

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
- 4. RECONSIDERATION**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. Regular Meeting Synopsis of November 17, 2009 Page 1
- 6. VISITORS**
  - A. Patti Boily - Mass Transportation
- 7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**
  - A. LID Road Project Update - Public Works Director Meyer
  - B. Road Improvement through the LID Process - Councilmember Roberts Page 5
- 8. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 9. PENDING BUSINESS**
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
  - B. A Petition to the City of Homer from Businesses and Residents in Old Town Re: Bishop's Beach Area Traffic Control Measures Page 7
  - C. Mass Transportation Page 27
- 11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
- 12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER**
- 15. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**
- 16. COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
- 17. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 17, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.**



Session 09-05, a Regular Meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order by Chair Marquardt at 5:41 p.m. on November 17, 2009 at the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Marquardt, Roberts, Velsko

ABSENT: Haina, Smith

STAFF: Public Works Director Meyer  
Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented by consensus of the Commission.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments.

#### RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Synopsis of July 21, 2009

VELSKO/ROBERTS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was brief discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

#### VISITORS

There were no visitors.

#### STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

Public Works Director Meyer provided an update on road projects, including LID requests for improvements in the Crittenden Road area, and Little Fireweed. He explained that some the residents on Little Fireweed got together and pitched in money to get their improvements as they anticipated that the LID would fail. Hopkins Way is on the Council's agenda for road maintenance. There was brief discussion about recent improvements on Freight Dock Road. He advised the Committee that Senator Stevens was in town. The Senator was given a tour around town, shown the water treatment plant, and taken out on the spit as there are several projects out there on the CIP. They talked to him about Main Street and the Main Street/Sterling Highway Intersection. The City has received 2 million dollars for improvements

and now DOT is saying it will be 4 million. Another 2 million has been requested with hopes of that it could also include Main Street, south of Pioneer.

Councilmember Roberts reported that Council is working on a complicated budget this year and there are a lot of tough decisions. The Comprehensive Plan is before the Council right now. There have been some changes to the transportation chapter and they hope to approve it after the first of the year. There was discussion that there have been some negative comments as to what the point of the process is for the Comp Plan. Councilmember Roberts said they are trying to make the document more usable as a working document for the future of the City, not a check list of what is going to be accomplished in a specific timeframe. There was discussion about the Comp Plan and the CIP Lists and in taking a long look at them there have been a lot of things that have been accomplished over the past decade or two.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no public hearings scheduled.

#### **PENDING BUSINESS**

There were no pending business items scheduled.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Approval of the 2010 Meeting Schedule

#### **ROBERTS/VELSKO MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE**

There was brief discussion confirming that their meeting time is still 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the meeting month, and that they can call special meetings if needed.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Public Works Department Impact Report for the 2010 Budget

Public Works Director Meyer explained that Department Heads were asked to provide a budget impact statement for Council's review. He reviewed the report with the Committee and there was discussion about the Public Works budget. Discussion points included:

- With everything Public Works does, they are about half of the general fund budget and just less than half the overall cut.
- Public Works does not have a policy that equipment operators do not have to come back to the public works building to take breaks when they are out working. Some people may perceive that they are just "sitting" there, but it isn't cost effective for them to drive way back into town to take a 15 minute break and drive back out.
- Most department heads have the ability to take a City truck home. Personnel who are on call after hours to respond to water and sewer calls have a vehicle and cell phone.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING SYNOPSIS  
NOVEMBER 17, 2009

- There may be opportunities to reorganize public works as there are some senior people leaving and some new people coming in with different capabilities. Some positions are remaining vacant.
- The City has to maintain a certain level of maintenance. In regard to contracting out services, the City currently uses help from trucks used by local contractors for hauling snow. An hourly rate is paid and they have a list of contractors who participate and are called on a rotating basis.
- The whole idea of privatizing services that the government provides can be problematic. There still has to be an admin staff, people inspecting the work, and so forth. It boils down to level of service and accountability.
- In opposition to privatization, there is a small pool to pull from and prices will increase.
- Other communities have more of a tax base that allows them to fund more services.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

There were no informational items.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

There were no audience comments.

