TO:

FAX: (907) 276-7679

ATT: Arnold Harter

REF: Wasilla Fishhook Downtown Traffic

Mr. Harter:

Our previous fax to you of 1/24/01 (1/245/01) addressed inappropriate limits placed on your modeling efforts.

A second point of interest regarding the dialogue during your presentation on the referenced project has arisen which I would appreciate your confirming, specifically: when Mr. Van Nordstrand was asked why a stop light could not be used instead of an overpass at Knik Street, he responded that stop lights slow traffic down, the Parks Highway is a high speed corridor and therefore the DOT would not plan or install additional stop lights on the Parks Highway.

It appears clear that the DOT considers the Parks Highway a high speed corridor. We also infer that if the DOT were able to plan for an alternate high speed corridor, then the existing Parks alignment through Wasilla could be downgraded in classification. In this case we assume that stop lights would become an allowed planning option.

We would appreciate your response on this matter.

Thank you

Bill Tucker, General Partner Fairview Parks Investors Ltd.

Cc: City of Wasilla

01/25/2001 12:22 **2012/2105**

VALLEYUHIKUPKACIIC I

Written Public Comments

MAGE пΤ

Your input will be an Important element in the process of design of this project. To ensure that your views are considered, we have provided this sheet for your convenience. If the space is not sufficient, feel free to include additional sheets.

> ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road **Downtown Traffic Study** Informational Open House January 23, 2001

Name: Dawn	M. Mac I	NER			
Address: 1700	Melanie	ave	Wasilla	AK	29.454
Email address:			***************************************		

COMMENTS (Please print or type) Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

* Endorse Alternative Main Street

Thank You

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Written Public Comments

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Alternative

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Written Public Comments

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Wasilla-Fishhook Road
Downtown Traffic Study
Informational Open House
January 23, 2001

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Name:	Villiar	n Fi	MacIve	RJR.		
Address:_	1700	Melanie	avec	Wasilla	PK	99454
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Email address:

COMMENTS

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Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

al Endorse the Rehabilitation Alternative A for Main Street.

Thank You

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VALLEYCHIROPRACTIC 1

PAGE 01

Written Public Comments

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COMMENTS (Please print or type) Comments may be malled, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

Endorse Rehabilitation A. main Street.

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VALLEYCHIROPRACTIC 1

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91/26/2001 11:22 Written Public Comments

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Comments may be mailed, faxed (276-7679) or e-mailed (lindack@tnh-inc.com)

IN tavor of Alt Ain favor of additional signals to improve circulation of traffic but Feel that a 5 lane 15 à drastic approach. Rehabilitation of existing Structure is best at this time. Congestion of traffic may be controlled Quite lefficiently by additional Signals, without causing unnecessary financial burden to the city and local business owners. With the library postoffice at Main & Swanson, I would be concerned about pedestrian safet

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expanded road widths

Your input will be an important element in the process of design of this project. To ensure that your views are considered, we have provided this sheet for your convenience. If the space is not sufficient, feel free to include additional sheets.

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Wasilla-Fishhook Road **Downtown Traffic Study** Informational Open House

January 23, 2001
Name: JOHN F. KENT
Address: 285 EAST PROKS Hung MASILLA 99654
Email address:
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Wasilla-Fishhook Road
Downtown Traffic Study
Informational Open House
January 23, 2001

Name:	Steve	- 7	/		
Address:	2201	Lucille	Street	WASilla,	AR
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Address: 777 CINDY CIRCLE, WASILLA PO BOX 870767
Email address: aztech @ alaska.net.
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Wasilla-Fishhook Rd. Downtown Traffic Study Improvement Alternatives

Purpose and Need

Provide basis for selecting appropriate Downtown improvements that comply with current design standards, improve capacity, and enhance traffic safety.

Main Street Rehabilitation - Alternative A

Description

Main Street: 3-Lane

Knik-Goosebay Road: 2-Lane

Advantages

- Because of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway Extension to Glenwood, and the Bogard Road Improvements, Main St. will operate as well or better than it does now until approximately 2012.
- > Rehabilitates the existing traffic ways without the need for new right-of-way.
- Narrower streets are more pedestrian friendly.
- Maintains Wasilla's small-town atmosphere while the community develops alternative commuting corridors.
- Circulation and congestion can be improved by additional signals at Swanson or Herning (north of Parks Hwy.), and at Park or Susitna (south of Parks Hwy.), as well as improving major intersections with additional turn lanes.

