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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Held via Zoom Teleconference

DATE: 02/03/2025

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 p.m. Acknowledged Dena'ina lands on which we meet. Encouraged participants to tell us how they travel on these lands and what obstacles they encounter since we work to remove travel obstructions.
2. ROLL CALL: D. Story, J. Cadieux, D. Nees, J. Smith, M. Story, K. Romig, G. Reyes, C. Nees
3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:
 - a. Last meeting was 12/2/2024. See minutes posted online
 - b. RTCA: That support is ongoing in month 8 of 12. Pitch Deck and Story Map are coming along. See below.
4. TREASURERS REPORT
 - a. \$20 from Dan and Madeline Walker, snow trails donation 2/3/25
5. CORRESPONDENCE regular email communications with partners and CLCC board
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Update on RTCA support
 - i. Screenshare and brief overview of RTCA projects
 1. Story Map: This will be an opportunity to interact with map data to help explain our project and some of our goals. We're working with a GIS specialist from National Park Service. A story teller specialist will be working with us next. V. Beltrami has contributed video and still photography. We'll be adding projects, trails, etc. and the Story Map will eventually be viewable within our cooperlandingtrails.org website.
 2. Pitch Deck: This will help to make folks aware of our project and to present our project in power point or paper format for educating legislators and other funding sources as well as a second version to help educate the community in a quick format.
 3. The Town Road project is the latest expression of the Walkable Community Project that has been a goal of our community for a long time. See history on website.
 - a. Efforts began in 1975.

- b. 1993 the Safety Path was built. 2010 the Walkable Community Plan was adopted into the Borough Comprehensive Plan.
 - c. Projects have been built since then including the Kenai River Bridge pedestrian pathway 2012 and the Snug Harbor paving and pathway project 2017.
 - d. Since 2021 we have sought funding for the Town Road Pathway Planning Project.
 - ii. Next steps: Fill out the Story Map and Pitch Deck. As they mature they will become live on the website and become tools to educate and seek funding.
- b. CLT Website
 - i. Continued migration from walkcooperlanding.org to <https://cooperlandingtrails.org/>
 - ii. How are others using the site? Suggestions?
 - 1. We have begun using the new site for snow trail grooming updates.
- c. Update on RTP Grant
 - i. Snowmobile is in Cooper Landing. It is wired to pair with the groomer wiring. Next step is to build wire harness for between groomer and machine.
 - ii. Groomer and roller have assembly left to complete.
- d. CLSCCI Endowment Fund
 - i. Awarded \$1,400 for a new brusher and battery powered pruning saws
- e. Bridge plaque: Aimed to be mounted to the ped path of the Kenai River bridge since it was due to the CLT/Walkable Community Project efforts that the ped pathway was built. We want folks to learn or remember where we have had success.
- f. Pedestrian/User counter: Will be installed on the Kenai River ped bridge this summer.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Trail Run 2025
 - i. Review plan for this year:
 - 1. June 8th after softball and not in conflict with Snailathon.
 - 2. We haven't had more than virtual Trail Runs since the 2019 pandemic recess.
 - 3. We still aim to help demonstrate how important our current Safety Path has been and remains to our community.
 - 4. Hosting the Trail Run on the Safety Path also helps with our grant applications since "events" are often associated with higher scores.
 - ii. Review Task List and Assign Volunteers: Shared online in Zoom looking for where individuals can help with the Trail Run.
 - 1. Martha will be sweep again this year. She will also help prep the trail.
 - 2. Karl will seek permit from State of AK for which we need proof of insurance.

3. David S. will get the proof of insurance from CLCC.
4. David clarify date for Snailathon.
5. Janette will check in with Shaun Combs regarding permission to cross pioneer road and determine if he can make highway flaggers available.
6. Karl suggested fine tuning the route. Though it will be largely the same, there may be changes.
 - a. Karl still has the signage, etc.
 - b. 10K for runner route is out and back.
 - c. Could route the run up Slaughter Gulch Trailhead to the new alignment project if they're not operating that day.
 - d. DS: Reminded having the run along the road helps demonstrate the need for an upgraded pathway, especially opposite King Fisher/Loon and in front of old Kenai Lake Lodge.
7. Gloria: Fruit preparation, make available on Trail Run day as before.
8. Allison N. has indicated she wants to help, possibly with prizes awarded from area businesses.
9. We will collect names of folks who wish to volunteer for the Trail Run and communicate directly with them.
- iii. Identify other tasks to be completed: See list of tasks
- b. Town Road Pathway Project (updates)
 - i. Reminder it is the ongoing effort of our Walkable Community Project.
 1. It aims to improve travel for roadway users while addressing the unmet need for walk/bike/roll use of this travel corridor.
 - ii. SS4A: We continue to wait for further contact from KPB to learn what, if any, help we will receive from this grant.
 - iii. DOT:
 1. Schedule meeting with DOT designer, R. Marasignan, in February, '25. See below under Next Steps
 - iv. CL Community Next Steps
 1. Requesting permission from CLCC to communicate with our elected officials on behalf of CLT/CLCC for matters related to the Town Road.
 2. There is significant overlap of topics that determine the safety and usability of our section of the existing Sterling Highway, aka the Town Road, for all modes of transportation.
 3. Overview of efforts and their opportunities to align
 - a. Our Walkable Community Project
 - i. The Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway Project
 - ii. Our work with RTCA to identify the issues, share information more easily with stakeholders, and create a mechanism to learn about the challenges and solutions.
 - b. AKDOT