**COMMENTS OF THE STAFF**

Public Works Director Meyer had no further comments. Question was raised whether their question of the week regarding the LIDS for roads had been put out yet. Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen responded that it had been given to the Clerk, but that it had been held off due to election timing and current budget concerns.

**COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER**

Councilmember Roberts thanked the Committee for their input.

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Marquardt had no comment.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

There were no Committee Member comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



As spring arrives in Homer, many citizens' thoughts turn to the condition of their road. The City of Homer Public Works Department indicates they receive the most phone calls about road problems during this time of year. Citizens want to know why their road cannot be improved with gravel or pavement.

The City of Homer does have a program to assist people who live on substandard roads to upgrade the roadway. The program is called the Homer Accelerated Roads Program (HARP). When a group of citizens residing on a road form a Local Improvement District, they can receive substantial assistance from the City of Homer's road improvement fund to upgrade their road. The citizens of Homer voted over 30 years ago to pay 3% sales tax to help neighborhoods improve their roads using the HARP program.

Property owners' are required to pay a portion of the cost of the upgrade. This cost is based on lineal feet of road frontage. The cost to a citizen for improving to a city gravel standard is 30 dollars a foot and to pavement is an additional 17 dollars a foot. The citizen contribution covers approximately 1/3 of the cost; the city's road improvement fund covers the other two thirds. The property owner's costs can be spread out over 10 years with no interest being charged by the City of Homer. For example, if a citizen had 100 feet of road frontage and participated in a paving project, the total cost would be 100 feet times \$47, equaling \$4700. The yearly cost over 10 years would be \$470 a year.

The first step for interested citizens is to approach the City Clerks Office to form a Local Improvement District. A petition must be submitted to the City with the signatures of over 50% of the property owners indicating a willingness to participate in such a project. The city prepares the petitions and circulates them for signatures.

Once the district is formed, the City will design the project and contract with a construction company to complete the work. The whole process usually takes from one year to a year and a half.

Costs for building a road in the Homer area are high. Local contractors estimate the current cost for gravel roadways to be between \$200 and \$250 per foot and paved roadways add an additional \$50 to \$60 per foot. The city program is a great way for neighborhoods to improve the condition of their road and their property values. Once a road is built to city gravel or paved standards, residents can receive regular road maintenance.



CAK  
4/27/10  
PA

13

PETITION TO THE CITY OF HOMER FROM BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN OLD TOWN - BISHOP'S BEACH AREA FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES.

Bunnell Avenue is a community street ending in a dead end. There are many business and families with children residing on this street. As the access to Bishop's Beach, this is a heavily-used community recreational throughfare. As a result, there are just about always people including children, walking and "playing" outside, riding bikes and scooters, and traveling to the beach. Since the city has failed to install sidewalks, people are forced to use the street. There is a sign posted at the intersection of Main and Bunnell indicating a Speed Limit of 20 mph. Unfortunately, that sign is rarely adhered to. There have been numerous accounts of speeders down this road. Several accounts have even been brought to the police departments attention with no avail. I am afraid for my childrens' safety as is other parents and residents of Bunnell Avenue/Bishop's Beach. We would like to see this problem resolved before one of us loses a child or someone gets severley hurt. This is a problem that has gone unchecked for long enough.

**Petition:**

We, the undersigned, are respectfully asking for the installation of speed bumps and a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Bunnell and Beluga (access to Bishop's Beach) to solve this problem. These are requested because of the abundance of people that continually speed down the street with children playing outside and also for the safety of the other residents.

- | name             | signature | address                               |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Mike Sullivan    |           | PO Box 454 Homer AK 99603             |
| Karen Wells      |           | 1175 Queens Cir. 99603                |
| Susan Forward    |           | 4042 Pennock St. 99603                |
| ETHEL WALT       |           | 70 Box 1246 HOMER                     |
| JOHN T COWAN     |           | 121 SKYLINER HOMER 99603              |
| NANTIA KRISINA   |           | 4415 EARLY SPRING ST. HOMER AK 99603. |
| LARY J. KUHNS    |           | Box 2694 Homer                        |
| David Kenner     |           | HOMER, AK 99603                       |
| Roberta Hood     |           | Homer AK 99603                        |
| Nick Lancaster   |           | Jenneg Lane #7 Homer AK 99603         |
| Michey [unclear] |           | PO Box 2534                           |
| DAVID SCHNEIDER  |           | 606 HIDDEN WAY HOMER                  |
| Lorna Sparks     |           | PO Box 274 HOMER                      |