Disadvantages

Without additional corridors the traffic congestion will become increasingly worse. By about 2012 the congestion will be the same as it is now, and by 2022 traffic congestion will be severe.

5-Lane Main Street Alternative - Alternative B

Description

Main Street:

2 lanes in each direction with center turn lane.

Knik-Goose Bay Road:

1 lane in each direction with center turn lane.

Advantages

- > Least traffic congestion, best performer of all alternatives considered.
- Circulation and congestion can be improved by additional signals at Swanson or Herning (north of Parks Hwy.), and at Park or Susitna (south of Parks Hwy.), as well as improving major intersections with additional turn lanes.

Disadvantages

- Expansion to 5-lanes will require additional right-of-way, especially at intersection corners.
- Additional width will make pedestrian crossings more challenging.
- Lose the small-town atmosphere.
- > By the year 2024, the community would need to develop alternative commuting corridors to prevent a rising level of traffic congestion on Main Street.
- Loss of right-of-way for current or potential on-street parking.

3-Lane Main Street with Knik Street Overpass - Alternative C

Description

Main Street: 1 lane in each direction with center turn lane.
Knik-Goose Bay Road: 1 lane in each direction with center turn lane.

Knik Street: 1 lane in each direction with bridge over Parks Highway and Railroad.

Advantages

Reduced congestion over Main Street Rehabilitation Alternative.

Maintains existing traffic ways, no new right-of-way required for Main Street.

Narrower streets are more pedestrian friendly.

Provides a faster route for emergency vehicles and school buses to cross the Parks Hwy.

Can be improved with additional signalization, including signals at all of Main and Knik Street intersections (on north side of Parks Highway).

Disadvantages

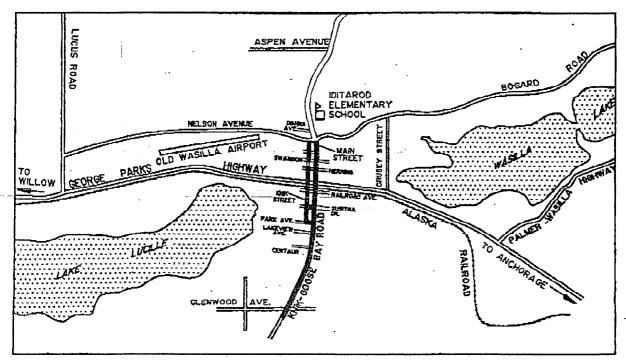
> Increased traffic along Knik Street in the residential area south of the Parks Highway.

> By the year 2024, the community must develop alternative commuting corridors to prevent a rising level of traffic congestion on Main Street.

Requires right-of-way south of the Knik/Parks overpass and between Danna and Nelson.

Other Issues in this Area

- The extension of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway to Glenwood will divert traffic from the Parks/Main Intersection. Bogard Road improvements will also improve conditions in the near future. These projects will allow Main Street to function as well as it does now until about the year 2014, providing time to develop alternative corridors.
- Despite the Palmer-Wasilla extension and Bogard Road Improvements, traffic on Main Street will rise 50-80% by the year 2024.
- About 40-50% of the traffic on Main Street is generated by the forecasted land-use, rather than throughway traffic. Additional corridors will not reduce this traffic.
- > Closing Railroad Avenue would improve operation and capacity of Main Street/Knik-Goose Bay Road/Parks Highway Intersection.
- Accident analysis found no unusually high rates or numbers of accidents along Main Street and Knik-Goose Bay Road, except at the Parks Highway intersection.



