



## Open House Overview

### Open House Purpose

The purpose of the open house is to provide information about the Knik Arm Crossing Project, including an opportunity to view the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, as well as a chance to ask questions of the project team.

### Open House Overview

The room next to the hearing room is set up with information stations. These stations (noted below) present information from the Draft EIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation. Attendees can stop by any time during the hours are noted below:

**Open house hours: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

The stations organize information by topic, as noted below:

### Open House Stations:

- Welcome and Sign in
- Project Introduction
- Alternatives Development
- The Proposed Project
  - Includes maps of alternatives on tables
- No-Action Alternative
- Project Impacts (direct and indirect) and Proposed Mitigation & Commitments:
  - Socio-Economic Impacts and Proposed Mitigation & Commitments
    - Includes maps of preliminary property acquisition and relocation
  - Physical Impacts and Proposed Mitigation & Commitments
  - Cultural Impacts and Proposed Mitigation & Commitments
  - Parks and Recreation [Section 4(f)] Impacts and Proposed Mitigation & Commitments
  - Natural Impacts and Proposed Mitigation & Commitments
- Next Steps
- Draft EIS Table
  - Review the Draft EIS
- Comment Station
  - An opportunity to provide your comment verbally is available at this station.
- Kids' Area

*(See the reverse side for a list of handouts and information available today.)*



## **Information Available Today**

To help you understand the project and comment on it, the following handouts and information are available:

- Sign-in Packet (Open House Overview, Public Hearing Overview, Draft EIS Public Comment Process Overview)
- General Hearing Ground Rules (in sign-in packet and posted)
- Public Hearing Guidelines (in sign-in packet and posted)
- Three Double-Sided Fact Sheets
- Comment Sheet
- Notice of Draft EIS Availability and Public Hearing Notice (posted)
- CD Copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
- Paper Copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation on Display for Review

*Thank you for your participation in this process.*



## Public Hearing Overview

### Public Hearing Purpose

To allow the public to address the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA), and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) regarding the “Knik Arm Crossing Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation.” Decision makers will be present at the public hearing to hear and consider your comments. Testimony will be recorded and transcribed for the record by a court reporter.

### Public Hearing Sessions

#### **In Anchorage**

Monday, October 16, 2006

Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

Hearing Sessions: Noon - 3:00 p.m.

4:30 pm. - 9:00 p.m.\*

#### **In the Mat-Su**

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Best Western Lake Lucille Inn, Wasilla

Hearing Sessions: Noon - 3:00 p.m.

4:30 pm. - 9:00 p.m.\*

\*At 9:00 p.m., if people present have not had the opportunity to testify, the Hearing Officer will announce the continuation of the hearing.

### General Ground Rules Guiding this Public Hearing

- Mutual respect, courtesy, and patience are the hearing’s guiding concepts.
- Please help maintain an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable and welcome, regardless of his or her position on the project.
- Please don’t interrupt anyone while he or she is speaking.
- Please remain quiet so others and the court reporter can hear; please leave the room for side discussions.
- No displays, signs, or banners should be posted in the building. A table has been provided in the lobby for any information prepared by members of the public. This information must clearly note who prepared or provided the information.
- Please refrain from addressing the audience or asking for audience participation.
- Please turn off cell phones and pagers or set them to vibrate.

*(See the reverse side for information on signing in and participating in the public hearing.)*



## Public Hearing Guidelines

General guidelines for public hearing sign in and participation are listed below. The Hearing Officer has the authority to deviate from these guidelines, if needed, to conduct the hearing.

