

KNIK ARM BRIDGE AND TOLL AUTHORITY
BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES #2-05

Board of Directors' Meeting, June 8, 2005, Multi-Use Sports Complex, Wasilla, AK.

The meeting progressed in accordance with the previously established and published agenda, which is attached and part of these minutes.

The meeting was duly noticed on May 31, 2005 in the legal section of both the "Anchorage Daily News," and the "Frontiersman" as public meeting notices.

Numbers in these minutes correspond with the numbers in the agenda.

Chairman George Wuerch called the meeting to order at 1:03pm.

1. Roll Call by Chairman George Wuerch

A quorum was established with four voting directors in attendance:
Dave Haugen (via telephone), Darcie Salmon, and Gordon Keith.

Also present: Board Members Representative Bill Stoltze, Senator Lyda Green, and Tom Boutin, Deputy Revenue Commissioner; Senator Charlie Huggins, Chair of Senate Transportation Committee; Representative Mark Neuman; Representative Carl Gatto; KABATA Staff Members Executive Director Henry Springer, Deputy Executive Director/Program Manager Darryl Jordan, and Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Dale Paulson; and Project Counsels Jim Cantor, Chief Assistant Attorney General and William Greene.

Recorder: Betty Fauber, KABATA Administrative Manager

There were 20 members of the public in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved as presented.

Action #58-02-05.

Approved by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting #1-05 (March 23, 2005)

With no additions or corrections noted, there was a MOTION by Salmon, second by Haugen, to approve.

Wuerch clarified item on New Business, Financial Plan report (page 4, 7a) stating that the Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA) report due in June 2005 will be a

preliminary report to a more detailed investment-grade opinion report that will be done at a later date.

Action #59-2-05.

Approved by unanimous vote.

4. Chairman's Report

Wuerch reported that the Principals' Meetings held April 26 and May 31 have been productive. The objective of the meetings is to discuss the concerns that the principal organizations have about the project. A working group was established and will report their findings at the next meeting to be held June 15, 2005.

5. Executive Director's Report

Springer reported on activities and progress made since the last meeting including the on-going EIS process to develop the Purpose and Need statement, alignment and access route alternatives, public outreach including polling, and specific contract work such as the University of Alaska Fairbanks seismic evaluations, land use studies, and ecological evaluations.

Springer stated that it is critical that the approved schedule of field work and studies is maintained so complete results can be included in the draft EIS.

6. Old Business

a. EIS Progress Report

Paulson stated that the process was on track with public scoping meetings scheduled June 12 and 13 in Wasilla and Anchorage respectively; meetings also scheduled: Interagency, Tribal and Native, Historic Preservation, Military and Federal Highway officials.

b. Alignment Alternatives

Paulson discussed the details of the alternative access routes under consideration. Research is being conducted on the feasibility, accessibility, cost and impacts of each route to determine the preferred alternative. He advised that traffic studies are also underway.

c. Cost & Budget Report

Jordan stated that both the HDR Alaska and Wilbur Smith Associates contracts are on budget with adequate funds remaining through final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) and permitting process.

d. Field Work Activities

Springer reported that both the beluga whale and fisheries studies have been extended through their one-year cycle and that shorebird study has been added to

provide important data needed for the EIS. Weekly field reports will continue to be filed through the end of the contracts in August.

7. New Business

a. Public Outreach

Jordan advised that an extensive public outreach program continues which includes the required public scoping and interdisciplinary team meetings along with attendance at community council meetings, radio and television interviews, a newsletter mail-out, a second insert in to Anchorage and Valley newspapers. Also, meetings with stakeholders, preparation of posters for two kiosks the airport, and regular web site updates.

He reviewed the results from 181 public comments received to date and Dittman's scientific household survey. Both showed a ratio of 81 in support of the project to 18 against.

There have been over 100 presentations made to various organizations since October 2003. Wuerch stated that presentations to groups could be scheduled upon request to the KABATA office.

b. AMATS/LRTP Process Updates

Springer reported that the Knik Arm Crossing is not listed as a project in current AMATS' Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and will not be included in the update currently being prepared because air quality and traffic studies and reports will not be complete by AMATS' deadline. As soon as the EIS is complete an amendment to the LRTP to include the project can be adopted.

c. Finance Plan Status

Wuerch reported the new TEA-LU Bill, HR3, passed the House floor and included \$200 million of the estimated \$600 million for the project. The Senate has formed a conference committee that should act on the bill before the extension expires.

He stated that the remaining \$400 million would be requested from federal, state and local governments, and private sector sources. A comprehensive financial plan should be available to present to the Alaska Legislature by the time it convenes in January 2006. An innovative financial plan will be required but if the project exceeds its ability to pay, the No-Action Alternative would apply.

Wuerch stated that in July he will meet with FHWA's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovative Act (TIFIA) loan program officials and

WSA team, and Darryl Jordan will attend the AASHTO and WASHTO conferences.

He thanked Boutin for continually providing useful information; and thanked the public for their comments and for participating in the public scoping meetings.

8. Board Members' Remarks

Haugen stated that a good effort was being made and to keep forward momentum going.

Vice Chair Salmon thanked the Mat-Su Valley delegation for attending and the staff for the promising update.

Keith said the additional alternative access routes encouraged him and that it is important to establish a Mat-Su working group.

Boutin reviewed the three types of financing bonds authorized by the 24th Legislature and said that KABATA could set in on presentations to be made by rating agencies on revenue bonds; he will advise KABATA of specifics.

Senator Green stated that she appreciates the on-going education and thanked all involved for their work.

Representative Stoltze stated he appreciates having the board meetings in Wasilla and Juneau and the Mat-Su Valley is a thriving area that will benefit from the crossing.

9. Public Comments

Comments from ten public attendees were heard. Wuerch thanked them for their input and encouraged everyone to continue using the public scoping process to weigh-in on the project.

10. Announcements

Wuerch proposed that the Annual Board Meeting be held in Anchorage on September 28, 2005; all responded favorably. Board Members and the public will be notified of the details when scheduled.

11. Adjournment: 2:50pm

Action #60-2-05

MOTION by Salmon, second by Haugen; vote unanimous.

Minutes Approved: Unanimous Board approval at June 8, 2005 Board Meeting.

Attest: Heidi Spry

Date: 9/29/05