

Hermon Rd Extension and Upgrade: Parks Hwy to Palmer-Wasilla Hwy

Project No.: CFHWY00799 / 0001729

Open House No. 2 Meeting Summary



Tuesday, March 24, 2026, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Wasilla Public Library, Multi-Purpose Room

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) hosted the second open house for the Hermon Road Extension and Upgrade: Parks Highway to Palmer-Wasilla Highway project in the multi-purpose room at the Wasilla Public Library. Attendees began arriving at 3:40 p.m. The meeting format was an open house style, with a presentation beginning at 4:35 p.m., followed by an open forum question and answer session. Attendees were greeted at the sign-in desk with a copy of the project fact sheet and were shown into the event room. The room was set up with presentation boards detailing the project area and description, schedule, typical sections, right-of-way (ROW) process information, and project team contact information. A roll plot showing an aerial view of the project corridor, proposed design, and proposed ROW needs was displayed. Towards the back of the room seats were set up facing the television where the presentation was given.

The project team was available to answer questions from the public on the design and ROW and clarify information about project funding, scope, and schedule. The project team gathered comments and feedback at a comments table and on the roll plot.

Twenty-six people signed in, including members of the project team.

Summary of Questions and Comments Received:

The project team discussed the design and ROW with attendees around the roll plot prior to and after the presentation. Following the presentation, an open forum question and answer session was conducted. The following is a summary of questions and comments received, along with answers.

Live Questions and Answers

- This project does not address the Hermon Road intersections with Sun Mountain Avenue or Parks Highway. What can be done about the existing congestion and safety issues in this area?
 - While these intersections are not currently included in the scope of this project, the project team is discussing potential solutions with the City of Wasilla. Possible solutions include:
 - Extending the median on Hermon Road from the Parks Highway north through the Sun Mountain Avenue intersection, restricting left turns to and from Sun Mountain Avenue.
 - Install a median on the Parks Highway, limiting left turns. DOT&PF plans to conduct traffic counts over the summer to determine the locations with the highest access to Sun Mountain Avenue.
 - DOT&PF is currently studying a Parks Highway bypass, which could divert through traffic from Parks Highway to a new facility.

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- This project started in 2022 and is scheduled to be constructed in 2028 with finishing activities in 2029, which is seven years later. How is the project team considering future traffic growth in the area?
 - The project looks ahead with a 20-year traffic projection. It includes projected growth and known approved development. While some parts of Wasilla are behind on transportation infrastructure development, this area measures system performance at an acceptable level of service.
- Why not expand Hermon Road to four lanes now to accommodate future growth in 10 to 15 years?
 - Projects look ahead 20 years to model traffic projections, and the proposed improvements to Hermon Road will accommodate these projections. Building four lanes now would require additional property impacts, higher costs without a clear operational benefit based on the projected traffic. The current design balances future needs with cost, safety and community impacts.
- Did the project team consider expanded commercial uses of Hermon Road north of Whispering Woods Drive?
 - Given the land use regulations within the Mat-Su Borough, the currently undeveloped area could be developed to be residential, commercial, or other use. While specific future land uses are uncertain, the traffic analysis assumes reasonable growth based on regional trends and approved developments.
- What is the planned grade for Hermon Road past the gravel pit?
 - Roadway grades are limited by design standards. The maximum grade is limited to 6% for this roadway classification. There is a short segment (less than 100 feet) with a grade of 5.9%. The profile flattens out as Hermon Road approaches the intersection with Palmer-Wasilla Highway.

Written Comments and Individual Conversations:

- Concern that increased traffic on the extended Hermon Road may exacerbate congestion in the Sun Mountain Avenue area.
 - The project will increase traffic to the Sun Mountain intersection but the improvements on Hermon will have benefits of connectivity, two-way left turn lane providing access to businesses, and side streets.
- Comment that existing conditions at the Hermon Road and Parks Highway intersection are unsafe, and continued growth and development in the area will increase congestion without improvements.
 - While major changes at this intersection are not part of this project, documenting these issues helps DOT&PF and the City of Wasilla to prioritize future projects and capacity improvements.
- Concerns with existing traffic going through Whispering Woods Drive and concerns with traffic continuing or getting worse.
 - Hermon road is designed to better serve through traffic, which generally reduces pressure for drivers to use local neighborhood streets.

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- Suggestion to include a signal at the Hermon Road and Palmer-Wasilla Highway intersection.
 - The project team evaluated different intersection options and found that a traffic signal is needed at this location. A traffic signal is included in the current project design.
- Questions about ROW needs and potential impacts to properties along the corridor.
 - DOT&PF and DOWL ROW agents were available to answer questions about the process. DOT&PF and DOWL are working directly with affected property owners to explain the process, answer questions, and minimize impacts wherever possible.