

KNIK ARM CROSSING PROJECT
Willow Community Council Meeting
May 2, 2005, 7 pm
Brief Presentation and Dialogue on the Knik Arm Crossing Project

The meeting was chaired by President and Secretary of the Willow Community Council.

Attended by

Approximately 30 residents of the Willow Community attended the meeting. Kevin Doyle of HDR and Lisa Loy Gray of URS, attended on behalf of the Environmental Impact statement (EIS) team as presenters.

Brief Presentation

Kevin Doyle provided an overview of why EIS team representatives were present at the meeting, and referred to the project information sheets that were provided. The presentation was accompanied by four poster boards: an EIS process graphic; a constraints map; a project corridor map; and an aerial photo. He presented the following information:

- Scoping: explained the scoping process, including outreach to agencies and the public, identification of public opportunities for input, announcement of public scoping meetings, and time for public input through the summer following presentation of the list of alternatives
- Discussed integration of the EIS and permit process in fall 2005
- Presented objectives of the Knik Arm Crossing: to connect transportation systems and to connect the ports and industrial areas (including the 10,000 acre Port MacKenzie District), with the goal of crossing Knik Arm at the narrower points
- Constraints: Discussion of the deepwater trough in Knik Arm. 200 foot depths (as opposed to 50 feet in shallower areas) could require a suspension bridge, which would greatly increase costs and create conflicts with Elmendorf flights patterns. Existing military antenna requires a buffer zone. Port/Shipping lanes—need to stay north of the Ports. Military constraints. Constraints lead to conclusion that best crossing opportunities are north of the Ports, then running along the tidelands below the bluff on the Anchorage side.
- Project team is investigating a perpendicular and skewed crossing, running down below the bluff along the tidelands on the Anchorage side
- Explained corridors are being developed for the public scoping meetings.

Handouts Included:

- Fact Sheet
- EIS Process Graphic
- Constraints Map
- Project Corridor Map
- Aerial Photo
- Helpful Hints for Providing Comments

- Comment Form

Questions and responses

Q: Will a railroad be part of the bridge?

A: Not as part of this project, although we are working with the Railroad so that the bridge will be compatible in the future. Earlier and higher cost estimates that have been published in prior years were based on inclusion of the Railroad on the bridge, current cost estimates are not.

Q: What is the estimated cost of the project?

A: Three independent bridge firms were consulted. The cost estimate is \$400-600 million. A 7,000-foot bridge is estimated to cost about \$250 million, with another \$50 million for each approach on either side, and the rest of the budget would include connections into the existing Anchorage roadway network.

Lisa Loy Gray: Provide information about the public process. Urged people to get involved, fill out comment forms, and let the project team know how the crossing would affect them.