- i. 2027 Sterling Hwy MP 43-56 Pavement Preservation Project (as presented at CLCC meeting) MP 45-56
 - ii. We will try to take advantage of other funding sources so we might get something included on the resurfacing project.
 - iii. Working toward at least a 2R rather than the 1R repave it currently is. 2R is the most likely level we might hope to achieve for this project. 1R is not adequate to address almost any of the things our community would like to see. 2R allows some work and latitude but 3R allows substrate and realignment to be addressed. 3R is least likely for the 2027 Sterling Highway MP 43-56 Pavement Preservation Project.
 - iv. We won't see another resurfacing project for this stretch of road for at least 10 and more likely a 20-25-year maintenance cycle when it gets re-categorized with the new alignment opening.
 - v. The last repave project in 2012 was a 3R.
 - vi. We will help the community shape and target their input when the project becomes available for public comment so that we can, as a community, get our concerns forward for this.
 - vii. Q: How confident are we that the pathways and underpasses will remain in (the MP 45-60 Sterling Hwy) project?
 - viii. A: The Sterling Hwy MP 45-60 project itself isn't funded at this point. The project manager has assured us that the mitigation efforts (safety paths and underpasses) are not a large chunk of the costs when they look for ways to limit the costs of the project. Dan Sullivan, US Senator is supportive of the mitigation efforts/pathways. The pathway along the new alignment gives the project a place to put material that would otherwise need to be hauled away somewhere. This can be a good example of how transportation projects can be addressed.
- c. 2025 Bridge Re-decking Project currently including the Kenai and Schooner Bend bridges
 - i. We've already asked to include pedestrian bridges on the project though it may be late in the game for the 2025 timing. Might they be added to the 2027 MP 45-56 Repave project?
- d. MP 45-60 Project

- i. CLT/Walkable Community helped organize our community efforts to submit comment and get mitigation including separated pathway MP 45-47, underpasses at Coyote Notch Trail and Slaughter Gulch Trail, as well separated pathway along the new alignment.
 - ii. What it does and does not do to address our Town Road.
 - 1. The “bypass” does not at all address the impediments to travel on the existing Sterling Hwy that will become the Town Road.
 - iii. What is happening with funding for the project itself.
 - 1. Currently only the bridge is funded and will be worked on in the coming years unless other funding is found.
- e. Kenai Peninsula Borough
 - i. Safe Streets For All - SS4A Funding awarded to KPB and initial scoping started in 2024
 - 1. CL Town Road Pathway Project was identified as eligible for inclusion but no monies have been awarded yet.
 - 2. The online timeline for this grant indicates that focus meetings were held (completed) and draft recommendations with a virtual workshop in January (not met).
 - 3. The whole Peninsula is eligible to participate in safety concerns for all roadways, both Borough and State.
 - 4. We’re hoping to help communication between KPB and DOT improve.
 - ii. Road hazards such as the landslides at MP 50.5 may be eligible individually for other funding that targets specific natural hazards.
- f. USDOT and/or Federal Highway Administration grants
 - i. Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) Program
 - 1. FY2025 Deadline: Aug. 1 2025
 - 2. FY2026 Deadline: Aug. 1 2026
 - ii. Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program
 - 1. FY2025+ deadlines TBD, anticipated in spring/summer 2025
 - iii. Federal Lands Access Program

1. Request for Proposals anticipated January 2025
 2. This is the grant we went after in 2021 and have been building to be more prepared since then.
 3. The timing of distribution of these funds would coincide with the 2027 MP 45-56 Re-pavement Project.
 - g. Denali Commission
 - i. Projects that are added to the Denali Access System Priority List are able to request up to 100% federal cost share when applying for other federal funding opportunities.
 - ii. Open submission on a quarterly basis.
 - c. State of Alaska Capital Budget Priorities 2025: CL Town Road Pathway Planning Project was once again chosen as first priority by our community.
8. INFORMATION and ANNOUNCEMENTS
- a. Watch for more information regarding the Trail Run
 - b. If you're interested in volunteering in general please send us your contact information. We are happy to have more help.
9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS none further
10. SELECT NEW MEETING DATE: After the next March 20th CLCC meeting. The next CLT meeting will target March 24th.
11. ADJOURNMENT: 7:14 p.m.