13

*please sign*

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name signature address

- Erikka Anderson [Signature] Po Box 2918, Homer
- Bethune Nehus Bethune Nehus 210 W Bayview Home
- Bob Nehus Robert Nehus 210 W Bayview, Homer
- Beauregard Burgess [Signature] PO Box 2311 Homer
- Vesta Elliott [Signature] 40650 Beluga Homer AK 99603
- Robert Stork [Signature] 64553 D. Amundson Ln Homer AK
- Donna Beran [Signature] PO 1233, Homer / 3795 EERD Homer AK
- Margan Sicilia Magajick [Signature] 507 Waddell St Home
- Trent Leggett [Signature] P.O. Box 2067 Homer, AK,
- Callie Gates Callie Gates 394 Naview Ave Homer
- TORREY SHORT [Signature] 394 Naview Ave Homer AK
- Jessa Drais [Signature] 106 W Bunnell/Homer
- Michelle Waneka [Signature] 894 Lupine Ct, Homer

13

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name signature address

DEAN VERBURGT *[Signature]* 106 E BAYVIEW

STEVE COLLINS *[Signature]* 577 GRUBSTAKE

Mitchell Brackin *[Signature]* BOX 27 Homer

Daniel Katz 3830 Main St. C Homer

Stacey Bucklew *[Signature]* 5238 Whispering Mdn

Kathleen Bilcher 517 Price St Anch. 99508

Bob Shavelson *[Signature]* 705 W. Fairview, Homer

Amy Alderfer *[Signature]* 617 Sandview Homer

Eve Matkin *[Signature]* 2030 Mary Allen Ave Homer, AK

Travis Brown *[Signature]* PO Box 113 Homer, AK

ANDREW POULAK *[Signature]* PO Box 146 HOMER, AK

MAUREEN NUNTER 1407 BAY AVE Homer

*[Signature]*

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17

name signature address

Tolya Storaasli [Signature] 2349 99603

Molly [Signature] 99603

Clair Henderson [Signature] 64525 Fitzman 99603

Karyn [Signature] 106 [Signature] 99603

Bradley Kuehl Homer AK

Glenna Shirts 543 Wadker, Homer

Nancy Krocklage 353 Jenny Way Apt. C

Michelle Hunter 4135 Hobe St., Homer AK

Karen Senoff 2298 Mt Augustine Homer AK

Sharon Brooks Sharon Brooks 4175 Hobe Homer

Mike Finnicum 3 Pitt

Dana Roberts Dana Roberts PO Box 3532 Homer AK

[Empty lines for additional signatures]

PETITION TO THE CITY OF HOMER FROM BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN OLD TOWN - BISHOP'S BEACH AREA FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES.

9

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name	signature	address
VALERIE MCBRIDE	<i>valerie mcbride</i>	510021 Hank Lane
Eartha Lee	<i>Eartha Lee</i>	4254 Kachemak Dr. Homer, AK 99603-8101
Chelsea Horn	<i>Chelsea Horn</i>	P.O. Box 1103 Homer, AK 99603
JARED BAKER	<i>Jared Baker</i>	PO Box 3591 Homer, AK 99603
Hayley Norris	<i>Hayley Norris</i>	PO Box 1082 Homer, AK 99603
DEREK REYNOLDS	<i>Derek Reynolds</i>	3585 E. End Rd. #19 HOMER, AK 99603
YAN KANDROR	<i>Yan Kandror</i>	Box 15427 FRITZ CREEK AK, 99603
Christopher	<i>Christopher</i>	PO Box 2822 Homer, AK 99603
Helean Brant	<i>Helean Brant</i>	PO BOX 765 HOMER, AK 99603

4

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name \_\_\_\_\_ signature \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

ERD S. WALLI E. Stev. Walli PO. Box 1266 HOMER 99603

Adrienne Sweeney Adrienne Sweeney 135 W. Bunnell Homer

Marie E. Walli Marie Walli PO BOX 1266 Homer 99603

Haily Cox Haily Cox P.O. BOX 2108 HOMER

Bjorn Olson Bjorn Po Box 237 Homer

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name \_\_\_\_\_ signature \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

