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SPECIAL MEETING NOTES

DATE: March 6, 2025

WHERE: Videoconference

TIME BEGUN: 3:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: To share information about Cooper Landing, the Town Road and Walkable Community Project, and the DOT Planned 2027 MP 43-56 Pavement Preservation project

PRESENT: Jesse Bjorkman, Alaska Senator, David Story, CLT, Chair, Janette Cadieux, CLT Secretary

DISCUSSION:

- A packet of information about the Cooper Landing Town Road pathway planning and other Cooper Landing roadway concerns was emailed to Sen. Bjorkman.
- D. Story gave an overview of the Walkable Community Project and roadway concerns.
- Seeking planning dollars for the Town Road Pathway that includes the original 17 goals and those that will remain after the MP 45-60 Project is completed and in use.
- Represented some of the other community goals about the state of the existing Sterling Hwy and what might be dealt with in coordination.
- See packet sent via email.
- DOT has no plan for the Sterling Highway for long-term function.
- Active Transportation Coalition within DOT could become a stronger partner.
- JB:
 - The resurfacing was presented as occurring in 2027? Yes. They had told him 2026.
 - He learned of an idea of having a regional (rural) planning organization on KPB as is done elsewhere in the state. He sees this as a good idea for our borough.
- JC:
 - An example can be drawn from the Glen Hwy/New Glen Hwy and all the problems that can no longer be ignored and it's going to cost a lot more now than it would have when the New Glen opened.
- DS:
 - Made the point of using State dollars instead of Federal dollars for the re-pave to be cost effective and leaving the Federal dollars available for a real solution.
- Discussion of 1R vs. 2 or 3R levels of attention.
- JB:

- Thanks for clear statement of the ask. I will advocate for that. Uncertain of the delivery. This is a good argument for a regional rural transportation group.
- Advises we speak to the Mayor and Planning director. (We have and reaching out again at this time.)
- Plans to be in Cooper Landing on Friday, March 28th.
 - Yvette Galbraith is the President of the Cooper Landing Community Club board.
 - CLCC has a website portal for CLCC Hall coordination:
<https://www.cooperlandingcommunityclub.com/rentals>
- When asked about his support for a TAP or FLAP grant application he indicated he will absolutely advocate for those.
- Let him know so he can write letters or talk to people where it may help when we are ready to submit grant applications for funding or in outreach to other groups/agencies.
- DS:
 - Latent demand is there. You don't build a bridge based on how many people you see swimming the river.
 - Kenai 250 Bike Race: Hard core mountain bikers. Others are linking that route as a bike-packing trip and using the same trails.
 - As we are using the roadway ourselves we can attest to the fact that more and more people are actively using this corridor despite the safety risks.
 - Cooper Creek is one of the oldest and narrowest bridges in the state network.
 - It's a particular obstacle to active transportation users because they have to hop the guardrail, dash across the bridge, and then hop the guardrail again to reach e.g. Two Brothers Roadhouse.
 - It's also unsafe for maintenance/plow trucks because there is not room for another vehicle while the truck is on the bridge.
- JB:
 - Happy to continue to work with you on projects like this.
 - Our local government is the Borough. Same as his own in Nikiski. Nikiski is talking about incorporation. It may be inevitable as communities grow and needs evolve.
 - He as well as local communities both need to advocate for a regional planning approach.
- If the Senator has folks in mind from other Borough communities that we can coordinate with for a regional planning approach we will reach out and help organize the effort.

TIME ENDED: 4:15 p.m.