

CRV REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Regional Planning Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023; 5:00 – 7:00pm Gulkana Fuel Pilot Lounge

- I. Call to Order by Bruce Cain 5:08pm
- II. Roll Call:
 - a. RPO Members Present: Bruce Cain - CV Chamber of Commerce; Joe Bovee – Ahtna; Judy Chapman – DOT&PF; Terry Valentine – CVDA; Martin Boniek - Copper Valley Air; Gary Schliesing – Glenn Transport/Gulkana Fuel; Jerry Lesemann – Crowley; Brett Nelson – DOT&PF; Jennifer Rosenthal – CVDA (non-voting); Asa Brewi – CVDA (non-voting); Jason Hoke – CVDA Board President (non-voting)
 - b. RPO Members Absent: None
 - c. Guests: Russell Fox – BLM; Ray Voley - AK Wildone; Alysia Hancock – BLM; Dan Case – Crossroads & Wengers Owner; Jason Severs
- III. ***Motion to approve the Agenda by Joe Bovee, 2nd by Terry Valentine, motion passed***
- IV. ***Motion to approve the 10.4.23 Meeting Minutes by Terry Valentine, 2nd by Jerry Lesemann, motion passed.***
- V. Chairs Report: Welcomed everyone, RPO up and running we have foundation documents in place to govern committee affairs, The Committee had one initiative to provide STIP comments, they were late but accepted by the DOT and well received. Email from Commissioner Anderson, there is a Business Magazine doing an article on the AK DOT and requested an interview with Bruce, will share the email with the committee. The magazine audience is about 13M readers. Bruce invited several people to come to the meeting and start a strategic planning work group to discuss areas of interest, trails, local roads etc.
- VI. Grant Finance Report: Reported that the Annual budget is \$30k, the RPO is federally funded so it follows the fed fiscal year Oct 1 – Sept 30, for administration costs of the RPO, and does not included planning. A \$250K 3-year grant has been awarded through the Denali Commission, finding will become available after January 2024, this grant can be used for planning efforts and associated expenses. Financial reports will be provided.
- VII. Discussion
 - i. McCarthy Road - PEL Report, there will be 5 meetings throughout the course of this study though the summer of 2024 and the report completed in 2025. Public open house online from 11.29.2023 through 1.10.24 and can be accessed at <https://mccarthyroadpel.com/> There will be 3 in person public meetings. The website also has a lot of information including previous McCarthy Road studies, study area etc. The advisory board includes members from different state agencies, NPS, local residents, as well as representatives from local native corporations. Bruce Cain sits as a rep from the RPO, I sit as the CVDA rep and John Becker from the Chamber. We were asked to come with our "Top 3 transportation-related Needs and Opportunities for the corridor." Some of the priorities were: Culvert maintenance and replacement, Safety concerns, Permanent fixes for ongoing problem areas including the realignment of the road onto state land from the McCarthy swimming hole to past Clear Creek, as well as mitigation of water overflow in the Clear Creek area, the sloughing of both the Kostina and McCarthy bluffs, and widening and ditching and/or relocation of the road along the Long Lake corridor. Discussion followed, Copper Valley Telecom and Parks are currently working together to bring Fiber optic to the area, this is an active project that will happen, it is important that the CVTE be a member of the PEL Committee, Jen will suggest the addition to Jacobs, (consultant leading the study). The RPO will submit comments from this group and gather information from the RPO and residents of the CV. Anyone who has comments on the RPO please send to Bruce and cc Jen, he will put together a list and vet to this group and send in.