Stuart Schumacher JASA PO 3576

ROBERT DAVIS HOMER AK

Andrew Haas [Signature] 350 BOWLING, HOMER AK

Marianne Aelic [Signature] 4290 JEFF CT. HOMER AK 99603

Ray Clapp [Signature] P.O. Box 4034 HOMER

Kelly Clapp [Signature] PO Box 4034 HOMER, AK 99603

Rene Handil [Signature] Box 2160 HOMER

Cheryl Brinkerhoff C Brinkerhoff PO Box 92 HOMER

ORIANA BADAJOS [Signature] P.O. Box 2256 HOMER

ELLEN CHAMBERS [Signature] PO Box 408 HOMER

Rachel Lord [Signature] 602 SHELFISH AVE HOMER.

Pat Irwin [Signature] 939 Ocean Dr Lp HOMER

6  
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name	signature	address
Michael Walsh	<i>[Signature]</i>	106 West Bunnell <sup>SW</sup>
Seth Sticksod (Homer Music)	<i>[Signature]</i>	177 E Bunnell St.
Joe Miles	<i>[Signature]</i>	177 E Bunnell Ave
Tim Easton	<i>[Signature]</i>	177 E. Bunnell Ave.
J KRIBZESKI	<i>[Signature]</i>	Natalie Circle
Max B...	<i>[Signature]</i>	4610 Thomas Ct

6

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name \_\_\_\_\_ signature \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_

Holly Elkington Holly Elkington 33900 Raton St. Homer

ANNETTE HUFFNAGLE Annette Huffnagle, 4586 EARLY SPRING, HOMER

Jewel Jones Jewel Jones 205 E. Bunnell

Pat Schmitzer Pat Schmitzer 1582 Ocean Dr Homer

Alana Greear Alana Greear P.O. Box 2156 Homer

Jahnie Triplett J. Triplett 5400S EAST END <sup>the</sup> <sub>AK</sub>

Blank lined area for additional signatures and addresses.

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name	signature	address
LATROYE WILLIAMS		367 S OGDEN AVE
TOBIAS TUCKER		37157 RASCAL LN. ANCHORAGE, AK
NANCY JOHNSON		Box 1704 Homer AK 99603
Barbara D Kaun		522 Waddell Ave Homer, AK 99603 Emailing; PO Box 35
Lore Sanders		1360 961 5282
		1907 299 2189
Mike Stone		3996 Highway of Homer, AK
Billy tender		1360 227 8928



12

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name signature address

Dave Lyon [Signature] Bx 47, Homer

Pamela Baltzer Pamela Baltzer PO Box 895, Homer

Michael Hiller [Signature] 2141 Frisbee Ct Homer

Louise Segole [Signature] Po Box 47 Homer

ERIC CLARKE [Signature] Box 2741 Homer

ANGELA McBRIDE ~~[Signature]~~ 371690 GREEN RD #3 Homer

Magdalena Wyatt [Signature] 4459 E. Hill Rd. Homer

Kewyn Jalone [Signature] Bx 456 Homer

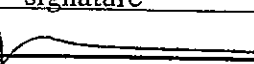
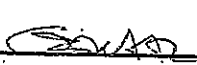
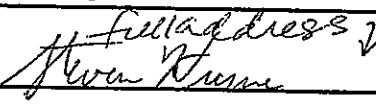
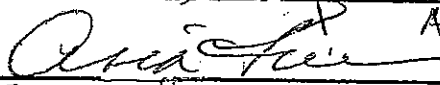

DAVID [Signature] Box 856 HOMER

CAM FORBES [Signature] Box 1248 Homer

7

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name	signature	address
GRACE SMITH		MISSION RD
OSCAR TARDUE		seaside farms
Corner P&S		Gran Drive
Steve Hume		full address ↓ PO Box 2462
Adelle Gronig		106 W Bunnell St D
Asia Freeman		106 W Bunnell St A
GUNNAR PERSON		106 W BUNNELL STED

18

Pedestrian Advocacy Interest List

<u>name</u>	<u>email</u>
Shenola Roman	399-3707
Amy Hockenbery	299-0649
Erika Arndt	235-9300