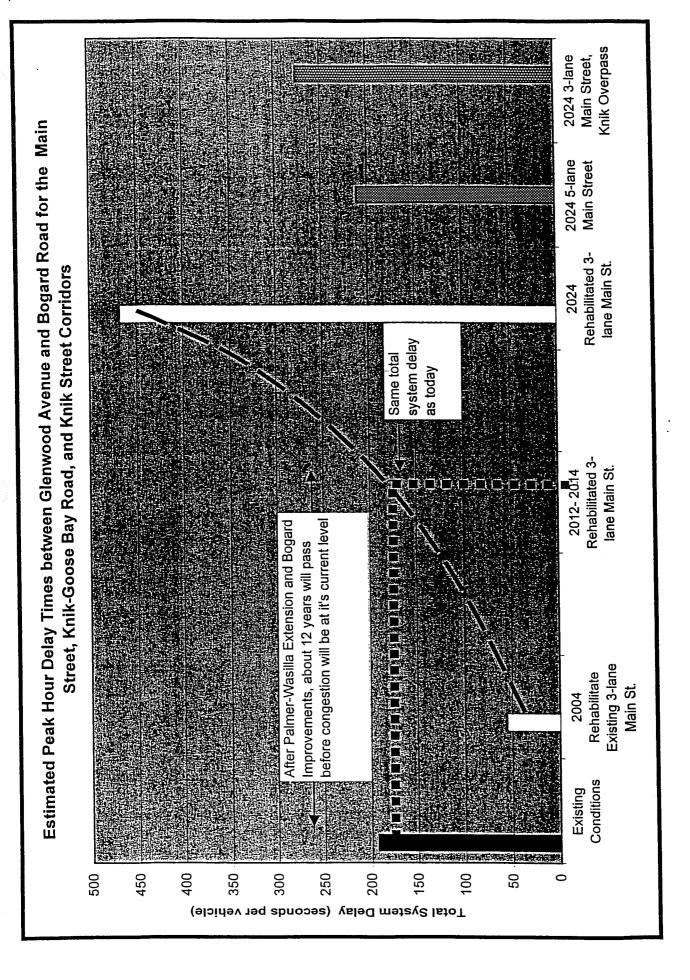
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ADOT&PF Wasilla-Fishhook Road Downtown Traffic Study Informational Open House January 23, 2001

Name:		_
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	COMMENTS	

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Wasilla-Fishhook Road
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OI may nix overpass plans for downtown Wasilla

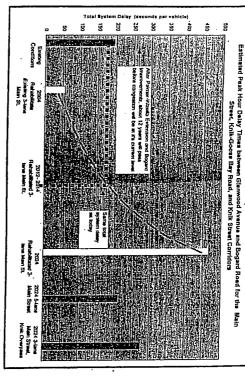
RINDI WHITE

VASILLA — For some, the word "resilitation," when applied to road iss, means little more than placing a nd-Aid on a gushing wound. The partment of Transportation (DOT), well as the Wasilla public works deretment, argued recently that the shing wound may not be the actual blem.

DOT staff met with area residents at Wasilla City Council chambers Wasilla City Council chambers saday to discuss the findings of a rettly completed traffic analysis which died three ways to decrease traffic gestion on Wasilla's Main Street and e the flow of traffic across the raild tracks at the Main Street and Parks phway intersection.

The overall project will include aightening the Wasilla-Fishhook ad from Schrock Road to Bogard ad, improving traffic flows through silla's downtown area, then rehabiling the Knik-Goose Bay Road to anwood Avenue. Originally, an overswood Avenue along Knik Street, ich would go over the Parks Highly and funnel traffic back to Knikoose Bay Road at East Susitna Avenue.

The plan had been completed several ars ago and basically shelved in sparation for the funding to come ough. When DOT's project manager lile Van Nostrand began looking at project recently, in preparation for construction in the next few years, contacted the city of Wasilla's public riks department to let them know the piert was gring to he implamented



Graph courtesy of TNH, Inc.
This graph illustrates projected traffic congestion along Wasilla's Main
Street. Construction of other traffic corridors over the next 12 years will
likely make the rehabilitation last much longer than projected.

Van Nostrand said when he did so, he found the city had some significant problems with the construction plans and felt there may be alternatives to building an overpass. As a result, the department contracted with Tryck, Nyman and Hayes Inc. to complete a traffic analysis study of three methods of improving traffic flows in the downtown area.

The three methods of improving traffic that were studied included plans for an overpass, expanding Main Street to five lanes or rehabilitating the existing three lanes and adding amenities, such

The preferred alternative, from both DOT's and the city's standpoints, seemed to be rehabilitating the road.

Some area business owners and area residents who were in attendance, however, felt the state's money would be better spent by constructing more than what they called a Band-Aid fix.

