

Agenda
Planning Commission
Special Meeting
CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
Paul Voelckers, Acting Chairman
January 8, 2019

I. ROLL CALL

Paul Voelckers, Acting Chairman, called the Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Planning Commission, held in Conference Room 224 of the Municipal Building, to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Swearing in of Planning Commission members
Joshua Winchell was sworn in by Ms. Wright

Commissioners present: Paul Voelckers, Acting Chairman; Michael LeVine, Nathaniel Dye (by phone), Ken Alper, Shannon Crossley, Dan Hickok, Travis Arndt; Weston Eiler; Joshua Winchell

Commissioners absent: None

Staff present: Jill Maclean, CDD Director; Amy Liu, CDD Planner; Emily Wright, Law

Assembly members: Greg Smith (joined by phone at 7:54pm)

Acting Chairmen Voelckers called the meeting to order and allowed a moment for Mr. Winchell to introduce himself and for the commission members to introduce themselves to him.

II. REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA - None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS -None

V. ITEMS FOR RECONSIDERATION - None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

CSP2019 0011: A State Project for a new roundabout and improvements on Glacier Highway
Applicant: State Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Location: Glacier Highway from Glacier Highway Access Road to Vanderbilt Hill Road

MOTION: *by Mr. Eiler to move* Consent Agenda item CSP2019 0011 to the Regular Agenda for commission and public comment. Without objection, the motion passed and the CSP moved to Regular Agenda.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

CSP2019 0011: A State Project for a new roundabout and improvements on Glacier Highway
Applicant: State Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Location: Glacier Highway from Glacier Highway Access Road to Vanderbilt Hill Road

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission find CSP2019 0011 consistent with adopted local plans and polices as required by CBJ 49.15.580, and approve CSP2019 0011 to construct one (1) new roundabout and improvements on Glacier Highway from Glacier Highway Access Road to Vanderbilt Hill Road with the following condition:

1. Submit an application for the review of the necessary right-of-way acquisition plat following conclusion of negotiations regarding all easements and land sales in the project area per CBJ 49.15.590.

STAFF PRESENTATION:

Ms. Liu introduced CSP2019 0011 and gave a brief presentation explaining this is a State project to construct a roundabout and other improvements on Glacier Highway from Vanderbilt Hill Road to Glacier Highway access road. Improvements will include the roundabout, medians, sidewalks, improved pedestrian crossings, traffic signals, lighting improvements, and bicycle lanes.

Staff questions:

Ms. Crossley asked why design alternatives were included in the application. Ms. Liu explained that she would leave that up to the applicant but from Staff perspective, it is beneficial to know the context leading up to a final proposal.

Mr. Winchell asked what the speed limit would be in the roundabout. Ms. Liu explained that from other roundabout projects, 20 miles per hour is the customary maximum safe speed for a roundabout.

Mr. Eiler asked whether this project conforms with the area plans or recent planning work in the Lemon Creek area. Ms. Liu confirmed it is in conformance.

Mr. Arndt asked about the land purchase information in the application. It was his understanding that land purchases are up to the Assembly Lands Committee. Ms. Liu explained that there will still be right of way issues that will come before the Commission.

Mr. LeVine noticed that there is not a map in the packet illustrating the full project and he struggled with the report in determining where all of the features will be. Ms. Liu explained that the project maps and illustrations are about one hundred or so pages that are available but were just too much to print.

APPLICANT DISCUSSION

Charles Tripp AK DOT explained this is a project that began about 2012 or 2013. The initial goal was to add sidewalk on the seaward side of Glacier Highway from the Walmart area onward, improve crossing opportunities and bike paths in the area. During the study and public participation phases of the project, they became aware of other issues that needed to be addressed. This is an area that sees a lot of truck traffic in the Anka/Industrial area and Department of Transportation realized they need to work on that corridor so it functions well for everybody. The plan will improve that by changing the geometry a bit to accommodate truck traffic going in and out of Anka.

