

Trip Report

Fairbanks and Delta Junction Meetings

Project: Interior Alaska Transportation Plan

Reporter: Suzanne Taylor

Date/Time: 01/11/07 7:00 PM

Location: Fairbanks & Delta

Present: Sign-in sheet to be provided by FCVB
Suzanne Taylor, ASCG
Dave Sanches, DOT&PF

Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau Meeting Highlights:

On Wednesday, January 17, Dave Sanches and Suzanne Taylor attended the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau luncheon at the Fairbanks Princess Hotel to introduce the Interior Alaska Transportation Plan and to solicit input about transportation issues in the study area.

Concerns expressed by FCVB members included:

- Communications “dead spots” where cell service is unavailable making emergency calls impossible.
- Safety issues along Taylor Highway including narrow areas
- The 511 road information system needs improvement very much
- Trails need to be a part of the plan. Is there a way for Yukon Quest planners who stake the trails used by the Quest to partner with the DOT in providing trail staking in that area?
- Where will planners on this project get information on tourism issues? Will the plan focus on in-state users to the exclusion of visitors?

Suzanne and Dave said that tourism is certainly vital to the state’s economy and that the plan will assess tourism as well as local needs. Input from all stakeholders is critical to the process.

- Is the railroad involved in the process?

Suzanne said that the team has already met with Bruce Carr of the ARRC and will continue to coordinate with the railroad during the planning process.

The Princess representative asked about public access to the shoreline at Prudhoe Bay. She said that Princess pays for access even when they have to use their own coaches due to handicapped clients or unavailability of BP’s bus.

Karen to send copy of sign in sheet.

Delta Chamber of Commerce Meeting Highlights:

On Thursday, January 18, Dave and Suzanne attended the Delta Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Trophy Lodge in Delta, to introduce the Interior Alaska Transportation Plan and to solicit input about transportation issues in the study area.

Concerns expressed by DCOC members included:

- Waysides along Richardson Highway need better maintenance

- The 511 road information system needs to be kept reasonably up to date
- Status of proposed joint use of Allen Army Airfield by the community
- The Alaska Highway ends in Delta Junction. Road numbers should reflect this.
- Milepost 300 is an accident area to be aware of.