



**HAINES HIGHWAY MP 3.5 TO 25.3**  
**PROJECT NUMBER 68606/SHAK-095-6(28)**  
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**  
**December 6, 2005**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Project Team Attendees:** DOT&PF - Kris Benson and Pete Bednarowicz  
DOWL Engineers - Stewart Osgood, Steve Noble, Kristen Hansen, and Cecile Davis  
FHWA - Ed DeCleva  
Southeast Strategies - Linda Snow  
Inter-Fluve - Mark Sogge and Dan Miller

A public open house was held at the Chilkat Center in Haines, Alaska from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The meeting room was laid out in subject stations as follows:

- Welcome and Comments
- Design Issues
- Environmental Resources

Project staff members were available to answer questions from the public and to solicit comments regarding the project. Approximately 30 members of the public attended during the evening. The following are verbal comments received from the public at the meeting. In addition to verbal comments, written comments were also received and are included in the Scoping Summary Report.

**Darsie Culbeck.** His cabin at MP 8.5 is in the right-of-way (ROW). He has been applying to DOT for the past 6 or 7 years for vacancy, but it has been denied until this project is designed.

**Mark Allen.** He would like an airstrip around MP 25.3 to 25.5 (left side) developed for bush aircraft. Could DOT develop a borrow pit in a linear fashion to facilitate construction of an emergency runway to accommodate C-130 aircraft.

**Lori Stepansky** (Haines Convention and Visitor Bureau). She is coordinating the completion of a Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, which is due September 2006 (funded by a DOT grant). A nomination for the federal scenic byway designation would follow. She is interested to know whether we have any visitor amenities planned, such as bathrooms, pullouts, information boards, trails. She mentioned that the village of Klukwan is planning a 1.5-mile extension to the bald eagle viewing trail.

**Nancy Berland.** Requested a copy of the Fish Habitat Inventory drawings.

**Robert Venables** (Haines Borough Manager). When an Interdisciplinary Team is established to discuss mitigation, he would like the Borough to have a seat on the team. Wants the road upgraded for safety. Wants durable asphalt (the Klondike Highway is 12" thick).

**Larry Geise** (retired DOT construction engineer). The 1980 repaving of the project area had a design life of 10 years. Curve near the bridge is bad in winter and needs to be straightened. There is a sinkhole at MP 19 near debris flow.

**Tim Shields** (Takshanuk Watershed Council). Knows there is western toad breeding in a pond located at the proposed realignment on the far side of the Chilkat River Crossing.

**Warren Morrison**. MP 18.5 resident - Just bought his home. The house is 11 feet from the property line. He hopes the road is not moving closer to his house, wants no clearing between the road and his house. Would like more trees planted.

**Rocky Seward**. MP 26 resident - Build a bridge over the MP 23 debris flow. Move the road north to shorten the crossing - this will also help the bridge alignment.

**Linda Geise**. MP 7.2 Saddleback Trail - needs a parking area. Good improvements overall but wants the MP 23 slide fixed.

#### **Other Comments.**

- There should be a separated bike path the total length of the project limits. Other communities are getting bike paths, so why can't Haines?
- More pullouts are needed.
- Preserve existing river access points.
- Why straighten curves? This is a scenic road. Curves should be left in to force people to drive slower. Don't impact critical habitat just to straighten curves so that people can drive faster.
- One woman noted that she's owned a home within DOT ROW for 40 years, and wanted to know what will happen to her home.
- Reduce impacts to river and roosting trees.
- Airstrip is needed just north of bridge.
- Re-route road around debris flow area or bridge over it.
- Question about whether or not alignment has been decided. Concerned because she saw surveyors. Staff explained that they were just performing a geotechnical investigation to map the soil.
- Very excited about project. Questions about access of locals to the new bridge alignment.
- Cost of new bridge is a concern.