

WHITTIER MOVES TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN



Open House No. 1 Summary

Open House Information

- Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
5015 Business Park Boulevard, Suite 1200, Anchorage, Alaska
- Friday, September 12, 2025, from 4:00 – 5:45 PM
Whittier Community School Gym, Portage Street, Whittier, Alaska

Notice & Advertising

Open house meetings were advertised via:

- Website (www.whittiermoves.com)
- Constant Contact email notification
- DOT&PF Online Public Notice
- Postcard mailer
- Radio (Alaska Public Media KSKA)
- Newspaper (Anchorage Daily News)
- Flyers

Open House Overview

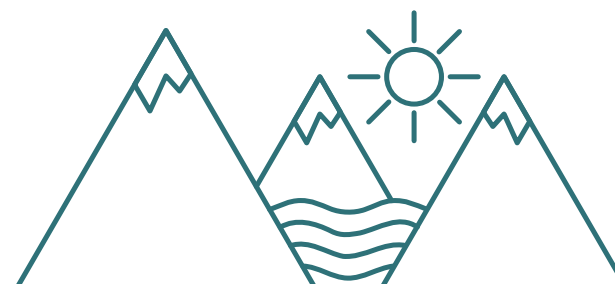
The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in coordination with the City of Whittier (Whittier), hosted the first round of public open houses for the Whittier Moves Transportation Master Plan (Whittier Moves) on September 10 in Anchorage and September 12 in Whittier. The events were designed to provide an informal, interactive setting for community input. Information boards displaying details about Whittier Moves were arranged around the room for attendees to review at their own pace. A central roll plot map of Whittier invited participants to mark locations with their ideas, concerns, and suggestions. A dedicated comment table was also available for written feedback.

Throughout the meeting, members of the planning team were available to answer questions, gather input on transportation issues and needs in Whittier, and discuss potential solutions.

Summary of Comments

Anchorage Open House

- Add shuttle service to improve visitor and resident mobility
- Improve directional and wayfinding signage
- Designate more space for motorcoach and shuttle bus parking



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- Improve tunnel ventilation to move vehicles through more efficiently; add more safe houses if needed
- Seek transit grants to support shuttle services
- Enforce two-hour parking limits
- Provide more parking for city use at the ferry terminal
- Eliminate Harbor Triangle parking to improve pedestrian access
- Relocate the airstrip to Billings Glacier
- Relocate the ferry terminal to Emerald Cove
- Address congestion and pedestrian safety concerns on Harbor View Drive and the main road
- Fix the museum sign that currently points to nowhere
- Develop a public kayak launch with trailer and vehicle parking
- Install more tsunami signage and establish clear plans/routes
- Advertise Whittier as the cruise destination (instead of Anchorage) and showcase local amenities
- Recognize Whittier as an essential intermodal connection point (23 USC 218)
- Add 16 more safe houses and fan arrays for the tunnel
- Utilize DOT&PF right-of-way near the staging area
- Address issues with only one rail crossing at the ARRC staging area
- Consider a shuttle system from the Bear Valley side of the tunnel or shuttle/parking options within Whittier
- Resolve railroad and pedestrian conflicts at the Railroad Passenger Platform

Whittier Open House

- Create a scenic viewing spot for waterfalls
- Add a pedestrian crossing to the Portage Pass Trailhead
- Swap the Huna Totem dock with the railroad freight dock to improve use of waterfront space
- Expand and improve the pedestrian network
- Address winter maintenance needs, which are currently a low priority for DOT&PF but are essential for businesses and emergency planning
- Build more infrastructure to support active transportation (walking, biking, etc.)
- Consider a road on the south side of the train tracks to provide a grade-separated crossing at Whittier Street



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- Designate and add snow storage sites to planning maps
- Make sure cruise company operations do not block sidewalks
- Develop a pedestrian pathway under the railroad and/or state bridge at Whittier Creek
- Mark Whittier Creek Trail and the Horsetail Falls connector trail clearly on maps
- Provide rental bikes or scooters at the waterfront
- Improve pedestrian connectivity at the harbor front
- Install wayfinding signage durable enough to withstand heavy winds
- Implement traffic slow-down measures for trucks coming from the rail yard
- Create a clear pedestrian pathway from the tunnel to the Harbor Triangle
- Improve drainage in the pedestrian tunnel
- Designate parking for businesses in the Harbor Triangle
- Ensure fire hydrant access is maintained
- Add bike lockers for secure storage
- Provide public kayak launch and parking facilities
- Install kayak racks for paddlers traveling between Head of the Bay and Smitty's Cove
- Develop a small boat harbor at Shotgun Cove



Image 1: Attendees gathered around the roll plot at the Anchorage Open House.



Image 2: Coloring sheets from the Whittier Open House.

