

## **Consultation Notes: December 1, 2023**

2<sup>nd</sup> Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Info Sharing Session with Cooper Landing Trails (CLT) Committee Officers

### **Present:**

David Story, Chair, CLT/Walkable Community, Cooper Landing  
Janette Cadieux, Secretary, CLT/Walkable Community, Cooper Landing  
Zachary Babb, Program Manager RTCA for Region 11-AK, based ANC  
Leigh Ann Belloli, Landscape Architect, RTCA, based ANC  
Meredith Speicher, Planner, RTCA, based out Hawaii

### **Purpose:**

Further examination of the kinds of assistance RTCA may provide to CLT. Further sharing from CLT about the mission, assets, and direction for the Walkable Community Project.

### **Actions Anticipated from May, 2023 Consultation:**

ZB:

- Can someone in RTCA try to learn what the obstacle is or why we haven't been funded by FLAP? By TAP? A: Kevin Donnierre, Transportation Program Mngr for AK Region NPS. He's ready to begin working with us.
- Identify budget deficiencies in the last CLTRPP application. Pending.

RTCA:

- Help CLT with system navigation and provide proof reading of any future apps.
- Identify someone in their organization who can proof our last applications and help identify weaknesses. A: Kevin Donnierre, Transportation Program Manager for AK Region NPS

Group:

- Target the 2024-2025 grant cycle

### **Notation from Discussion:**

ZB:

- Reiterated that RTCA is not a granting entity. They do not have monies to distribute.

DS:

- Distributed cards with QR code with the CLTRPP and the website address for learning the history of CLT/Walkable Community Project. Explained project in gist. Showed maps of the project area and how it interfaces with the Sterling Hwy MP 45-60 Project. He included difficulties to be expected from trying to access the many assets accessed from the "town road" because of the lack of active transportation infrastructure and a safe means to move point to point.
- Update on SS4A with KPB. If we get funded through this we would welcome KPB and RTCA partnership in managing the process. Our current partner is DNR but there has

been a new Superintendent since it was first submitted so we'll need to renew that commitment. KPB is put out for bid a group that can manage the grant. Once chosen they will meet with the selected group and identify the various community priorities. They anticipate the grant to run a year.

- KPB unanimously supports CLTRPP by Assembly Resolution.
- Cooper Creek bridge is shovel ready with a 30% design completed if a smaller segment needs to be done first.
- People want to (AND ARE) actively use this corridor. You don't build the bridge when you see the people swimming the river. There is latent demand that is not being seen.

LB:

- Q: Should you make a plea to a politician such as Lisa Murkowski?
- A: All federal legislators supported CLTRPP and have written letters. Staff change so we need to renew contacts and renew supports.

MS:

- Q: Did KPB supply matching funds?
- A: CLT was coming up with all matching funds. There are others who might help e.g. tourism or companies that have supported in the past.
- Q DS: SS4A seems like it emphasizes motorized access. Is that the case?
- A MS: They have emphasized motorized in past. This one seems to more specifically include alternative transport.
- SS4A may emphasize planning.

DS:

- We have much support at various levels. See online Project presentation. We just need to close the deal.
- Working and being a volunteer manager represents its own obstacles.
- CLTRPP, nor resurfacing the existing Sterling Hwy, are on the 24-27 STIP
- Q DS: Given the possibility of the SS4A grant, what is the best approach for our project with other grant apps?
- A ZB: Have a strategic planning session facilitated by someone to help map out the parts and phases and grants available. RTCA could do that. RTCA could help determine the scope and prospective proposals so that the outcome(s) of the bids that you get (KPB or otherwise) are clear.

JC:

- The re-pave of the existing highway is due but is not in the 24-27 STIP.
- The Kenai River is a part of the Kenai River Special Management Area that is managed by State Parks.
- Many but not all anadromous side streams in the Cooper Landing area have full, state-applied habitat protection zones. Some only have the 50' afforded by the KPB anadromous waters ordinance.

ZB:

- Q: If you had been funded, what would you have done with FLAP money?
- A DS: Plan the project from MP 47-54 including segments that might be tackled one at a time.

## **TASKS**

JC:

- Obtain a copy of the KPB SS4A grant and share with RTCA.
- Work with DS to complete and submit the RTCA application for assistance

DS:

- Will renew contact with new Kenai Peninsula Superintendent, State Parks/DNR, Hans Rinke, on the CLTRPP.
- Make contact with Mary Peltola's office regarding letter from Don Young and her support for the project.
- Work with JC to complete and submit the RTCA application for assistance

ZB:

- Provide CLT with an application form for RTCA assistance.
- Schedule an April strategic planning meeting with CLT where the outcome will be a written strategic action plan with goals, objectives, and actions to reach those G&O.
- Provide CLT with notation for improvement on the last budget submitted for the CLTRPP.