

## Delta Junction Trip Report

**Prepared by:** Suzanne Taylor

**Location:** Delta Junction

**Date:** 3/3/09

**Project:** Interior Alaska Transportation Plan

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Suzanne Taylor, WHPacific traveled to Delta Junction with Dave Sanches, DOT&PF, to present the recommendations to the Delta Junction City Council. Although a quorum was not present, council members and members of the public listened to the presentation and posed questions of the presenters.

Council members present were Mayor Mary Leith-Dowling, Lou Heinbockel, and Dawn Grossmann. Additional City employees present were City Administrator Mike Tvenge, Finance Officer Dave Zimmerman, Facilities Maintenance Employee Jeremy Williams, and Acting City Clerk Debbie Heral

Four members from the community also attended.

Suzanne Taylor explained that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities began to develop the Interior Alaska Transportation Plan about two years ago. Since that time, transportation planners have identified important transportation issues in the study area, outlined goals and objectives, prepared a detailed inventory of all transportation modes in the study area, reviewed potential future mineral development, forecast future growth and analyzed the transportation system. The plan is entering the stage where the department will develop recommendations that will guide future investments in vital regional transportation projects. The intent is to have the plan recommendations finalized by the summer and the final report be made available this fall.

Taylor stated that within the five statewide regional transportation plans, our region has the majority of the highway system, which is a large component of the plan. Other parts include airports within the area. An inventory was taken in late 2006 of what is in the region – they looked at development, projected population, economic development and then studied the strengths and weaknesses of those systems and what needed to be changed. Now they are starting to make recommendations, going to communities and letting people know what they're looking at and the status of the project. Safety is one of the primary criteria for any project.

Delta has turned in a list of projects they'd like to see implemented. Pavement management needs were discussed. Delta Junction is listed under the Airports Section as needing a better airport. Discussion on the local airport and Healy Lake airport followed. Wayside maintenance was discussed. Better toilet facilities are needed along with dumpsters or at least garbage cans, if people are going to be encouraged to travel the roads.

Taylor advised that on the IATP website, Chapters 1-4 of the plan are up now and they are proofing Chapters 5 & 6. Chapter 3 still has holes, which are highlighted in yellow.

**Dave Sanches**, Department of Transportation (DOT)&PF Project Manager, stated the next STIP window would probably be June or July for comment and there is new scoring criteria for it. Community transportation projects deadline is the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. They will be scoring projects statewide end of April. Each region can bring 20 projects. No one is sure what will be funded at this point because it keeps changing.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.