

Foothills West Transportation Access Meeting Summary

Public Meeting at Barrow December 09, 2009

DOT&PF conducted a second public meeting in Barrow for the Foothills project on December 9th, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. DOT&PF personnel introduced themselves and discussed staff responsibilities for the project and information contacts. A presentation was then made that detailed and summarized completed and ongoing engineering, environmental, subsistence, geotechnical and cultural resources investigations that were begun in 2009. Updated maps of the project study area and associated field data were presented for public viewing. As during the first meeting, it was emphasized to attendees that the project is still in its early stages of preliminary design, no formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) obligations have begun as yet, and that currently, funding is only available to complete the baseline studies that commenced in 2009. Questions and comments were solicited after the presentation. A translator was utilized to facilitate full communication of the project presentation and public dialog to the Elders present at the meeting.

The following personnel from the State of Alaska and its contactors were in attendance:

Ryan Anderson, DOT&PF	Paul Karczmarczyk, DOT&PF
Casey Adamson, DOT&PF	Steve Reidsma, 3PPI Inc.
Stephanie Schively, Stephen Braund & Assoc. Inc.	

Community Comments and Questions:

1. Will the proposed road be open to the public if it is built; if so, is this because it will be built with public funds?
2. Will access depend on who owns the land?
3. Allowing public access to the road will open the area to more sport hunters and possibly result in bringing drugs and alcohol into the surrounding villages.
4. Will spur roads be built from the proposed road, since the purpose of the road is for oil and gas exploration?
5. Where will these spur roads be located?
6. Is the State of Alaska considering bridges over river crossings?
7. Will the road be paved?
8. The proposed road will open up the possibility of opening NPRA for oil and gas development. Does the federal government have an interest in the proposed road?

9. The State of Alaska should consider the future impacts of the possibility of a road eventually leading to Barrow through NPRA.
10. Is the depth of permafrost along the road corridor being evaluated and considered for construction of pipelines in the future?
11. How many miles of road will there be? Where will the gravel be extracted from to build the road?
12. The proposed road will not benefit specific communities or community members. Are public funds for roads in the North Slope villages being taken away to be used for this project? (The speaker disagreed with using state public funds for this road project as it is not servicing any community members, and it is taking away funds that could go to communities.)
13. Is the State of Alaska considering critical habitat for migrating waterfowl?
14. Is the State of Alaska conducting fish studies?
15. During their vegetation studies, is the State of Alaska studying the lichen the caribou depend on?
16. Will the cost of scientific analysis be a factor in determining the final route alternative?