

MAP COMMENTS

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Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
 Wasilla Meeting, October 1, 2007
 Map Comments

All map comments are entered moving from South to North. Geographical references are used when possible.

Map 1 (Agricultural Area)

No Comments

Map 2 (West)

Willow

- On WACO web site (?) Willow West Gateway Winter Trail System
- Willow West Gateway Winter Trail System = Map
- (connected to comment above) Check for snowmachine trails
- Please in considering the Willow Route stay west of the Red Shirt/Cow Lake/Fish Creek ridge line. The ridge line would be a good sound barrier for Red Shirt and Cow Lake property holders Jon McCracken and Cathy McCracken, Cow Lake property holders
- (Cow Lake indicated south of Red Shirt Lake)
- (Ridge line noted west of Red Shirt and Cow lakes)
- (snowmachine trails marked)

Map 3 (East)

Big Lake

- This is awfully close to my house (marked) would like to see it moved a little father back to cut down on noise

Houston

- Major BL (Big Lake) recreation sites and winter trails

Houston South

- (Horseshoe Lake Firewise Community outlined)
- This is an emergency runway for any aircraft
- Also crosses B.L. Winter trails
- Cathi Kramer 892-7067 Horseshoe Lake Firewise Community Concerns:
 - Decreased property value in an area the (sic) has worked hard
 - Fire potential from rail sparks in a high risk fire area
 - Trail access
- Private Runway 15 acres Emergency access and evacuation. This route cuts property and runway in half and makes property unuasable (sic) Recomend (sic) Willow furtherest (sic) west route
- These routes would ruin the quiet serenity of living in this area
- Gas well (indicated)
- Noise not compatible with homeowners

Houston North

- (Castle Mountain Earthquake Fault indicated)

Map 4 (Central)

No comments

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
 Big Lake Meeting, October 2, 2007
 Map Comments

All map comments are entered moving from South to North. Geographical references are used when possible.

Map 1 (Agricultural Area)

Comment regarding the port

- This is not an open port in the winter.-

Map 2 (West)

Willow

- (Small trails noted periodically along the entire route)
- Please notice this is on the best land to build. Look at other lines proposed.
- Each community (sic) should do everything possible to document trail (sic) so bridges can be built in for trail. That is what this meeting is for (face icon)
- Willow grows/maintains a series of trails in this area (broad area indicated on both sides of the alignment)

Houston

- Anadromous stream from Crooked Lake to Little Su River (drawn in)
- Iron Dog Trail and snow machine trails—Big Lake to Little Susitna River (drawn in)
- Road access to Papose (sic) Lakes (drawn in)
- Wetlands (indicated directly west of Big Lake)

Map 3 (East)

Big Lake

- Notice the roads and subdivisions? This area will only continue to grow—which will be a BIG impact in the future.
- Private, gated community (marked) 16+ full time families. We are here for the solitude and QUIETNESS!
- Designated non-motorized lake for nesting loons.
- Bee yard
- (Parcel noted on North shore of Big Lake) my house. **HUGE Noise pollution to all properties. We hear police and ambulance on Big Lake Road at our house. Whole community will be impacted. Ditto on the other (Houston) route.
- Too close to our homes this would be a wistle (sic) point.
- Business, planned subdivision (outlined)

Houston

- **See comment (on Big Lake alignment above)
- This area floods
- The railroad would cause extensive flooding potential.

Houston South

- Very high risk hazard rating. Get 2006 CWPP—Horseshoe Lake Firewise Community

- This area is used extensively by showmachiners and dog mushers! I would be very concerned about what would happen to this wilderness area, habitat, etc. Please not here! Yuck! (area along Houston South and Little Susitna Recreational Area indicated by arrows).
-

Map 4 (Central)

Houston

- (Snowmachine trails noted periodically)
- Not here (property circled)
- How will your culverts work for trails/crossings in the wetlands, poorly need alternative (arrows leading from the Little Susitna Recreational River area).
- Private sea plane dock and ramp—5000ft floatplane sea port.

Houston South

- 1200 ft. private emergency access and runway. This route ruins our quality of life and the reason we moved out in the Valley.
- Lot 17 N04W11 A012, 17 N04W11 A010 (?) We are building our retirement home use the track and see numerous mushers in our area. We object to having a rail down our driveway and across our property (marked).
- (Snowmachine trails marked)

Houston North

- (Snowmachine trails marked)

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
Willow Meeting, October 3, 2007
Map Comments

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Map 1 (Agricultural Area)

Near Port Area

- Why is a route not being considered to run on the opposite side of Knik arm from the existing railroad and connecting to the existing railroad just south or around #150. I know this would require updating crossings—but isn't that just a cost of doing business?
- I agree (referring to above comment). Stay close to existing roads. Wouldn't that help minimize environmental impact?

