

PALMER WASILLA HIGHWAY EASTERN TERMINUS

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

September 9, 2010

Palmer City Hall

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Next meeting dates:

Transportation Fair: September 16th, 4 to 8 at Raven Hall (Palmer Fair Grounds)

Mat-Su Planning Commission/Mat-Su Assembly – TBD

Next CAC – Design Features Continued- TBD

General

The resolution reads Dogwood to Felton and Felton to Bogard, leaving the impression that the Felton to Bogard link is part of this project.

- The Felton link to Bogard is part of the “committed network” and the City is hoping to get additional funding to complete this segment. It was not part of the CAC alternative B.
- The May 2009 fact sheet did state “Construct Felton from Dogwood to Bogard.”
- Would there be enough money to construct the link?
- The City is requesting \$2 million in funding to help construct the link to Bogard.
- Concern was expressed that this project started with the intent of improving the Evergreen/PWH/Glenn intersection and now it may not get done as other links “get priority.”
- All of Alternative B will be taken to 35% design and then a decision can be made about the phasing.

Action: Consensus: The Felton link to Bogard should be a priority and included in the 35% design. The CAC does not necessarily expect that it will be constructed as part of this project but by including it in the design, it shows it is a priority.

Safeway Update

- The light at the new road (Rowland Memorial Parkway) is temporary. If Ellen Road is ever extended the light would be relocated to Ellen.
- There is about 150 feet of queuing length for the left turn lane into the new Safeway. How will this impact the Evergreen modeling previously done and will it cause more problems for the intersection? *The Design Team will have to address this and should have more to report at the 35% design.*
- Why not a 3-way light at Ellen? *The light location is a balance of meeting the access needs of private development on both sides of the PWH and the traffic needs of the general public. The new light improves access to the mall on the north side of the PWH which will be important to encourage redevelopment.*
- It would not be in the best interest of Palmer to have that facility sitting vacant.



Transportation Fair

Draft handouts were presented to CAC for comment. The Transportation Fair is September 16th from 4 to 8 at Raven Hall. ADOT would like for CAC members to attend like last year and help describe the project.

- It was requested that the PWH project be set up adjacent to the Glenn Highway project.

Design Features

A slide show of streetscapes was presented. Concepts discussed included:

- Attached sidewalks
- Detached sidewalks
- Multi-use pathways
- Medians (landscaped, painted, colored/textured concrete and asphalt)
- Buffers (landscaped or decorative pavement/asphalt)
- Gateways
- Landscaping treatment – planters, trees
- Lighting – LED, decorative poles
- On-street parking
- Traffic Calming (chokers, neckdowns, raised intersection, raised crosswalks, visual friction, center medians)
- Pedestrian crossings (textured/colored crosswalks, countdown signals, pedestrian refuges –pork chops)

Discussions

- Buffers between the sidewalk and road don't work well in Palmer. Sidewalks don't get cleared in the winter.
- Improvements have to be functional.
- A separated multi-use pathway on Dogwood between the Glenn and Felton. Have a grassed buffer between the road the pathway.
- The east side of Dogwood (downtown) should be more decorative.
- There are limited places to cross the PWH now. Safe crossings should be addressed.
- Felton – one pedestrian facility only.
- If schools are nearby, there should be two pedestrian facilities.
- There are people who walk their horses.
- Bike should be addressed.
- Is snow removal a problem with raised intersections? Seems like ice would build up at the bottom of the ramps. *Graders are able to clear the intersections because the ramp transition is gradual.*
- An example of a choker can be found on Chugach near the Senior Center.
- Ditches or storm drains with curb and gutter?
- Dogwood between the Glenn and Felton should have wide shoulders and two separated pathways.
- There is an opportunity at the Evergreen intersection. Buy the Chevron and make a gateway to Palmer. Plant evergreen trees.
- The PWH should have a pedestrian facility along both sides.
- Can we add color at the PWH/Evergreen/Glenn intersection? It looks so gray.
- Vegetated medians should be considered if there is enough right-of-way.
- The current Evergreen intersection is not good. Nothing but gray.
- Put pedestrian facilities along both sides of all the roads. Meander whenever possible. The more distance between cars and pedestrians the better.
- When you have kids on training wheels, you can't be far enough away from cars.
- Dogwood – East side of Glenn. Planted medians and on-street parking
- Dogwood from the Glenn to Felton.
 - Acquire enough right-of-way for future expansion.
 - 2 separated pedestrian facilities – meandering
 - Ditches with grass rather than curb and gutter.
 - Will there be enough money for two pedestrian facilities? If not, just one on the south side. There will be enough right-of-way to add a second one in the future. Make future developers pay for the additional pedestrian facilities when they are needed.
 - No on-street parking along this segment
 - Medians?

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- **Next CAC:** CAC requested additional time to review design features. They would like to take pictures and bring them to the next meeting to share - TBD
- **Mat Su Assembly/Planning & Zoning** - TBD

Action Item Summary

- Add Felton to Bogard to project
- CAC would like Borough Support. Verify if resolution has to go to Borough Planning and Zoning as well.
- Need enlargements of the Dogwood to Felton Corridor, PWH/Evergreen Corridor, etc. to assist with design feature discussions.
- Set date for next CAC

PARKING LOT (SUMMARY OF ALL MEETINGS)

The parking lot is for items that are likely outside the scope of discussion. They will be addressed as time permits.

- ~~Future of Glenn Highway through Palmer. What are ADOT's plans? Addressed Dec 10, 2009~~
- Walkway from Palmer to Fairgrounds
- ~~Frontage Road with limited access along west side of Palmer Wasilla Highway (Discussed during alternative development)~~

Streetscapes

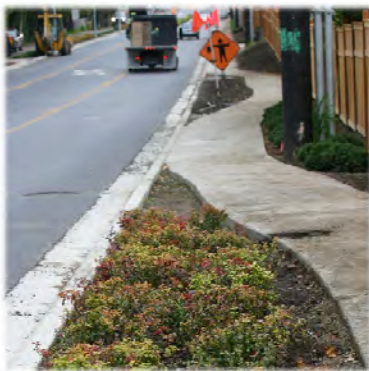
The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly



- Historic charm (7)
- Small town (5)
- Friendly (5)
- Quiet (5)
- Scenic (4)
- Family (3)
- Farmland (2)
- Colony (2)
- Quaint (2)
- Planned (2)
- Mountains
- Pioneer Peak
- Community
- Home
- Destination
- Investment
- Railroad
- Opportunity
- Beautiful
- Comfortable
- Green/nature
- Diversification
- Walkable



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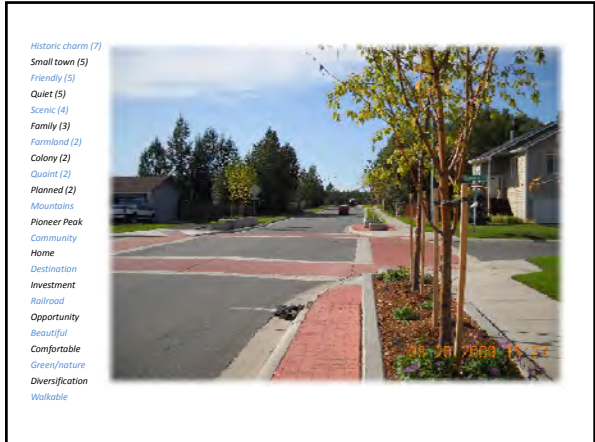


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