

CRV REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Regional Planning Meeting Minutes

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

- I. Call to Order by Bruce Cain at 5:06pm
 - 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; John Becker – CVDA; Jennifer Bowman – CVDA (staff); Asa Brewi – CVDA (staff)
 - b. RPO Members Absent: Gary Schliesing – Glenn Transport/Gulkana Fuel
 - c. Guests: Judy Chapman – DPT & PF; Sara Lucey – ADOT; Colleen Merrick – CRNA/CR Watershed Project; Tom Lambert – Retired ADOT/ Concerned Citizen; Sterling Spilinek – Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission; Kelsey Stanbro – Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission; Victoria Rego and Michael – Wrangell Mountains Wilderness Lodge owners; Matt White
- II. Invocation: Bruce Cain
- III. ***Motion to approve the agenda by Martin Boniek, 2nd by Jerry Lesemann, motion passed***
- IV. ***Motion to approve the 6.5.24 Meeting Minutes by Jerry Lesemann, 2nd by Martin Boniek, motion passed***
- V. Chairs Report: Bruce Cain

STIP Comments from CRV-RPO were finished, submitted and distributed by e-mail. Bruce met with Glacier View representatives concerning the stretch of Glenn Hwy from 66 to 92 Mile, meeting held the previous Wednesday at the church in Glacier View. There was good attendance including Commissioner Anderson. Obtained some new contacts. Made comments on Valdez Ferry Terminal that were supported by the Southeast Conference in Southeast Alaska.

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. Introductions: Bruce Cain added to agenda

Went around the table to provide introductions for each person attending in person and via Zoom.
- VII. Reports/Discussion:
 - a. DOT&PF Presentation by Sara Lucey: Interior Alaska Transportation Plan (IATP)

The IATP plan is updated every 10 years, we are currently updating the 2010 plan so are a few years behind. Data has been collected. A working group for the IATP was created and Jason Hoke is a representative for CRV, laying foundation for transportation planning needs for the region. Focusing today on the Copper River Valley portion of the Plan which is also part of the Long-Range Plan for the State of Alaska. Lucey went through a PowerPoint Presentation concerning the different categories and data that is taken into consideration during the Planning process. Additional information can be found at <https://www.interioralaskatransportationplan.com/>

Sara asked for RPO to speak to priorities for the Area based on need ranking.

Airports- Listed airports in the area excluding Gulkana Airport as it is covered in a category of its own. Martin asked about airports that are in conflict between State and NPS and how maintenance is handled, Judy discussed agreements that are in place and how the issues could be resolved in the future.

Pedestrian/Bike Paths- Copper Center Bike Path and Tazlina Bike Path are both outdated projects on the list. There is pedestrian bridge across Tazlina River that is in the plan. Discussion on additional needs followed. A possible extension of the path along the Edgerton Hwy towards Chitna, motorized vehicle trails for motor bikes and four wheelers are a higher priority. Funding for Ped/Bike cannot be used for motorized vehicles. Further discussion followed concerning issues of bike path use and non-use.

Transit: Is there a need for other transit programs besides current services provided by Soaring Eagle? Judy defined what a transit program entails. Discussion followed about what could qualify for

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funding. Youth Worker transport in the summer months from towns/villages to work locations. More information could be provided by Eric with DOT&PF on possible funding and how to build a plan.

Railways: Are identified in a separate plan.

Bridges: Bruce commented; Tazlina pedestrian bridge could interfere with boat launch and what the needs are. Tom Lambert asked about Tonsina Bridge replacement. Discussion followed. Trail parking is needed at the Mill Creek Bridge on the Glenn Highway. ACTION ITEM: Bruce to send a list of bridges that have known issues to Sara. Victoria Rego spoke about wash out's locations on the Nabesna Road, these need work to prevent flooding and maintain access. Possible add culverts or bridges and the Jack Creek Bridge has issues. Tom Lampart: spoke about the need to replace bridges on Richardson Highway north of Glennallen to Fairbanks. Discussion followed concerning funding shortfalls and asked how could the DPT&PF re-allocate funding from highway/bridge repair projects to M&O.

Highways: Michael Rego brought up issues on the Nabesna Road. Visitation is increasing, maintenance needs to be addressed especially past mile 33 to allow for safe transport of increasing tourist and subsistence traffic. Tom Lampart: Discussed current projects along the Edgerton Hwy and specific issues along the Richardson Highway. He noted the brush cutting was not completed correctly, and questioned ROW width. The scope of projects should include cleaning ditches properly of flood debris, brushing cutting, construction ruts and hummocks, steep slopes, culvert issues; he mentioned specific issues along the Richardson Highway. He also noted that some sections of the Glenn Highway have failing embankments along the rivers and lakes and need emergency repairs. Sara responded, these sections of concern fall into the Central Area Plan and can be addressed. Comments will be shared with Russ Johnson for current projects and near future projects. There was discussion around the shortage of employees and that crews need to be increased to complete the needed highway operations and maintenance for the area.

Community Roads: Brunswick-Craig Rd the ROW is disputed, DOT&PF require more information on the issues and need to follow-up. The Old Edgerton Highway is in bad shape and should be on this list. Bruce discussed the need for access roads when the State of Alaska sells land to private parties and the lack of maintenance for private roads that are part of subdivision, discussion followed.

Additional Comments: How to submit additional comments. Through the RPO, DOT&PF or Interior Alaska Transportation Plan website, <https://www.interioralaskatransportationplan.com/>

VIII. New Business:

- a. STIP Amendment #1- Tabled until next meeting as per Bruce
- b. Long Range Transportation Plan- Tabled until Next Meeting as per Bruce

IX. Added Information: Upcoming visit by Senator Sullivan on Sunday August 11, 2024, at the Copper Air Hanger, Gulkana Airport.

X. ***Motion to adjourn at 6:55pm by Martin Boniek, 2nd Jerry Lesemann, motion passed***

XI. Next Meeting October 2nd, 2024, at 5pm at the Gulkana Fuel Pilots Lounge (this meeting only)