Center of connector areas (along Ayrshire Ave. at the boundary of the Point MacKenzie Agricultural Area)

- Snowmachine parking lot (circled)

Map 2 (West)

Willow

- How could it possibly be feasible to build a RR through all those wetlands (Willow corridor) when there are other options?
- 2nd this concern (referencing above comment)!!! Willow Rt. considerable more wetlands impact and necessary fill material. Houston: least impact and they want it!!!
- You should put the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area boundary more clearly on all maps. Make it obvious how the routes would impact it. That Rec Area is mostly NON-MOTORIZED and a RR is at odds with the management intent.
- Big Swamp (outlined)
- *See Willow Trail Plan for better representation [of trails]
- *Lines indicated in red represent trail crossings of the West Gateway Trail System, documented in the Willow Trails Plan submitted to the MSB.
- Corridor 3 will need 10 overpasses for trail access as well as overpasses at roads x3
- For your consideration
 - Fire safety concerns along the rail corridor—
 - New fault lines
 - Environmental impacts
 - Protection from terrorism
 - Economic feasibility
- Willow swamp (indicated)
- Give us trails along the tracks and places to cross often
- Move to existing state of AK right-of-way by MSB Assembly Jan 2003 (possibly 2005)
- Mitigation—wide, how gradient above grade xings at all trails
- Mitigation—parking lots for snow machines and recreational users
- Go through Big Lake—Willow doesn't need another railway dissecting (sic) it!!
- We recreate heavily in this area—my favorite swamp. It will need a culvert. Value our lifestyle as you create changes.
- Let's not sandwich Willow community between two railroads
- What are you going to give us when you take our park?

- Better soils here (marked)
- Private property w/ext(xxxxx) trail system. Please consider moving north or south (area at Y junction/connection to existing line marked)
- This are is a natural for the crossing (indicated)
- Highway curvature and site (sic) lines speed limit 65mph at present

Houston North

- This is Willow, not Houston (area marked)

Map 3 (East)

- Togo Woods Girl Scout Camp noted in area east of Big Lake alignment
- Aurora Dog Musers (indicated west of Big Lake alignment)

Map 4 (Central)

Houston

- Floods! (area near Y of Houston, Houston South, and Houston North)

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
 Knik Meeting, October 4, 2007
 Map Comments

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Map 1 (Agricultural Area)

Mac West

- Baskin Home noted. B&B Farms established 1982. Highly productive hay fields. Irrigation system ¼ mile center pivot.
- 1) Migratory flight plans and 2) use of Point MacKenzie Agricultural Area by migratory critters, as food source?

Mac East

- How provide (sic) access to property owners along RR ROW?

Midway between Mac West and Mac East

- Shown on Board as State-owned; not so.

Map 2 (West)

Willow

- The western route would have fewer at-grade crossings and would be safer and have least impact to traffic—go west!
- (immediately beneath above comment) Not if you consider snow machine traffic—potentially even more danger of serious accidents.
- Free right-of-way
- The eastern routes are better than the Willow one. The area from Red Shirt Lake south is better off undeveloped.
- Properties that are remote need to remain remote for safety/security.
- No noise along remote lakes.
- (Three areas along Red Shirt Lake are marked as 1800s Native Village)
- Very quiet area. We like to keep it quiet/remote. No road access. People around the lake have resisted roads, opening lake up to jet skis etc. So keeping it quiet and remote would be great!
- Worried about vandalism from 4-wheelers coming down the RR right of way (arrow to west of Red Shirt Lake).
- We don't allow personal watercraft. There is no road into Red Shirt. We have fought to keep it as part of the canal trail and more calm—

Suggested Route between Houston and Houston North, removing curves of Houston North

- Less land impact and shorter route.

