

Roles of the Spenard Road Safety Project Advisory Committee

What is a Project Advisory Committee?

- A project advisory committee is a representative group of potentially affected parties that meets regularly to discuss the project.
- It provides a sounding board for ideas and strategies that the project team develops, or the Committee develops during the process, to solve a particular transportation problem.
- The committee's representation is broad by design. The diversity of viewpoints in the committee will ensure a full discussion of project issues and needs.
- It will receive project briefings and information that will allow the discussion to be based on facts, figures and details.
- The committee's input is very important and can affect the project outcome.

What is the role of the participant in the Project Advisory Committee?

- Receive detailed project briefings to understand the full breadth of the problem to be solved.
- Be an active listener—listening to the project team and to other project advisory Committee participants.
- Ask lots of questions to gain as broad an understanding of the project development process and the project corridor—its physical features, use, existing traffic conditions, etc., as possible.
- Provide input to the project team based on their individual knowledge and experience. In other words, speak for yourself. A member's role in the community, as a business leader, resident, community council representative, etc., will be reflected in your preferences, etc.
- Discuss the project with neighbors, co-workers, friends and business associates and share the insights from these conversations with the project team.

What is the role of the Project Team in the Project Advisory Committee?

- To provide information on the project development process.
- To inform the group about the project corridor—highway characteristics, crash statistics, right-of-way width, how it operates, project constraints.

- To provide technical expertise to help the project advisory committee comprehend various strategies available to solve problems in the corridor.
- To give timely notice of meetings and distribution of documents.
- To answer project advisory committee questions.

Why convene a Project Advisory Committee?

- The project team benefits from the broader experience and vision of the participants.
- Public input is a prerequisite for spending federal dollars.
- The project recommendations receive wide acceptance when more community voices created the preferred alternative.
- More viewpoints and local knowledge are reflected in project alternatives, i.e., pedestrians, walkers, public transportation users, etc.
- A project advisory committee is an efficient expenditure of public funds--ADOT&PF and consultant staff time is valuable.

How will the Project Advisory Committee's recommendations be reflected in the project?

- The goal of the committee will be to reach consensus on discussion points and assist in developing recommendations and strategies for solving the problem.
- Project advisory Committee recommendations will be reflected in the project strategies and recommendations.
- All project advisory Committee meetings will be documented in meeting notes that become a part of the permanent record of the project's development.

Who will make the final decisions for the project?

For the Spenard Road Safety project, the decision-makers are the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FHWA has final authority over the project recommendation as the funding agency.