

**ALASKA STATEWIDE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRAIN PLAN
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

SEPTEMBER 2016

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1.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

1.1 General Information

This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is prepared in accordance with the State of Alaska's Administrative Code 17.05.120. The document outlines the public outreach methods the DOWL Planning Team (Team) will use for the Alaska Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Plan). The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) are developing a Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to articulate the long- and medium-range bicycle and pedestrian transportation planning needs of the state. The Master Plan will:

- Develop an DOT&PF Bicycle/Pedestrian Mission;
- Draw clear distinctions between the roles and needs of bicyclists and pedestrians;
- Define what needs to be done to encourage and strengthen local bicycle and pedestrian efforts to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and connectivity to public transit;
- Discuss respective roles of state and local governments in planning and designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and
- Establish recommendations for performance measures.

This PIP reflects a strategy that is designed to gain consensus among stakeholders and the public. The PIP will serve as a guide for two-way communication between the DOWL team, DOT&PF and stakeholders, and will facilitate the public's ability to provide input to the project team about bicycle and pedestrian issues, needs, alternatives, and recommendations.

1.2 Steering Committee

We propose to have a Steering Committee assist us throughout the planning process. The Steering Committee will provide us with valuable input on draft documents and plan recommendations. We propose to invite a representative from each of the organizations shown in Table 1 to be a member of the Steering Committee.

Table 1-Steering Committee

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
ADA Compliance Program	Camille Brill	Temporary State ADA Coordinator	camille.brill@alaska.gov
Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)	Maude Blair	Vice President	mblair@nativefederation.org
Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS)	Christa Hagan	Planner	christa.hagan@alaska.gov
Alaska Mobility Coalition	Patrick Reinhart	President	info@alaskamobility.org
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	LeeAnn Garrick	Senior Director	lgarrick@anthc.org
Alaska State Troopers and VSPO Program	Walter Monegan	Commissioner	dps.commissioner.office@alaska.gov; walter.monegan@alaska.gov
Alaska Trails	Steve Cleary	Executive Director	steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org
AMATS	Joni Wilm	Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator	willmjc@muni.org
AEDC - Live Work Play Trails Initiative	Moira Sullivan	Director	msullivan@aedcweb.com
Bike Anchorage	Lindsey Hajduk	President	lhajduk@gmail.com
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Stuart Hartford	Transportation Director	stuart.hartford@bia.gov
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Mark Spencer	District Manager - Anchorage District	m1spence@blm.gov
Celebrate Sitka Cycling	Charles Bingham	Cyclist	charleswbingham3@gmail.com
Citizen	Bob Laurie	Citizen	alaskabob1@alaskan.com
Denali Randonneurs	Kevin Turinsky	President	denalirandonneurs@gmail.com
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)	Shaun Willhelm	Policy and Planning	shaun.willhelm@alaska.gov
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Darcy Harris	Director, Anchorage Parks	darcy.harris@alaska.gov
DOT&PF	Marcheta Moulton	Project Manager	marcheta.moulton@alaska.gov
DOT&PF	James Boyle	Transportation Planning Manager	james.boyle@alaska.gov
DOT&PF	Marie Heidemann	Planner	marie.heidemann@alaska.gov
DOT&PF	James Starzec	Planner	james.starzec@alaska.gov
DOT&PF	Duane Hoskins	Planner	duane.hoskins@alaska.gov
FMATS	Donna Gardino	MPO Coordinator	donna.gardino@fmats.us
National Park Service	Paul Clark		paul1_clark@nps.gov
People Mover Anchorage	Bart Rudolph	Director	RudolphBH@ci.anchorage.ak.us
Providence Health & Services	Sara Penisten	Safe Kids Alaska	sara.penisten@providence.org
Single Track Advocates	Janice Tower	Single Track Advocates	singletrackadvocates@gmail.com
Skinny Raven	Hallidie Wilt	Running Club	hallidie@skinnyraven.com

Please note: Some organizations assigned an alternate to represent their organization. Those names will be updated once we hold the first steering committee meeting.

COMPANY/ORGANIZATION	NAME	TITLE	EMAIL
Southeast Road Runners	John Kern	President	johnakern@gmail.com
USDA Forest Service	Susan Detwiler	Director of Public Affairs & Partnerships	susankdetwiler@fs.fed.us
Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD)	Pete Field	Program Officer	peter.field@dot.gov
Youth Advocate	Ellie Mitchell	Youth Advocate	superal@gci.net
Vision zero	Katie Dougherty		doughertykl@muni.org

The Steering Committee will meet every six months starting in September 2016 (see **Table 2** for meeting schedule). The purpose of these meeting is to develop preliminary goals, objectives, and a vision for the bicycle and pedestrian network in Alaska, and work to refine them over the life of the project so that the final plan is a true reflection of needs across communities and demographics. Stewart Osgood of DOWL will lead and facilitate each steering committee meeting with support from other team members as needed. The Team will coordinate meetings, prepare meeting agendas, and briefing materials, facilitate the meetings in coordination with DOT&PF staff, and record meeting notes and action items.

1.3 Interactive Website and Facebook Account

In order to provide the public and stakeholders with a central location to find information, we will set up and maintain a website and Facebook page. We propose to use the standard DOT&PF format for planning projects. The main menu tabs will mirror the respective sections of the agreed upon plan outline. Other menu tabs will include upcoming meetings, frequently asked questions, contact information, link to the public survey, schedule, and an e-newsletter sign up page. The website will be updated frequently by the Team’s project administrator, Charles J. Guinchard, so that information is current.

