

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 8, 2001

1:17 p.m.

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

DOT PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL PLANNING STUDIES: NORTHWEST PLAN, SOUTHEAST PLAN, PARKS HIGHWAY CORRIDOR STUDY, KNIK ARM CROSSING STATUS REPORT

TAPES

01-8, SIDES A & B

01-9, SIDE A

CALL TO ORDER

REPRESENTATIVE VIC KOHRING, Chair, called the House Transportation Standing Committee to order at 1:17 p.m.

PRESENT

Committee members present were Representatives Kohring, Kapsner, Kookesh, Scalzi, Wilson, and Ogan. Representative Masek was excused.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

JEFF OTTESEN, Statewide Planning Chief, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, provided an overview of the Parks Highway Corridor Study that is about to start. The engineering firm CH2Mhill will be conducting the study.

ANNETTE DELONG, Mat-Su Borough resident, testified by teleconference about concerns of impacts to businesses during construction.

ED BRITTINGHAM, Executive Director, Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, testified by teleconference about concerns of impacts to businesses during construction.

MARK MILLER, Director, MASCOT (Mat-Su Community Transit), discussed mass transit and requested that bus stops be included in the Parks Highway construction.

BILL TUCKER, property owner, provided an update on the DOT condemnation of his property for the Parks Highway Phase II construction. He explained that he was fighting the condemnation due to the highway design being overbuilt. He opposes the construction of frontage roads and overpasses, saying that the traffic study and the Environmental Impact Statement do not support these items.

ROBERT HALL, businessman, testified saying that the Parks Highway construction in the Wasilla area needs to be done at night.

DONNA TOTEN, Clerk, City of Houston, expressed concerns that the salmon runs in the Little Susitna River would be impacted during the Parks Highway construction scheduled to start this summer. She also expressed the desire for turn lanes through Houston.

MURPH O'BRIEN, DOT Southcentral Office Planner, answered Ms. Toten's questions saying that construction of the bridge would be outside [the river] banks and create minimal impact to the river; and [a] center turning lane would be constructed through Houston.

MR. OTTESON provided an overview of the increase in traffic on the Parks Highway. He also discussed the proposed Knik Arm Crossing. He then presented overviews of the area plans for Southwest Alaska, Prince William Sound, Southeast Alaska, Yukon-Kuskokwim Area, and Northwest Alaska.

DAVID KESSINGER, Chair, Southeast Conference Transportation Committee, expressed support of the Southeast plan. He expressed concerns that some communities were left out of the planning process. He discussed possible problems with "fast ferries."

MR. OTTESON provided an overview of the Prince William Sound Plan and commented on the other area plans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR KOHRING adjourned the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting at 2:45 p.m.

NOTE: The meeting was recorded and handwritten log notes were taken. A copy of the tape(s) and log notes may be obtained by contacting the House Records Office at State Capitol, Room 3, Juneau, Alaska 99801 (mailing address), (907) 465-2214, and after adjournment of the second session of the Twenty-Second Alaska State Legislature this information may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Reference Library at (907) 465-3808.