- The hearing sign-in table will be the central contact point for those who want to testify or who have questions about the hearing process.
- All hearing attendees will be asked to sign in at the hearing sign-in table before entering, to check the appropriate box if they wish to testify, and to note the name of the group if they are testifying on behalf of a group.
- In accordance with the Notice of Public Hearing, attendees can sign in for each hearing session 1/2 hour prior to and during that session.
- People wishing to testify must personally sign in.
- An individual, including a representative from a commercial enterprise, may testify once during the two days of hearing sessions, at either the Anchorage or Mat-Su location.
- Testimony from individuals, including a representative from a commercial enterprise, will be limited to 3 minutes.
- Each group or agency (represented by only one individual) may testify once during the two days of hearing sessions, at either the Anchorage or Mat-Su location.
- A group generally refers to an established non-profit club or association and not a commercial business.
- Testimony by a group or agency will be limited to 5 minutes.
- To allow equal opportunity for all, and to accommodate the number of people who may wish to speak, yielding time to another person will not be allowed. Attendees should check the box to testify only if they personally wish to speak.
- An individual or group representative who testifies may submit more detailed written comments for the hearing record or later provide written comment. Written and oral comment have equal weight.
- During the hearing, sign-in sheets will be taken to the Hearing Officer and court reporter. Those who checked the box to testify will be called forward in the order they signed in to speak. Testimony will be recorded and transcribed for the record by a court reporter.
- At the end of each session, when all who indicated a desire to speak have been called, there will be a general call for anyone who has not yet testified. This would include, first, those who had signed up and might have missed their earlier call to testify and, second, any other person who had not previously testified.
- The hearing is scheduled to run until 9:00 p.m. At 9:00 p.m., if people present have not had the opportunity to testify, the Hearing Officer will announce the continuation of the hearing.
- The hearing is held for the purpose of receiving testimony. It is not a question-and-answer session.



## Draft EIS Public Comment Process Overview

### Public Review and Comment

An environmental impact statement (EIS) is an in-depth evaluation of alternatives and potential impacts of a project to an area's natural and human environment. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires this evaluation for any project receiving federal funds. NEPA also requires making the Draft EIS available to the public for review and providing the public with the opportunity to comment. Before the EIS is finalized, all comments received during the Draft EIS comment period are considered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the federal agency responsible for overseeing this process.

### Opportunities for Providing Comment

- Oral testimony at the public hearing (see attached Public Hearing Overview for more information)
- Written comments submitted to staff at the open house (see attached Open House Overview)
- Oral comments provided to a transcriber at the open house (see attached Open House Overview)
- Written comments submitted by mail, email, or fax to:
  - Ms. Edrie Vinson, Environmental Project Manager, FHWA, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 851, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, AK 99802, (907) 586-7464, by fax to (907) 586-7420, by email to [edrie.vinson@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:edrie.vinson@fhwa.dot.gov); or
  - Ms. Betty Fauber, Administrative Director, KABATA, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1850, Anchorage, AK 99501, (907) 269-6678, by fax to (907) 269-6697, by email to [knik\\_bridge@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:knik_bridge@dot.state.ak.us)
- All opportunities for providing comment noted above have equal weight.
- Written comments submitted must be postmarked October 30, 2006, the end of the 45-day comment period.

### Comment Tips to Consider

In addition to your chosen subject matter and focus, it is helpful to FHWA to hear comment on the following:

- A particular alternative, impact assessment, and/or draft mitigation.
- What you do like about an alternative in addition to what you do not like.
- Any incomplete or erroneous information.
- How the project or an alternative would affect you.

*(See the reverse side for information on submitting written comments, the comment period, and viewing the Draft EIS.)*



## **Written Comment and Comment Period**

Written comments will be accepted for 45 days following the September 15, 2006, publication of the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation in the Federal Register. **The comment period closes October 30, 2006.** Send written comments on the document to Ms. Edrie Vinson, Environmental Project Manager, FHWA; or Ms. Betty Fauber, Administrative Director, KABATA:

- Ms. Edrie Vinson, Environmental Project Manager, FHWA, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 851, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, AK 99802, (907) 586-7464, by fax to (907) 586-7420, by email to [edrie.vinson@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:edrie.vinson@fhwa.dot.gov); or
- Ms. Betty Fauber, Administrative Director, KABATA, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1850, Anchorage, AK 99501, (907) 269-6678, by fax to (907) 269-6697, by email to [knik\\_bridge@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:knik_bridge@dot.state.ak.us)

## **Reviewing the Draft EIS**

The Draft EIS is available for review today at the open house and as follows: Z.J. Loussac Public Library, Muldoon Branch Library, Samson-Diamond Branch Library, Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS), Wasilla Public Library, Palmer Public Library, Willow Public Library, and Big Lake Public Library; or online at [www.knikarmbridge.com](http://www.knikarmbridge.com).

Free CD copies are available today at the sign-in table. Paper copies are available for a fee of \$200 (KABATA will pay for ½ of the \$400 printing cost), and will be provided within 10 days of processing the request. After this public hearing, to request a paper or CD copy of the document, please contact Ms. Betty Fauber, KABATA (see address in “Written Comment and Comment Period,” above).