

Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting
September 16th, 2009
Gruening Middle School

Opening remarks by Jim Amundsen, ADOT Project Manager:

ADOT been working over the last year and a half resolving parkland issues with DNR, ROW acquisition will begin this fall. Right of Way agents will be negotiating with impacted homeowners over several months to resolve issues and concerns. ADOT is not interested in condemnation but would prefer to come with equitable agreement with homeowners. Construction will be a challenge on this project because there are not alternate routes. We will be work to coordinate with the Fire Department and the School District (concerning bus routes) prior to beginning construction.

Questions (answers by Jim Amundsen):

Q. What was the original launch date for this project?

A. This project has been ongoing for a number of years, I don't know specifically when the initial start date was.

Q. Will you be working with the Post Office on mailbox issues? There is a new postmaster for the Eagle River area. We have issues with kids smashing the smaller mailboxes, will cluster mailboxes be provided?

A. We will be having discussions with the post office, consolidation of mailboxes will occur. Cluster mailboxes have been problematic on past projects, DOT is not set up to distribute keys. Methods for distributing keys is a challenge, it is easier if the Postmaster takes on that task.

Comment by Bill Holland (CC President): You should look at not only mailbox type but also a safe pullout.

A. We will be looking at finalizing those types of details in coming months, and expect to have another public meeting in about 14 months, in October-November 2010. Public input at that point in the project should be limited to project details, not on major re-alignment of the road

Q. Will there still be an opportunity to comment on the project?

Bill Holland: There is a comment location on the project website, anyone can post comments now.

Jim Amundsen: You can reach the project web site if you Google "Eagle River Project", that will take you right to the project website.

Q. Has there been any conversation with the School District on school bus stops?

A. School busses will be stopping on the road, we will be having conversations with the School District.

Comment: Flattening curves and humps is good but people will be going faster.

Q. Are any material sites designated along the project?

A. No, gravel will be hauled in, and there will be an increase in truck traffic. We looked at some potential sites but decided not to develop them.

Q. Will you be acquiring land from Eklutna Inc?

A. Yes, we will be working with them and buying land from them.

Q. What is the timeline of the project, and how will the road be maintained in the mean time? (Concern with road washouts at the river).

A. The local DOT maintenance people are monitoring that situation. DOT can't place large rocks into the river without a wetland permit, it is a difficult situation. The construction is scheduled for 2011 and 2012.

Q. What is the funding for the project?

A. The DOT planners have assured us that the funding will be there for construction, funds are AMATS/Federal funds.

Q. What is the price?

A. The price will be \$20 million plus, construction will probably take two summers unless one of the larger companies gets the job and can do it in one summer.

Q. Is there an incentive for an early finish?

A. No.

Q. Will there be any traffic lights on this project?

A. No.