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- ii. GKN ALP – DOT&PF received updated Draft ALP plans & narrative from DOWL with updates that were requested by the FAA. DOT&PF will send to the RPO for comment. Jason Hoke shared that he heard from Commissioner Anderson that the Governor's budget included for the runway extension, float moat with plane tie down area and may be able to add a large commercial hanger.
- iii. Glennallen Flood Update – M&O reported that the armoring and grade raise on snowshoe is complete, the culvert and drainage re-alignment were completed as of the last report. The hydrology and lidar radar has been obtained and is being processed and analyzed to be utilized for middle to longer term corrections. The state hydrologist, with a group at the US Army Corp of Engineers – to see if there are nonstructural innovation options they could be implement. These areas are outside right of way so my take more coordination. Bruce Cain asked if a flood control district be formed for Moose Creek, this is something that is done in the lower 48.
- iv. Wayside at the HUB, the design will be similar to the look at the Gulkana boat launch, two buildings will be installed, the final design will be complete in March and plan to install in May, so it is ready for the summer season. Carl will attend the 2/9 RPO meeting. The public comment period will run for 30 days. The RPO should submit official comments addressed to Carl. Bruce will submit comments. Jen suggested that the RPO create an email contact list for transportation issues/projects/meetings/notifications that the public should be made aware of. Discussion, location and layout plan has not been seen yet. **RPO Committee members please submit contacts information for people/businesses that should be on this list.**
- v. Alaska Interior Transportation Plan: Working on the riverine access memo, working with Western Federal Lands and Ahtna on access to the Copper River, should ensure its in there. Next round of public meetings happen in the summer. You can always submit comments on the Website <https://www.interioralaskatransportationplan.com/> ask to be included on the mailing list or notification of meeting. DOT will keep RPO updated on what we should be aware of.
- vi. Long-Range Transportation - Working Group: What and how the RPO should plan for Long Range transportation and what should this look like. There is more work to be done than just meetings every two months. Discussion Followed. Utilize the committee as the Group instead of creating working groups. Look for a template or outline for a standardized plan and develop a list of categories and prioritize 1, 2, 3, rather than a shotgun approach. Decide what the vision and goals are and look at the entire area. McCarthy road is a long way off and should focus on our area, no need to create another group. Want to see the trails can pick what we want to focus on and go from there DNR needs to be included as well as DOT, DNR is a big problem in regard to access of property they are selling to the public. We have a proactive DOT Commissioner, they are looking at wayside, trials statewide, making sure the RPO is commenting on those, but focus on priorities. Roads on by entities other than DOT, or multiple owners re a big issue for road repairs What to do? The State of AK (DNR) created the issue, put in roads, and didn't put easements in designated public roads. No help from DOT/DNR pushed back, blamed on unincorporated. Granted/sold property by DNR with no access to property, who repairs the road. If the road was deeded to the community could have received emergency funds, but as it stands they cannot give money to fix state property (roads). Moving forward require the State to put in an access road for any property/subdivisions sold. Jen has a list of all of the roads in the Copper Valley Census area indicating road owners and will share this with the group. Recommendations: Create a list of the areas we want to look at and review the list at the next RPO meeting to decide the direction to

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move forward. Put together a planning map to identify all modes of transportation in the area and then can work on that with action and priority, collection point for ideas, make the LRTP an agenda item for each meeting.

1. Draft list of areas of interest
 - a. Federal funded highways
 - b. State funded highways and roads
 - c. Non-funded roads (subdivisions-legislative funded)
 - d. Subdivision roads.
 - e. Airports and runways
 - f. Trails and trailheads
 - g. Amenities (waysides, pull-outs, viewpoints, boat launches, etc.)
 - h. Boat launches and trail heads.
 - i.other ideas
2. Mapping
 - a. Martin suggested we put together a planning map and will share with the group what he has been using State funded highways and roads
 - b. Coordinate resources and use funding from Denali Commission grant as needed
 - c. Potential Budget to fund this

- vii. Alysia introduced Russel Fox, the new project manager at BLM, Russel said hello, he is working on housing BLM, and is the incident commander all risk management fire, flood, famine, earthquake, Logistic Section Chief Complex Commander.

VIII. Adjourn: 7:43 *Motion to Adjourn by Terry Valentine 2nd by Gary Schliesing, Motion passed*

IX. Next Meeting: February 7, 2024