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20

name . signature address

Jim Hamilton [Signature] P.O. Box 2118 Homer

Eileen Mullen [Signature] P.O. 1394 Homer

Leah M. Torres [Signature] P.O. Box 1565

Daniel Katz 3830 Main St C 99603

JLO Teta O'Donnell P.O. Box 2968 99603

Mark Schollenberger Mark Schollenberger Box 3593 Homer

David [Signature] K [Signature] P.O. Box 68 Homer 1

[Signature] Dara Scott 426 Grubstake Ave Homer 99603

Amy Alexandra Amy Alexandra Box 1169 Homer

John J. Mccann [Signature] 1531 Hillside Dr Homer 99603

Nell Gustafson Nell Gustafson 1039 Barnett Pl / P.O. Box 4144 Homer AK 99603

Carlynn Norton [Signature] 332 E Pioneer #4

STONE HOFFMAN [Signature] [Signature]

Heather Brinster [Signature] 4610 THOMAS CT

Lise Klein Kiersis [Signature] 4064 Cathlamet Homer

Brian Partridge [Signature] 60550 Bridge Creek Homer

Olya von Geysen P.O. 15191 FL

John Mario [Signature] P.O. 1436 Hedrick AK

Carrie [Signature] P.O. 15161 FRIED CREEK

Thaddeus [Signature] [Signature]

19

Petition:

We, the undersigned, are respectfully asking for the installation of speed bumps and a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Bunnell and Beluga (access to Bishop's Beach) to solve this problem. These are requested because of the abundance of people that continually speed down the street with children playing outside and also for the safety of the other residents.

name signature address

- Gabe Chapin *Gabe Chapin* PO 1136 AP 99556
- Angelia Forbes *Angelia Forbes* 4697 Sabrina Rd.
- Robert Schulmeister *Robert Schulmeister* 40953 Crested Cran <sup>Homer</sup>
- Randen* Homer AK
- Adam Brinster Homer AK
- Nancy VAIT Homer, AK POB 1532
- Kammi Matson 127 E Bunnell Ave. Homer, AK 99601
- Jim Stearns Box 1455 Homer AK 99603
- Ola Mallikin *Ola Mallikin* Homer
- Samantha Cunningham Homer AK 99603
- Willy Dumler *Willy Dumler* Box 10043 Fritz Creek
- Ryan Lee Homer AK
- Mark Lantz Homer AK
- Tricia Gilman Homer AK
- Libby Bushell *Libby Bushell* Homer, AK
- Pete Meshou Homer, AK
- Catie Bursch *Catie Bursch* 2233 Mt. Avs Dr Homer, AK
- Mike Goss 4301 Kachona dr. Homer Alaska
- Michael Smith *MS* 4095 ALPASKAW

13

PETITION TO THE CITY OF HOMER FROM BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN OLD TOWN - BISHOP'S BEACH AREA FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES.

Bunnell Avenue is a community street ending in a dead end. There are many business and families with children residing on this street. As the access to Bishop's Beach, this is a heavily-used community recreational throughfare. As a result, there are just about always people including children, walking and "playing" outside, riding bikes and scooters, and traveling to the beach. Since the city has failed to install sidewalks, people are forced to use the street. There is a sign posted at the intersection of Main and Bunnell indicating a Speed Limit of 20 mph. Unfortunately, that sign is rarely adhered to. There have been numerous accounts of speeders down this road. Several accounts have even been brought to the police departments attention with no avail. I am afraid for my childrens' safety as is other parents and residents of Bunnell Avenue/Bishop's Beach. We would like to see this problem resolved before one of us loses a child or someone gets severley hurt. This is a problem that has gone unchecked for long enough.

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Anna  
Zema

name	signature	address
Anna Zema	Anna Zema	106 W. Bunnell Homer AK 99603
Carin Davis	Carin Davis	PO 146 Homer AK 99603
Elisa Russ	Elisa Russ	PO Box 15152 Ritz Creek, AK 99603
Kathy Smith	Kathy Smith	PO Box 3099 Homer AK 99603
Lynn Madell	Lynn Madell	PO Box 2716 Homer AK 99603
Norma Hayes	Norma Hayes	5840 E. Hill Rd - Homer
Nonda O'Neil	Nonda O'Neil	PO Box 1797 Homer
Lynn Berland	Lynn Berland	PO Box 9161 Homer
SERGE LECOMTE	SERGE LECOMTE	65330 Knob Hill Rd 99556
Jaz Telly	Jaz Telly	41195 Tuckington Circle <sup>Homer</sup> 99603
Cristine Whiting	Cristine Whiting	515 Norview Ave 99603
Doreen Chester	Doreen Chester	57991 Glacier View Rd Homer 99603
Traci Semmings	Traci Semmings	41020 Ruth Way, Homer AK 99603

