



PO Box 863, Cooper Landing, AK 99572
walkcooperlanding.org
walkcooperlanding@gmail.com

COOPER LANDING TOWN ROAD CHARETTE NOTES

DATE: 10/23/25

WHERE: Cooper Landing Community Hall

TIME: 1:15 p.m. start to roughly 4:00 p.m. finish

PURPOSE: Charette for the Cooper Landing Town Road Planning Project

PRESENT: See sign-in sheets for details. By association: Community members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor's office, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Administration, Engineering, Education and Interpretation, Cooper Landing Trails and Walkable Community, Cooper Landing School students, Local Business owners

DISCUSSION: The following are recorded from sticky notes and post-it bulletins used throughout the three-hour session. Dots signify how other participants agreed with the ideas.

BRAINSTORMING WANTS AND CONCERNS:

- I want more off street pathway through town/riverwalk (4 dots)
- Connect areas of adequate parking with pathway
- Winter and summer uses of pathway (2 dots)
- Full connectivity, connect CL pathway with Bypass pathway (4 dots)
- Traffic safety, Repairing current trails, Pathways on bridges
- I want to know Tribal and Elder buyoff on the project
- I want a map with every property owner with green check if they are bought in and X if not (1 dot)
- Well maintained winter paths (3 dots)
- Bike racks along trail to access businesses
- Points along trail for gathering and accessing trail (3 dots)
- Separated pathway connecting town, 8' wide 8' and paved
- Pathway corridor connects all businesses so users can access without vehicle (6 dots)
- List of every type of usage type, e-bike, horse, runner, snow machine, etc. (1 dot)
- Every bridge has separated pathway (7 dots)
- I want to know minimum allowable roadway speed
- Connects to all trailheads and boat launches, campgrounds (4 dots)
- Local community has sustainable funds for pathway maintenance (1 dot)

- Isn't motorized easier?
- Snowmobile paths, trails on the west and east side of town
- Considerations for businesses to sponsor trail maintenance sections (4 dots)
- Adequate parking for areas for anglers, connection to pathway (2 dots)
- Irish Road Bowling connected to pathway (2 dots)
- Separated snowmachine pathways, ATV pathways, connect to pathways
- I would like to be able to ride my bike from 3 Bears all the way to Jim's Landing (5 dots)
- Active transpo lanes that accommodate a mix of speeds (2 dots)
- Bridges are a real concern (1 dot)
- Separation between road and path (10 dots)
- Limited lighting at higher traffic locations (3 dots)
- I want to backpack Russian Lakes to Res Pass without a car pick-up and drop-off
- Pain-Point: Identifying and dealing with private land ownership
- Like to see: Safe walking/biking on Bean Creek Rd from the bridge (Hwy) to at least Library and on to Princess (2 dots)
- Wish: Separated pathway from the roadway for as much of its length as possible
- Wish: High quality subgrade beneath bike path so the path will last (4 dots)
- Pain Point: Physical barriers like bluffs that impede a trail
- Limited mobility options (2 dots)
- Foot/bike path from bridge to future bypass pathway (1 dot)
- Key access locations and possible parking (7 dots)
- Continuation of separated walkway on Snug Harbor Road to Senior Housing (3 dots)
- Active transportation is an afterthought (1 dot)
- Who is using path? E-bike? Snowmachine? Ski? (6 dots)
- How do we protect cultural resources? (1 dot)
- Separate river access from angler or boating use
- Sensitive environmental and archeological area (1 dot)
- Who pays for it?
- Open up some view sheds for scenic overlooks and/or wildlife viewing (4 dots)
- How do we accommodate increasing visitor numbers, cruises ships, 3 Bears? (2 dots)
- How to make it appealing to key stakeholders i.e. AKDOT&PF
- Could attract more visitor-ship to area if areas was interconnected. More business opportunities, more FT employment opportunities (4 dots)
- Highlight the area's rich historical and cultural resources (2 dots)

NOW/HOW/WOW/CIAO:

From ideas that received the most dots in the brainstorming session we moved on to possible solutions for them. They were divided by...

"Now;" What could be done more easily and right away

"How;" Those that need more planning and effort,

"Wow;" Those that are novel or newly applied here

"Ciao;" Those that might just need to be set aside for now as unreachable.