The Team will work with DOT&PF headquarters to develop and maintain the Facebook page. Once we get the Facebook page and website published, we will create an announcement with plan information and boost the post. By boosting the post, we are able to reach a targeted market of interested users, such as bicycle and pedestrian advocates, across the state.

1.4 Public Meetings

The Team proposes to hold meetings in 9 communities across the state: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel, Nome, Barrow, Soldotna, Dillingham, Kenai, and Wasilla/Palmer. We propose to conduct a wider group of public meetings for the data gathering and needs assessment phase. The meeting schedule is in Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Meeting Schedule

Year	Month	Day	Meeting	Location
2016	September	20	Public	Anchorage
2016	September	21	Public	Palmer/Wasilla
2016	September	22	Steering Committee	Anchorage
2016	November	1-3	Public	Soldotna
2017	April	Week of 10th	Steering Committee and Public	Fairbanks, Bethel, Dillingham, Nome, and Barrow
2018	January	Week of 22nd	Steering Committee and Public	Juneau

1.5 Conferences

We propose to hold pop up open houses and workshops at upcoming conferences to gather input and feedback from a large group at one time. We will identify conferences to attend in the PIP and with input from the Steering Committee.

<<Conference attendance is not part of our contracted scope of work – DOWL identified conferences to attend and developed a budget for conference attendance – currently no budget amendments have been processed. DOWL will discuss with PM and confirm approach for this section >>

1.6 Interviews

The Team will conduct interviews with DOT&PF planners and engineers, private and public sector firms working in transportation, and elected officials. The purpose of the interviews will be to identify key challenges with current policy and procedures, and discuss ideas on ways to make improvements. The goal will be to focus on a bottom-to-top and top-to-bottom product so that when DOT&PF implements a new policy and guidance, the staff responsible for implementing these changes will have been part of the planning process and feel ownership of

the plan. The Team will develop a list of interview questions and individuals to be interviewed in coordination with DOT&PF's Project Manager.

1.7 Email Communications

The Team will assemble a contact list through existing resources and public meetings. All information materials such as surveys, newsletters and meeting announcements will be sent out to public contacts via Constant Contact. Constant Contact is an email system that allows the Team to create and maintain a contact list in one central location. The system also tracks the number of emails opened, not opened or returned because of a bad email address. This tool allows the Team to implement and measure public outreach success via email communication.

1.8 Newsletters

The Team will prepare and distribute up to three newsletters announcing project milestones, public meetings, and requesting public input via surveymonkey.com. All newsletters will include a link to the survey.

1.9 Surveys

The Team will utilize the website to collect input from the public. The public can provide general comments via the website. The website and comments section will be updated throughout the planning process. The comment/survey page will be made available until the public comment period closes in April 2018. The Team will develop hard copy surveys to key organizations to hand out to the elderly, disabled, and individuals who may not have access to or want to use a computer, and provide during public meetings/events.

1.10 Online Open House

In accordance with 17 AAC 05.145, the Team will hold a 45 day online open house to present the draft and recommendations and receive public comments. We will use the website developed for the Plan to present the sections of the draft and the appendices. The Team will provide written notice to interested persons and members of the public review group informing them of the 45 day online open house.

1.11 Comment/Response Log

The Team will create and maintain a comment response log for the draft report. Each comment that is received will be documented and addressed. Comments that are substantial will be responded to via email, and comments that are editorial or are small, will be addressed in the document. All responses to comments will be discussed with the DOT&PF Project Manager before they are addressed.

1.12 Media Outreach

The Team will work with existing stakeholders to share announcements about public outreach methods, upcoming meetings, and key milestones that the public needs to be informed on, as determined by the DOT&PF. Tribal organizations such as Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Kawarek, and Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) will be used to distribute information to surrounding communities in each region.

The Team will also use local radio stations, libraries and schools to get information out rural communities.

In some cases, a translator may be needed to convert public outreach materials into Alaska Native languages.

1.13 Project Communication

DOWL will be responsible for developing, implementing, and managing the PIP, and communications relating to the plan. Comments regarding the Plan will be collected by DOWL, summarized, reported to DOT&PF, responded to, and incorporated into the planning effort.

Table 3 includes the planning team's role and contact information.

Table 3: Team Contacts

Name	Agency	Role	Phone	E-mail
Marcheta Moulton	DOT&PF	Project Manager	907-465-8769	marcheta.moulton@alaska.gov
Stewart Osgood	DOWL	Project Manager	907-562-2000	sosgood@dowl.com
Renee Whitesell	DOWL	Lead Project Planner	907-562-2000	rwhitesell@dowl.com
Adison Smith	DOWL	Rural Planner	907-562-2000	adsmith@dowl.com
Fred Young	Alta	Bike and Ped Planner	206-735-7466	fredyoung@altaplanning.com

1.14 Plan Evaluation

After each public involvement event, the planning team will evaluate the public’s response and input, and discuss and agree on any needed adjustments to the scope and budget with the DOT&PF project manager. The project team will solicit feedback from DOT&PF and the Steering Committee regarding the public outreach efforts.