



**Haines Borough
Planning Commission
Approved Minutes Excerpts
Related to Highway Reconstruction Project**

August 11, 2005

GOLDBERG explained that the state has reprioritized their transportation improvement projects, and Haines road projects have dropped out, with the Juneau Road Project, Ketchikan Gravina Island bridge and others taking the lion's share of funding. He suggested that the Commission forward a statement to the Assembly regarding the state's decision.

HEINMILLER said that road projects are needed and very valuable to the Borough. Aside from usual maintenance needs the Haines highway needs to be ready to service a pipeline construction project.

June 13, 2013

1. ADOT & PF Haines Highway MP3.5 – MP12 Project

Earnest gave a brief introduction on this state project. ADOT&PF submitted the plans for the Planning Commission's review and comment, and they are expecting to receive comments regarding the project's compliance with the local planning and zoning ordinances.

Benassi said the project is in the bald eagle preserve area that just passes the 10-mile mark, and there are numerous wetlands which are for fish habitat.

Benassi stated that the Planning Commission should pay attention on the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan. One of the goals of the comprehensive plan is to continue planning a wildlife style in Haines. However the state project is in conflict with that goal and the project does not address any issues regarding the bald eagle preserve. And there is another issue related to the speed limit. More animals will be killed if the highway speed limit gets elevated, and a high speed limit will also encourage people speeding that cause car accidents. There is a whole section in the Borough comprehensive plan regarding wetlands regulations, but none of those regulations have been addressed in the state project.

Goldberg said the Planning Commission will bring up this topic again at the next regular meeting and do some research to see if the project is in conflict with the comprehensive plan. The zoning between MP 3.5 and 12 on Haines Highway is general use, which allows

any use and only requires a conditional use permit for high impact uses. The general use zoning is intended to allow as broad a range of land uses as possible.

Benassi said the ADOT&PF destroyed the salmon habitat in the past, and the impacts were severe. Haines has the only bald eagle preserve in the world. It is beyond money in value. As a community, the Borough needs to realize that.

More discussion ensued.

July 11, 2013

1. ADOT & PF Haines Highway MP3.5 – MP12 Project

Earnest said the ADOT & PF is seeking comments regarding the project's compliance with the local planning and zoning ordinances. There will be a public meeting on this project in early August, and a lot of technical questions will be discussed at the meeting.

Benassi said the project as currently proposed could negatively impact local fishing and tourism industries as well as subsistence and cultural values in Haines. The plans require cutting hundreds of resting and roosting trees in the Bald Eagle Preserve area. He is in favor of minimizing impacts to the natural environment.

Earnest said he can answer one of the questions regarding trees. The ADOT & PF officials have expressed that they will avoid 100% of the trees they can.

Weishahn stated the Planning Commission and the Assembly need to stand up, point out what is in our comprehensive plan, and let the ADOT & PF know which parts of the project are in conflict with the comprehensive plan. Also, there are concerns from the tour industry. The primary goal of most of the tourists is to observe wildlife in the natural environment. If this project degraded the natural environment along the roadside corridor, then the opportunities to see wildlife are diminished.

Earnest said he would like to work with

Goldberg to look through the comprehensive plan, mark out and identify the sections that are relevant to the project. He will send the questions and comments back to ADOT & PF.

More discussion ensued.