Mr. Voelckers asked about the timeline of when construction would start. Mr. Tripp said they are currently in the middle of right of way acquisition. Perhaps the construction can start this summer. The hope is to get the roundabout work done while school is out.

Mr. Eiler asked whether this is a one-off project or is this part of a bigger plan. Mr. Tripp said insofar as Glacier Highway is concerned, this is not part of any larger plan.

Mr. Winchell expressed concerns about children getting out of school and crossing through the roundabout with industrial traffic and congestion in the area. He asked if the crosswalks will be on the circle or further up the road toward Renninger. Mr. Tripp explained the crossings would not be in the circle but on the legs entering the roundabout and the crossing would be accomplished in two stages involving crosswalks and medians. Additionally, Mr. Tripp explained

that when the project is completed, pedestrians will have several options to navigate the area as there will be sidewalks on both sides of the street with crosswalks as well as the roundabout and crosswalks there.

Ms. Crossley spoke to the speeds within roundabouts and said that vehicles have to slow down in order to safely get through the circle. Mr. Tripp explained roundabouts are designed in such a way that they involve a series of curves in the approach to the roundabout so that a vehicle is already slowed by the time it reaches the circle. Mr. Winchell commented that he drives the Auke Bay roundabout daily and, while he is not arguing the efficiency of a roundabout, he often sees vehicles exceeding the ten mile per hour limit within the circle.

Mr. Hickok asked whether the current school zone would be extended to include the roundabout. Mr. Tripp confirmed that the school zone will be extended and the roundabout will be included within the new school zone area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wayne Stevens - 1402 Side Court – Mr. Stevens would like to see the project include an expansion at the Vanderbilt Hill Road and Glacier Highway intersection. He explained that currently, there is a single lane in each direction at that intersection and during times of peak travel and congestion, traffic becomes backed up and if a vehicle is waiting to make a left turn, the following vehicle will often encroach onto the bike lane in order to make a right turn around the first vehicle which causes a hazard for bicyclists and drivers alike.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Tripp sketched the project on the white board to illustrate where bike lanes currently exist and explained that widening the intersection would be problematic because they would have to cover over a portion of Vanderbilt Creek which would cause environmental issues. He explained that widening or changing this intersection would be outside of the scope of the project as written.

Mr. Hickok asked whether the remnant of Old Glacier Highway crosses private property. Mr. Tripp said he was not sure and would have to look into that.

Mr. Hickok asked if DOT has the leeway to expand the gutter width.

Mr. Voelckers reminded commission that the purpose of the CSP is not to rewrite the project but to decide whether or not to recommend moving it forward to the Assembly for approval.

Mr. Alper addressed the remnant saying he did not realize until just now that it was not actually a bike path but a remnant of an old roadway. He asked what is the purpose of that remnant now? (I.E. is it intended to be returned to natural state, etc). Mr. Tripp said it is available as a bike path and it is an option for bicyclists.

Mr. Arndt asked how this project will affect or be affected by the new subdivision going in the hill. Will this project be able to accommodate the new subdivision or will it create issues as that comes online? Mr. Tripp believes it will not create issues

MOTION: *by Mr. Eiler to approve CSP2019 0011 and approve it with Directors analysis and findings.*

Mr. LeVine suggested rewording the condition to read, "An application for the review of the necessary right of way acquisition plat must be submitted per CBJ 49.15.590."

Mr. Eiler withdrew his motion.

MOTION: *by Mr. LeVine to accept staff findings and approve CSP2019 0011 with Directors analysis and findings with condition amended to read, "An application for the review of the necessary right of way acquisition plat must be submitted per CBJ 49.15.590."*

Mr. Dye suggested adding "if required" so the motion would read "....,if required, must be submitted per CBJ 49.15.590. Ms. Maclean explained that this is not necessary in this case.

The motion passed with no objection.