"Does it make sense, spending money applying a Band-Aid here and a Band-Aid there...?" asked Joe LeBeau, Alaska Center for the Environment's Valley director. "Is it more appropriate to move that planning window further ahead?"

Shiesl responded to the question, stating that the city's Main Street was in Ineed of an upgrade anyway, and it would be more feasible to incorporate a few amenities into the upgrade, such as lights and sidewalks, which would push the need for additional construction back about 10 years. Ten years, Shiesl said, is a lifetime when it comes to public works-related issues.

Randy Kinney, who compiled the traffic analysis for DOT, agreed with Shiesl's views. The extension of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway, which will go into construction this year, will funnel off much of the north-south traffic flow currently burdening that road.

By the time the road would be expenencing similar traffic flows to what it is now, other roads that would further alleviate congestion on Main Street will likely either be constructed or in the planning stages.

"It's not just a Band-Aid approach," Kinney said. "The rehabilitation forces

us to consider other alternatives:"

The rehabilitation is the smaller fix, whereas the need for alternative traffic corridors is the larger need facing the city at this time.

city at this time.
Sandra Garley, Mat-Su Borough's planning director, said the borough will the belooking into extending some roads to around the area to allow greater traffic movement around congested areas. One road that may be extended is the Seward Meridian Parkway, which would meet Seldon Road, in order to help Anchorage-bound traffic bypass Wasilla. Seldon would be further extended, according to the borough's master plan developed in 1984, to pro-

from Houston's King Arthur Drive to Palmer's Scott Road, where it would intersect with the Glenn Highway.

Shies! said other projects may be coming in the future which would also affect how traffic moves around the city of Wasilla.

Discussions are continuing between the Alaska Railroad Corp. and the city to move the railroad tracks to the south of the city.

If that project goes through, there may be plans down the road to move the Parks Highway out of the city, following a parallel route.

Van Nostrand said he felt the city of Wasilla was approaching a place where moving the high-speed traffic corridor

out of the city may be beneficial to the city's growth.
"Your community here is like Eagle River [was] 20 to 25 years ago," Van Nostrand said. "It's almost ready to be self-sufficient."

Public comments were taken at the open house and will be compiled by the department over the next few weeks. DOT will also compile its opinion, and plans to seek an opinion on the matter from the city and from the borough.

After a definite plan has been chosen, the project will go into an environmental reevaluation, at which time it will again come before the public for comment. Van Nostrand estimated it would be reevaluated in the late summer or early fall. He said he hopes to see construction by 2004.

Public comment regarding the issue will be accepted until Feb. 28. Comments can be mailed to Van Nostrand at Project Manager, c/o ADOT/PF. P.O.

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OWNER 1	OWNER A	OMNERS	25	200 EAST HERNING AVENUE	WASILLA	ĄĶ	99654
CITY OF WASILLA PUBLIC WORKS				200 FAST HERNING AVENUE	WASILLA	AK	99654
CITY OF WASILLA ROAD MAINTENANCE				1101 DELI WOOD DRIVE, APT. 1	WASILLA	ΑK	99654
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Tim Krug

From: ent: Arnold Harder [ArnoldH@tnh-inc.com] Tuesday, March 13, 2001 2:08 PM

o: tkrug@ci.wasilla.ak.us

Cc: Subject:

Carol Larson; Randy Kinney; William VanNostrand

Questions on Main Street

Tim I tried to call and missed you.

Here are the answers to your questions. You should note that these type of decisions are made during the design process which we haven't yet entered. Consequently, they are subject to change as we gather and look at information.

We can not support changing from a three lane road to a two lane road. The result would be gridlock. The center lane is necessary for cars to access driveways and sidestreets without stoping the through traffic.

We would prefer to have as few driveways as possible, and shared driveways is a good way to achieve that.

A signal might be installed at Swanson as part of a rehabilitation project, and the plumbing will almost certainly be included.

On street parking looks like a real problem. It would likely involve right of way acquisition and would conflict with driveways and utilites. I don't think there is much hope for significant improvement in parking on-street.

Some landscaping improvements will be included per the original environmental assessment at the museum. Other landscaping will limited by the available right of way and budget.

I think I've addressed all your questions, but let me know if I missed one.

Arnold Harder 343-0262 276-7679F