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name	signature	address
Sharon Barr	Sharon Barr	Homer AK
MARSHA KORPI	Marsha Korpi	" "
Ben Spilbury	Ben Spilbury	Homer AK
Louis Martinez	Louis Martinez	Homer AK
Susan McJoy	Susan McJoy	Homer, AK
Norona Forbes	Norona Forbes	Homer
Susannah Webster	Susannah Webster	Homer, AK
Heather Renner	Heather Renner	Homer, AK
Dorinda Poyss	Dorinda Poyss	Homer, AK
Moneca Krenn	Moneca Krenn	Homer, AK
Jocelyn Shiro Westphal	Jocelyn Shiro Westphal	Homer, AK
Paula Kulhanek	Paula Kulhanek	Homer, AK
Gene Lewandowski	Gene Lewandowski	Homer, AK

PETITION TO THE CITY OF HOMER FROM BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS IN OLD TOWN - BISHOP'S BEACH AREA FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES.

(37)

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name	signature	address
Anna Raupp		135 Cityview, Homer AK
ELIZABETH McMURPHY		Adelphi spit Rd Homer AK
Shondia Roman		PO Box 3644 Homer AK
ABBEY		54145 Frontier Ln. Homer, AK
Cheryl Brennan		233 E. BUNNELL Homer AK
Natalia Taeschner		P.O. Box 1224, Homer, AK
Jamie McCloud		Box 1246 Homer AK
Kimberlee McNett		Charles WA, Homer AK
Lawrence Livingston		178 E Bunnell Homer AK
D Seaman		PO box RDO Homer AK 99603
Jessi Dullinger		P.O. box 3517, Homer
Deland Anderson		137 MT View Dr, Homer
ALEXANDRA STAR		3430 Main St. #A.





**Sandhill cranes show off in the morning sun near Homer. The cranes migrate to Homer and the surrounding area each year from their winter homes in California and Washington.**

HOMER TRIBUNE/Ryan Ridge

# Is Homer ready for mass transportation?

Community gets serious about a public bus system

By Naomi Klouda  
Homer Tribune

A woman on Social Security recently paid \$130 for a taxi home from a doctor's appointment in Soldotna. That represents quite a chunk on a limited income.

"This is pretty bad. We're affecting people's lives by looking the other way when we see these difficulties," Bob Crosby told a group of professionals who gathered last week to brainstorm a way to get public

transit going in Homer. Crosby serves as the Ninilchik Traditional Council's Indian Housing Program director.

Joyanna Geisler, executive director of the Independent Living Center, said some 125 people receive transportation vouchers to help them get around town — including to doctor's appointments and other places. She called the voucher system, "limited and costly," with Anchor Point residents paying \$40 for a taxi trip to Homer. Nearly half of that is covered by the voucher, with the remainder paid out-of-pocket.

exotic birds

Were on a 24-mile-long island of wonderful white sand that won't be white much longer, Milford said. The spill is in the Gulf of Mexico and we're behind them. We were told to expect to see a little bit of oil and materials infiltrating our beaches in 8-10 days.

This notice went out on the city's website. The City of Gulf Breeze is carefully monitoring the oil spill situation. While no progress has been made in terminating the flow of oil, a dome to cap the flow and/or a drilling procedure to stop the flow are being planned. Santa Rosa County Emergency Operations has asked that you please report any sighting of oil to BP.

Residents are also asked to take photographs of their property.

Gulf Breeze was hit in 2004 by Hurricane Ivan and struck again by Hurricane Dennis in 2005. When Katrina landed, the outskirts of the town suffered further upheaval, Milford said.

SEE SPILL PAGE A7

A public transportation system would need to stretch from Fritz Creek to Anchor Point to help clients access Homer for their services. The group also plans for two-or-three times a week trips to Ninilchik as well.