IX. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT None

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers and Planning Commission Committee Assignments

Mr. Voelckers suggested he assume function of Clerk rather than Chair as he will have some professional opportunities in the coming year that could create the perception conflict frequently enough that it would be difficult for him to serve in the Chair position.

MOTION: *by Mr. Voelckers to elect the following Commissioners to the following positions*

- Mr. LeVine - Chair
- Mr. Dye - Vice chair
- Mr. Voelckers - Clerk
- Mr. Arndt - Vice Clerk

The motion to appoint Officers passed without objection and Mr. Voelckers turned the meeting over to Mr. LeVine.

Assembly Liaison Greg Smith joined by phone at 7:54

Mr. LeVine accepted the position and announced due to work commitments he will be attending the next few meetings by phone and Mr. Dye will fill in to chair those meetings.

Mr. Dye asked for commission members to email him and let him know which committees they are interested or willing to join. Committee appointments will be made at the January 28 meeting so members' requests need to be to Mr. Dye by the end of next week.

The Committees, Ad Hoc committees and Liaison positions include:

- Standing Committees
 - Title 49
 - Rules
 - Subdivision Review (to be disbanded)
- Ad Hoc Committees
 - Auke Bay (will be finishing soon, current members will remain, no new members)
 - Blueprint Downtown
 - Douglas (forming soon)
 - Comprehensive Plan (forming soon)
- Liaison Positions
 - Wetlands Review Board
 - Assembly Lands Commission
 - Juneau Commission on Sustainability
 - Public Works and Facilities Committee

XI. STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Maclean listed upcoming Planning Commission meeting dates.

- Jan 14 COW and training at 5:30pm
- Jan 14 Regular Meeting at 7:00pm
- Jan 28 Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm

Ms. Maclean reported that January 15 will be the kickoff meeting for the South Douglas/West Juneau plan meeting at 5:30, location to be determined. Downtown zoning for Juneau is at a good place. The public comment period will remain open until January 24. After that, they can meet with Title 49 and hopefully get done by August.

The Douglas Downtown zoning meetings may be postponed depending on the status of Downtown zoning.

The Mountain Side Appeal period has lapsed and no appeals have been filed. The settlement was agreed to so that plat is approved and can be recorded.

Time also has run for appeal on the Dougherty case. No date yet for the Assembly/Commission joint meeting but it usually occurs in early February.

Mr. Voelckers asked for clarification regarding the status of the Auke Bay ordinance. Ms. Wright explained the Law Department is working on that now and she expects to have it before the Commission very soon.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

XIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Greg Smith began by congratulating the new officers.

On December 2 the Assembly COW had an update on Telephone Hill property. It is currently owned by the State but there have been indications by the State they are trying to dispose of the property.

At the December 9 Assembly COW meeting they moved a nuisance order and moved the nonconforming Ordinance to the full Assembly and heard the Waterfront Museum concept.

At the December 16 Regular Assembly meeting they authorized the Manager to sell property for the Mendenhall Loop roundabout project. They are also looking into micro mobility devices downtown and will have Ordinances about that coming soon.

At the January 6 COW a two-million-dollar grant was approved for a Senior Housing project in Vintage park area. Other topics discussed include Downtown housing incentives; developing workforce housing; long-term versus short-term rentals; City and Borough wide energy tracking and water use reduction; and waterfront leasing.

Mr. Voelckers asked about the role of Docks & Harbors versus the role of the Assembly regarding tideland leasing, seawalks, and other waterfront items. Mr. Smith answered that the Assembly is trying to remain involved and aware of the larger items that are likely to create a lot of community interest.

Mr. LeVine thanked Greg for putting together for the Assembly honor of Ben Haight.

XIV. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

XV. PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Voelckers asked about if Mr. Winchell would have the opportunity to participate in the training opportunity in February. Ms. Maclean answered that it was still possible for him to attend.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

XVII. ADJOURNMENT - 8:21