

WHITTIER MOVES TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN



Student Engagement Workshop

Workshop Information

Friday, September 12, 2025, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Whittier Community School: Portage St, Whittier, AK 99693

Purpose

Introduce students to the transportation master planning process and gather input on their transportation experiences and perspectives within their community.

Method

Use appropriate age activities to help students share how they travel, where they go, and what challenges they experience. Students were broken into two groups:

1. Elementary
2. Middle and high school

Workshop Overview

Elementary Students

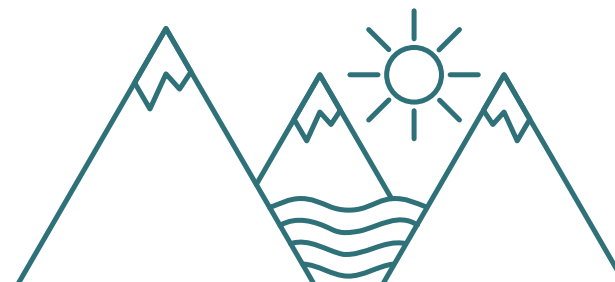
The planning team provided a five-minute overview on transportation master planning. Afterwards, students received a Whittier Moves coloring sheet, and the planning team engaged with them as they colored. Students shared the careers they hope to have in the future and discussed the types of transportation they may use to get to their future job.

Middle & High School Students

The planning team provided a five-minute overview on transportation master planning, led by Judy Chapman (DOT&PF). Afterwards, students received a map of the project area with guiding questions and were asked to mark up and provide their responses on the map. The planning team engaged with students throughout the workshop.

Summary of Comments

- Shuttle service requested between Whittier Manor and the school
- Some students live outside of Begich Towers (BTI), creating unique transportation needs
- Interest in speed bumps near City Hall and the school for safety



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- Concern that the pedestrian tunnel gets snowed in during winter, raising safety and tsunami evacuation concerns
- Requests for smoother roads
- Desire for umbrellas or covered walkways for weather protection
- Interest in additional trails, specifically connecting Whittier Creek to Horsetail Falls
- Suggestion for a bikeshare program around town
- Need for a stop sign (instead of a yield) on the steep hill near the Manor
- Concern about slippery conditions in winter
- Large vehicles on Depot Road from Alaska Marine Lines (AML)/Depot Road create challenges for accessing Smitty's Cove due to poor pedestrian facilities and steep grades
- Pedestrian problems noted near the ARRC passenger platform
- Confusion around signage near the cruise ship terminal, especially about public vs. private property
- Call for better signage at the tunnel staging area
- Traffic congestion when unloading cruise ship passengers causes people to miss the tunnel; similar issues happen in the tunnel itself
- High wind concern raised about the tram/gondola proposal (from public survey)
- General interest in more sidewalks throughout the community

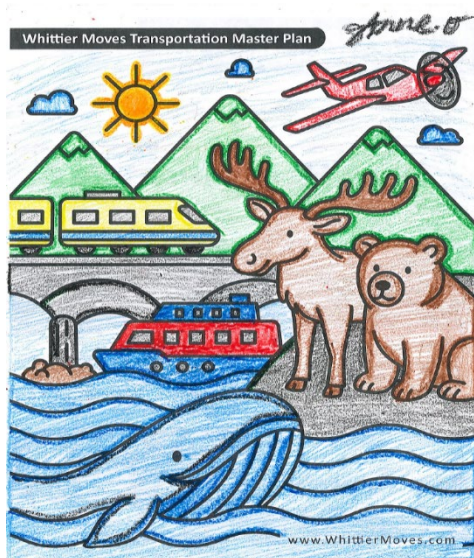


Image 1: Coloring sheet used for the elementary student workshop.

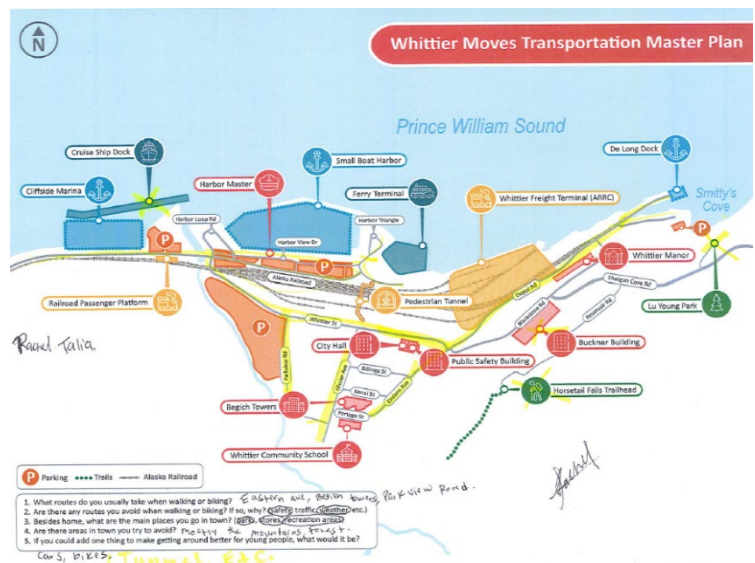


Image 2: Marked up map from the middle/high school student workshop.