For just over \$100,000, LSC Transportation Consultants Inc., has been preparing reports for the towns of Homer and Seward, as well as for the central Kenai Peninsula. David Kruttsinger, a transportation planner, was in Homer on Wednesday to conduct public meetings; first with health providers, SEE TRANSPORTATION, PAGE A8

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# Transportation

Continued from Page A1

taxi owners and other professionals, and later with the general public.

The money for the study was obtained from the Central Area Rural Transportation Services, which is a transportation brokerage for the communities of Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski and Kasilof. Transportation brokerages have caught on in rural areas of the United States, and this approach seems to fit rural Alaska as well. CARTS is expected to be a model for the rest of Alaska.

Under LSC Transportation's guidance, Seward is further along with its plans for a bus that would operate in the summer months, getting tourists and residents around town. They are paying for their operation with cruise tax money funneled to the City of Seward from the state.

A bus service is a long way down the road for Homer, but what it would take to develop is getting spelled out in specifics.

"In mid-May I will have the write-up to present that will outline the details more," Krutsinger said. He will map out routes, timing and trip amounts for a five-day service, as well as cost estimates.

Krutsinger has worked to help get public transit started in communities in upper Wisconsin, Montana and Arkansas.

"In northern Wisconsin, it's a similar situation," Krutsinger explained. "You have existing senior programs and existing human service providers, and they are working to put together services."

The bus system his report spells out has multiple users and will serve the general population as well.

According to Krutsinger's research, it will cost about \$147,000 a year to operate for Homer and about \$75,000 to provide a route extending to Anchor Point. Up-front costs are \$400,000, with about half needing to be raised as a local match for federal funding. A government or tribal agency needs to be the "champion" in order to leverage federal funding, Krutsinger said. On the board, he listed entities that should be approached for backing, including the City of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, as well as the State.

One of the obstacles to overcome is getting potential riders to hub areas where they can board a bus. Public Health Nurse Judy Dean said the clients she serves often live in remote places. A voucher system utilizing taxis to get people to the hub area would be

less expensive in the long run, than getting them round-trip to Homer from the North Fork Road, she pointed out.

And Krutsinger said the process is not as simple as just purchasing a bus like the People Mover in Anchorage. Homer Seniors, school buses, the Homer Stage Line and taxi companies provide a patchwork of transportation options and are used to help envision what a new system might look like. He envisions a van with a wheelchair lift as one of the up-front purchases.

School buses could provide some options, since those are leased out by the hour. The route back from Chapman School in Anchor Point returns empty each night to Homer. That would be one opportunity to pick up riders, a representative from First Student told the group.

The consultant asked the group if they feel it would be worthwhile to have a route down to the Homer Spit. Four months of the year would be good, he was told, because then those who work on the Spit, as well as tourists, would be able to ride.

Fare prices alone wouldn't be enough to cover more than fuel, some concluded. Also, there may need to be a reservation system at first for points along the route in order to access the people wanting to ride. And it will take several years of operation to accumulate riders and to fine-tune reliable time arrivals.

"Now we need to get to the money question," Krutsinger said. "Are we dreaming, or are we structuring something we can get to?"

Geisler said she believes it's possible.

"If there is community support from various providers, as well as the city and borough, we could probably increase transportation options for folks in the Homer area," she said. "My personal goal is to use as much public enterprise as we can; a patchwork of cabs and expanding the voucher program we have now. Taxis do well at the 'demand jobs,' where a person knows they need to go at 5 p.m. on Friday and can arrange that in advance. Cab companies are really good at that. So now we need to make those rides affordable."

Taxi owners were present at the meeting as well, agreeing they would like to be part of any public transportation system put in place.

Additional Homer and Anchor Point residents likely would opt to take the bus, leaving their cars at home, if that were a choice, members of the group said.

"One thing that would help is if we can capitalize on the sustainability piece," Geisler said. "There's really a niche for that in Homer. We would be smart to pick up momentum on that."

The next meetings regarding public transportation issues will be May 26. Service providers meet from 1-3 p.m. at the Kachemak Bay Campus, with another public meeting held from 5-7 p.m. Krutsinger said the public portion this past week was not well-attended. He wants the word to get out so that his plan can incorporate thoughts from the general public.

# EcoL

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