

# CRV REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Regional Planning Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2024; 5:00 – 7:00pm Copper Valley Air Conference Room – Gulkana Airport

- I. Call to Order by Bruce Cain at 5:03pm
  - a. RPO Members Present: Bruce Cain - CV Chamber of Commerce; Joe Bovee – Ahtna; Martin Boniek - Copper Valley Air; Jerry Lesemann – Crowley; Brett Nelson – DOT&PF; Jennifer Bowman – CVDA (staff); Asa Brewi – CVDA (staff);
  - b. RPO Members Absent: Gary Schliesing – Glenn Transport/Gulkana Fuel; John Becker - CVDA
  - c. Guests: Colleen Merrick – CRNA/CR Watershed Project; Faye Ewan – Community Member; Jason Hoke – CVDA Board President; Judy Chapman – DPT & PF; Becky Swanke - Community Member/Copper Basin Shooting Club; Clint Marshall – Community Member/Ahtna BOD; Pam Goode – Deltana Community Corporation; Sarah Devans – Native Village of Kluti Kaah;
- II. Invocation: Bruce Cain
- III. ***Motion to approve the agenda by Joe Bovee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martin Boniek, motion passed***
- IV. ***Motion to approve the 4.3.24 Meeting Minutes by Martin Boniek, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Lesemann, motion passed***
- V. Chairs Report: Chitna Area/McCarthy Road washed out between Chitna Village and the McCarthy Bridge; Copper River Trail between O'Brien Creek and Haley Creek, cultural resources work DOT&PF and the Native Village of Chitna confirmed two gravesites in the area. The trail is currently closed while work on temporary wood planking over the areas is completed. This measure will keep access open for this year only, there will be a long-term plan after that; Glennallen flooding: There were some issues and flooding occurred for one day at BLM, ice flow clogged a culvert and a secondary culvert was plugged with road fabric. Pre-planning work paid off, DOT&PF did a good job staying on top of it, there was timely information posted on Facebook by a community member. Other flooding occurred on the Glenn Hwy at 183 and the Dump Road; The Chair is disappointed that the Richardson Hwy MP 66-92 and the Moose Creek Hill in Palmer were taken off the STIP. The AK STIP was rejected and then approved. Discussion followed.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Jen to add the flood letter that was sent to Governor Dunleavy, Commissioner Anderson and The State Legislature to the Chairs report for the record.
- VI. Reports/Discussion:
  - a. DOT&PF Update, Brett Nelson:

No report from hydrologist yet, will send the report shortly when it becomes available. The McCarthy Road outside lane dropped 10-12' . M&O is patching, Geotech & DOT&PF M&O and engineering are to evaluate and identify the cause, this had not been previously identified as a problem. Currently one lane is open during the day with a pilot car, and it is anticipated to be back to two lanes at the end of the day. DOT is working on funding and a plan that will stabilize the area and get back into pre-slippage. DOT Public Information office has a Facebook page and posts frequently; Coper River Trail, it was reiterated that a boardwalk and signage would be installed over areas of concern, and it will be in place by June 7<sup>th</sup>, prior to season opener; The HUB wayside, is in the final PS&E, once complete it will be advertised. There are no substantial changes to the design since the last presentation, but there have been delays. The projects will be constructed in the fall 2024; Richardson MP106.5 – 115 resurfacing, starting soon, the Edgerton MP24-29 resurfacing is a carry over from last year and will be completed this year. *Discussion Followed:* It was noted that the map sent to CVDA shows the McCarthy Road, the map should be changed to the Edgerton MP24-29. To sign up for emails <https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOT/subscriber/new> or detailed information on projects <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/projects/> ; A turn lane going into CRNA was added to the Richardson MP 106.5-115 resurfacing project; *Discussion Followed:* Will the Hydrology report be recommending permanent drainage fixes? DOT&PF report is looking for a long-term permanent solutions and proposed projects to alleviate the regional issues. It was noted that many of the issues are outside o the DOT&PF right of way and coordination with landowners may be required; Gulkana Airport Layout Plan: The FAA given the OK, but they need to do their