Map 3 (East)

Big Lake

- 16 mile trail noted (dedicated easement?)
- Iditarod Trail noted (dedicated easement?)
- Wildlife area and fish creek habitat (areas near junction of Iditarod trail and Big Lake alignment circled)

- Aurora dog mushing trails area (circled area south of Big Lake and west of Big Lake alignment).
- Girl Scout/scout lake areas circled
- Mental Health Trust land circled
- Moose area
- Mental Health Trust and Knikatnu land circled.
- MSB land circled
- Herning Trail outlined (dog mushing trails area)
- Lots of moose in burn area

Map 4 (Central)

Houston

- Not here (property on lake west of Houston alignment circled)

Houston South

- Route very close to many recreational/residential properties. Many Anchorage owners—do they know about these meetings? Notice was very short (arrows pointing to lots south of Houston South).

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
Houston Meeting, October 5, 2007
Map Comments

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Map 1 (Agricultural Area)

No comments

Map 2 (West)

Willow

- (Small trails noted periodically along the entire route)
- Major habitat disruption.
- Robinson 373-1112
- Willow Creek State Park
- Willow Creek—salmon, guides, rafting
- Parks Highway

Houston

- (Small trails noted)

Houston North

- (Snow machine trails area noted north of Houston North/South divergence)
- Some high spots not so bad
- Wetland swamp

Map 3 (East)

- Area near Knik—cemetery sites marked
 - Lot 1 V551726
 - Lot 8 V551726
 - Lot 11 V551726
 - Lot 7 V551726
 - V55239B
 - Gov Lot 1
- Federally recognized Native village (Knik)

Big Lake

- Water rights impact? Mapped by BLM
- RS2477 Trail, Indian trail?
- Water rights corridors up to Chase Homesteads—state grant and am??r lakes north subdivision—state grant need to be shown (1911 BLM Map)
- Dana Olson, Nansen ?ten
- Judicial notice A-97219 Federal in comprehensive MSB planning disclaimer: DNR, DOT, DEC, NOAA, EPA
- Olson vs Gamon/USDA excerpt of record is MSB document showing trail on water rights doc establishing apportioned water rights for horses.
- Big Lake Rd to be upgraded to 4 lane

- Good!! (crossed out, "Bad" written)
- 4,000 cars/day (at Big Lake Road junction with Big Lake alignment)
- Busses and H.S. kids crossing tracks
- 11,000 cars/day (at Parks Highway junction with Big Lake alignment)
- Park Cemetary
- Very Congested
- Houston Jr Hi and Hi (circled)

Park areas noted north of existing alignment roughly between the Big Lake and Houston South alignments

Houston

- This Dam (referring to potential dam created by new alignment) will flood this area
- (Referencing above) Agreed! with personal knowledge

Houston South

- Big Lake #2 (arrow)
- Potential development industrial (circled)

Map 4 (Central)

Houston

- (area marked) Salmon spawning stream

Houston South

- VOR approach used for air guard and other training traffic, flying over 2 times daily with large planes @ 500ft. (flight path noted, roughly parallel to Houston South and ending at an area just south of junction)
- The best route

Houston North

- Ducks,, swan, yellowlegs nesting,, very wet, water height fluctuates, fish migrate (salmon) major wetland (area near connection to existing alignment)
- Land is wet but doable (something I can't read)

Map Comments from the Willow Community

A green line and some blue pen lines (indicating a possible alignment(s)?) were drawn starting approximately 6 miles from the divergence of Houston and Willow alignments. The line ran north and east, above the residential development around unnamed lakes, through the Little Susitna Recreational River, and reconnecting to the Houston North Alignment approximately two miles southwest of the Parks Highway.

Notes on the green line read:

- This pathway does not cross the Parks Highway
- Not crossing Parks

The Nancy Lakes State Recreation Area name is circled and boundary outlined.

An area to the northwest of the northern Willow route is circled “our park”.

Notes at the Y intersections of both the Willow and Houston Routes at their junctions with the Parks Highway request that approximately highway mile marks be used “so that people have an idea where the railway is in relation to the Parks Highway.”

Extensive trail system is circled in an area along the Willow route near the developed lakes.

Questions in the margins read:

- Is there fire mitigation included for corridor 3?
- Are you aware that the economic profitability of coal is only 15 years due to increasing federal regulations due to environmental factors of coal—carbon dioxide production & mercury.
- How much land will be impacted by corridor 3—the 2003 survey says 4,556. Is that still accurate?
- Originally an 800 foot right of way was included to accommodate 4-lane divided highway and included a possible fuel storage area—what is present status?
- If the 4-lane divided highway is not included, what would be the economic benefit for Willow?
- Is there a possible commuter/passenger rail line included?