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RTCA and CLT MEETING NOTES

DATE: December 9, 2025

WHERE: Video conference

TIME BEGUN: 10:00 a.m.

PURPOSE: Final educational products, Action Plan for tasks going forward

PRESENT: K Pace, RTCA, S Thomas, RTCA, D Story, CLT, J Cadieux CLT

DISCUSSION:

Joint Endorsement Forms:

- From Jen Youngblood, USFS, DS has filled-out and passed back so hope to have it by the end of the day. (Received during meeting!)
- Karlin Itchoak, USFWS, Chief of Refuges in Alaska, hasn't submitted his yet so DS is pursuing. This is the last item needed for our FLAP app.
- DS is in communication with KPB and the app deadline is end of this week.

KRSMA:

- DS presenting on Thursday, Dec. 18, 5:00 p.m. to their board about our project. At Refuge Visitor Center (not River Center).
- DS works with the Chair of the Board, Dave Maternowski, and reached out to DS. KRSMA will see if they should take a position about the repave.
- JC will also attend to support DS's presentation.

Products:

Allyson can edit if/when we need her but Trifold and Brochure won't need edits after BL is done with them.

- **Trifold:**
 - B Lexmond has worked on the Trifold. Is applying last touches. His changes are accepted. Footprints not needed on opening panel, so as BL modified. He's created both an e-version and a print-version.
 - Do we need a folder with all components or just well-titled so they are searchable?
- **Brochure 4-page:**
 - Ask BL to align with Trifold and clean-up as needed.
 - Do we need a folder or searchable names with all components?

- **Story Map:**
 - Product is finished.
 - What is the architecture of the Story Maps media interface?
 - Are all the components searchable by name or how will we know what all went into this at some point down the road?
 - Focus Session set up for Thursday, Dec 18, 11:00 a.m. Will record work session so it becomes a resource. Use the same link as for regular RTCA meetings.
 - Submission for Competition: Due Friday of this week. ST will submit a link under name: “Cooper Landing Trails and Walkable Community Project” so it’s under our name and not associated with her beyond her crafting of the SM. She will submit under *Infrastructure* and not *People* or *Environment* categories. KP shared the SM with her HI colleagues and all videos started on-time.

Action Plan: (KP lead, see also her draft doc, “20251209 Walkable Cooper Landing Action Items”)

To brainstorm, KP guided the group from 2024 starting aspirations to present.

- “Steady progression and line-up of subsequent projects” “Low hanging fruit”
 - Cooper Creek Bridge:
 - Kenaitze Tribe has it is in their inventory but
 - DOT hasn’t yet approached them about it.
 - Partnership has developed including LOS, JEF, and an offer grant writing support
 - Need keep fostering and perhaps then is a time to ask about bridges
 - ROW Study:
 - At Charette, Romo, indicated we did not need to include this in our budget for funding of the Town Road planning project.
 - It appears to be occurring as a part of the re-pave project.
 - Will it be comprehensive enough for our purposes.
 - Rock Wall near MP 47:
 - Where the new Safety Path ends at a tight/dangerous spot
 - It cannot be a part of the Sterling Hwy MOP45-60 Project but
 - They will try to get it done before they leave
 - How can we integrate the MP 47 pinch point while the 45-60 Project is in the area now that Phase 1B is started and work will proceed in Spring 2026?
 - Not low-cost so not as easily accomplished.
 - Upgrade the Old Safety Path:
 - Will be easier than creation of the new pathway west of Cooper Creek bridge
 - It won’t be necessarily “easy” to do either
- “Be Prepared for Grant Cycles”
 - The new (at the time) treasurer of CLCC that may have had the skills to help is no longer on the board.
 - Once we find a handful of grants that we could apply to we could develop a calendar to track when applications timelines are instigated
 - ECDD offered editing,

- Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) may have data for dollar benefit of Recreation to the economy
 - Lee Hart may have these numbers but it included all motorized and non-motorized recreation.
 - For AK the number of jobs created is greater than other industries.
 - DS has some of that data. He will look for links.
 - Want to avoid using data that reflects the motorize rec. for our non-motorized efforts.
- KPB offered editing, Heather Geer is the current grants person
- “Stronger Partnerships”
 - **Kenaitze Tribe:**
 - Has improved and continues to improve
 - **AK DOT:**
 - Stronger but needs further improvement
 - Reach out to them regarding Soldotna, Kenai Peninsula office
 - **Fed Hwys:**
 - No real partnership at this point.
 - Samantha Shields, Chair of FLAP review board.
 - Need pursue contact and discussion.
 - Kevin from NPS FLAP App might help but may not be needed at the moment to enhance our application before Samantha Shields. We could reach out to her and let her know KPB submitting, updating of our 2021 app, any questions may be answered by us.
 - **KPB:**
 - Improved and gaining.
 - Contact with Mayor Miccichi has moved us forward.
 - Regular contact should occur to keep us on their front burners and keep our momentum
 - **Community:**
 - CLCC board outreach and education has expressly been appreciated.
 - Open House was successful
 - Charette less well attended but still community attended
 - Chamber of Commerce:
 - We need to attend a meeting and provide direct education there
 - Should have multiple mailers: DS has learned about direct mailing. \$100-150 per mailing. Perhaps every few months to update folks.
 - Survey would be helpful. Perhaps through UAA engineering. (Rhys from DNR offered to connect us to the latest project list for the Capstone Project.)
 - GEM: JC has been consistently submitting information so community is accustomed to seeing information there and expecting it. Makes it more useful.
 - Website: Both DS and JC have transitioned info from old site, posted notes/minutes/info, and have done News postings. We hope folks will see it as a

reference as they become accustomed to looking for things like grooming reports perhaps they'll look for other information that is there.

▪ Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District:

- Phone: (907) 283-3335
- Cassidi Cameron: Executive Director
 - cassidi@kpedd.org
- Caitlin Coreson: Program Manager
 - caitlin@kpedd.org

- “A structure that exists outside two passionate volunteers” (*For another meeting.*)

RTCA Update:

- Zach Babb is gone from the AK office
- KP is now the only federal employee left.
- We have ST till summer 2026
- Allyson is available for a year
- KP hopes to hire replacement for Renee.
- She's had many applications for assistance but KP is committed to us and finishing our projects.

ACTION ITEMS:

- ST, DS, and JC will video conference Dec 18, 11:00 a.m. about the Story Map
- DS and JC will go to KRSMA board to present and discuss implications of the proposed 2027 highway project on the Town Road.
- JC will ask BL to work on the 8-page booklet (need the Illustrator version for him to work on)
- KP write up and share with JC the Action Plan items as drafted so far for inclusion in meeting notes and publication to CLCC board/website

TIME ENDED: 11:03 a.m. then DS and JC continued some discussion till 12:00