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official approval in their system; STIP Update: Moose Creek Hill in Palmer, and Glenn HWY MP 66-92, construction wasn't showing in 2027, these are central region projects and it looks like these got pushed out past 2027. The STIP is dynamic and can be amended several times per year, projects can be added/removed depending on several factors. Project costs in rural AK have almost doubled, this required a re-balancing of the STIP and a number of projects were dropped, The DOT&PF is working to identify other funding for projects for the ability to put projects back in. DOT&PF will provide info on those particular projects and reiterate the importance of these projects to our region.

**ACTION ITEMS:** DOT&PF to send Updates on Hydrology Report findings, the two STIP projects in Central Region that were removed, correct the map/location for Edgerton MP 24-29 on the flyer.

- b. Trails Committee Update: Tabled until next meeting.
- c. McCarthy Road PEL Study: Public Meeting Dates:
  - i. Glennallen, Tuesday, July 30, 9am to 11am (Location: Copper River School District Office Conference Room, 1967 Aurora Drive, past the post office)
  - ii. Chitina, Tuesday, July 30, 6 to 8pm (Location: Chitina Community Hall, off the Edgerton Highway)
  - iii. McCarthy, Wednesday, July 31, 6 to 8pm (Location: new McCarthy EMS Hall)Detailed Information on this study can be found at <https://mccarthyroadpel.com/>
- d. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): Bruce wants someone to take on looking at local roads if someone is interested: *Discussion Followed:* The first step would be to inventory of roads, public air strips, needed, mapping program; Is there seed money to develop this? Yes, this is funding identified in the Denali Commission grant to work on this, other funding sources for planning may be required to complete a LRTP; The CRV-RPO should take a step back and develop an outline/plan of action for LRTP; A framework for the plan is needed to be successful and move forward with a cohesive plan for the region by set goals, priorities, lists of projects and public engagement; Mapping has been taken on in the past by CVDA for the purposes of first responders, and idea that came out was going to the CDP's to start also with Electric and Telephone Co. On a regional basis mapping out this area is like mapping the area of West Virginia, a large endeavor that will cost lots of money; The size of the area to be mapped is about 25,000 square miles; Judy offered help from work they are doing for the AITP with contractors, they have a GIS inventory set up; Does the state have a template? DOT&PF in the process of creating templates for regional Transportation Plans, these may not fit CRV-RPO needs, but working with Jen on a specific outline for the region. AITRC offered support to help with the inventory list. **Motion: By Joe Bovey to nominate Colleen Merrik to head the LRTP committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Martin Bo.** *Discussion followed: Joe offered to help as part of the committee; don't think we ready to form a committee yet; The CVDA has the funding for this, bring information to committee that proposes an organizational plan and work with DOT to understand the need; Get organizational outline and appoint a representative from the RPO committee to head the committee; Feel like we are grasping to understand what the issues are; Important to figure out what we need to do, use DOT&PF resources and knowledge and guidance to expand out to understand what the plan/map is to move forward; Take time to Work with DOT&PF and revisit; The committee is in a leadership role and not ready to appoint until we understand who and the expertise that is needed. This will drive the mission of the CRV-RPO; Additional funding resources may be required to complete the plan, other funding opportunities were discussed. The thriving communities grant monies will be given out to RPO's and AML will be available to provide technical assistance. There is a Community Change grant, to enhance infrastructure for remote communities.* **Martin withdrew his second, motion taken off the table.** **ACTION ITEM:** DOT&PF to meet with Jen and 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor to review interior plan. Presentation by Sarah Lucy, AITP.

VII. **Motion to adjourn at 6:15pm by Martin Boniek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Joe Bovee, motion passed**

VIII. Next Meeting August 7<sup>th</sup>, 5pm at the Copper Valley Air Conference Room