State Project No. SFHWY00299
Federal Project No. 0003259

December 2022

PEL STUDY FACT SHEET

JUNEAU DOUGLAS

North Crossing PEL Study

Study Area

The study area is between Juneau and Douglas Island in the area north of the existing Douglas Island Bridge.

Study Overview

The City and Borough of Juneau has partnered with Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to study a possible transportation corridor to connect Juneau with the north end of Douglas Island. A connection has been studied since the 1980s but has not progressed beyond identification and recommendation of preliminary alternative alignments. The previous studies highlighted several reasons for a north crossing:

- Congestion during peak periods on the existing Douglas Island Bridge
- Concerns about safety and emergency response in the event of a bridge closure
- The potential for residential, commercial, industrial, and port development at west Douglas Island

DOT&PF has chosen the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process to identify and evaluate a purpose and need for connecting Juneau with Douglas Island. The PEL process will provide opportunities for public input and involvement. The analyses conducted may be incorporated into a future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

PEL Study Schedule

SPRING 2022

Project Initiation, Problems to be Solved, Purpose & Need: Emerging Themes

Baseline Analysis, Data Collection, Purpose & Need: Emerging Themes

SUMMER / FALL 2022

Evaluation Criteria, Develop & Screen Alternatives

Identify Crossing Alternatives and Develop Screening Criteria

WINTER 2022 / 2023

Evaluate, Refine, & Select Alternatives

Preferred Alternatives, Screening, Draft PEL Study

SPRING 2023

Finalize Documentation

Public Comment Period *(30 days)* and Finalize PEL Study

WE ARE HERE

- Advisory Committees Meeting #1
- Public Meeting #1
- Advisory Committees Workshop
- Pop-Up Listening Sessions
- Advisory Committees Meeting #2
- Public Meeting #2
- Advisory Committees Meeting #3
- Advisory Committees Meeting #4
- Public Meeting #3

WHAT IS A PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) is a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that:

1. Improves outreach and coordination by considering environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning process.
2. Saves cost and time; focuses expenditures on viable options.

The benefits of stronger linkages between the transportation planning and project development processes can include:

- **Stronger agency and public relationships:** Regulatory and resource agencies are involved early. Collaborative working relationships with the public support more involvement and opportunities.
- **Improved project delivery timelines:** The PEL process can avoid duplication of effort and speed up project delivery.
- **Earlier identification of key environmental resources:** Knowing which resources are present can help alternative selection and save time and money by moving forward alternatives that minimize impacts to environmental resources and the built environment.
- **Better funding and project development:** Engineering team involvement produces more reliable cost estimates and project schedules.
- **Build projects with better outcomes:** Knowledge of agency and community concerns help developers design projects that better serve the community's needs.
- **Flexible approach for development of transportation improvement strategies:** The PEL Study can propose solutions to develop a series of smaller independent, fundable projects that can be implemented over time while fitting within a larger or longer-term context.

How can I get involved?

- Contact the PEL study team: JDNorthCrossing@dowl.com
- Visit the PEL study website at: www.JDNorthCrossing.com
- Sign up on our website to receive updates
- Participate in Public Meetings (information available on the website)

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

Points of Contact

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For the latest updates and additional information about the study, visit:

www.JDNorthCrossing.com