“Pathway connects all businesses so users can access without cars”

NOW

- Wildman’s to Troutfitters exists
- Landowner participation in process
- Signage or mapping on existing trails
- Consideration for Kenai River Special Management Area, pathway too close to river
- Improve existing pathways and develop new sections within DOT ROW [department of transportation right of way] where minimal work required
- Wildman’s to Post Office

HOW

- Tie pathway from Wildman’s to 3 Bears
- Lighted where appropriate
- Survey all local businesses to gauge interest in being on bike path
- Once complete host Irish Road Bowling festival June 1-7, 2033

WOW

- Zoning requirements to mandate new business to tie into pedestrian facilities
- Connect 3 Bears to Ferry

CIAO

- Pedicabs

“Separation between road and pathway”

NOW

- Public land owner/manager participation

HOW

- Create more paths along the river away from the road completely
- Animal interaction

WOW

- Traffic calming
- Can use temporary barriers to test for success/pain points
- Utilize stop lights to create one land road through pinch points, i.e. AWA to 2-Bros. and push path up onto existing roadway to keep it all within ROW and reduce costs

CIAO

- None found

“Key Access Locations and Possible Parking”

NOW

- Catalog/inventory existing facilities
- Identify public land along the route to narrow down possible access point/parking spots
- Survey most common user type. Motorized? Bike? Ski? Foot?
- Clear driveway markers to avoid bike/car collisions

HOW

- Expand parking for anglers at Sportmans’ Landing

- Where and when do landowners engage?
- Boat trailer parking
- Identify crosswalks?

WOW

- Covered bike parking
- Motorized vehicle paths

CIAO

- None found

ACTION ITEMS:

- Surveys:
 - Local businesses
 - Land owners
- KPB *Kenai Peninsula Borough* Assessing:
 - Provide lists of property and platting for surveys
- Qualtrics:
 - Online surveying and comments platform, \$20,000, build into FLAP [and other] grants
- DOT *Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities*:
 - Right of way study
- CL Community:
 - Inventory of existing facilities
 - Determine how to accommodate multiple user types
- Interagency Fire Management:
 - Use fire breaks to locate pathway
- Upgrade existing safety path MP 47-50
- Renewed EIS (Environmental Impact Study)
- KPB *Kenai Peninsula Borough*:
- Grant writing and submissions
 - User surveys
 - Public engagement to determine scope and depth of support/objection
 - 3rd Party Facilitator
- Federal Participation
 - NEPA: The National Environmental Policy Act, [A 1970 U.S. law that established a national policy for the environment and requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impact of major actions before deciding on them.]
 - Archeology/Cultural Resources
 - CL Historical site document
 - Current estimate is only known sites/hotspots
- KIT *Kenaitze Indian Tribe*
 - Support with cultural site database as appropriate
 - Educational resources
- DOT *Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities*

- Resurfacing Project tentatively set for 2027: R1 v R3
- Don't close the door on pathway

Part of Planning Process

- Inventory of parallel processes (DPOR with help from CLT)
 - Resurfacing Project
 - Fire Breaks and Mitigation
 - Cruise Terminal Construction
 - Emergency Management/evacuation routes
 - Utilities
- Agency Input
 - Social trails v designated access (CL Inventory)
 - Focus impacted areas appropriately
- Utilities
 - Chugach Electric Association
 - Telecom
- DOT *Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities*
 - Share known right of way information
- FEDS *Chugach National Forest, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, other*
 - Use/explore Act for gateway communities. Legislation like the "Gateway Communities Cooperation Act of 2002 and more recent acts such as the EXPLORE Act and the Gateway Community and Recreation Enhancement Act direct federal land managers to cooperate with gateway communities. These laws aim to improve relationships and collaboration between federal agencies and gateway communities, enhance community infrastructure and services for visitors, and help with local land use planning by addressing issues like housing shortages and strained infrastructure. The EXPLORE Act, specifically, has established a new Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation to better coordinate policies and has provided for technical and financial assistance for these towns." (Viewed online 10/30/27 under AI suggested text.)

ASSIGNMENTS

KPB *Kenai Peninsula Borough*

- Submit FLAP grant application (10/31)
- Review current application
- SS4A Components *Safe Streets for All*
- Inventory of parallel processes (with CLT)
- Property and platting list, assessor

KPEDD *Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District*

- USDA power of development
- Economic Development Agency

DOT *Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities*

- FLAP section data input

- Users numbers
- Bridge inventory
- Joint form
- ROW study
- When does town road cease to be interstate highway?

DPOR Alaska Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

- Update budget estimate to include inventory of parallel processes and public survey, [facilitation] (10/27)

CLT Cooper Landing Trails and Walkable Community

- More public process with feds [federal agencies and land managers] included
- Email [duties to groups] with questions (10/23 or 10/24)
- Software for survey like SS4A (10/31)
- SS4A funding question