



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis
Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
Environmental Impact Statement

EI-7102

DRAFT SCOPE OF STUDY COMMENT FORM

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, under the heading "E-Filing."

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35095 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. Comment deadline is: March 21, 2008

Please consider the Willow Chamber Of Commerce's position on the Willow Railroad corridor as attached in these two letters addressed to to whom it may concern dated Jan 5 2007 and March 5 2008.

Thank You -
Jim Huston

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

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Jim Huston Willow Chamber
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Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

David Navecky
STB Finance Docket No. 35095
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423



Willow Chamber of Commerce

March 5, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Willow Chamber of Commerce and the silent Majority of Willow residents. I would like it known to all that we are strongly in favor of the Willow Railroad Corridor.

The Willow Corridor is an opportunity to plan and build for the future. Presently, Willow is right on "Track" to become another Wasilla. Both communities settled around the railroad for convenience sake only to find that thousands of homes, cars, and people later that though the love affair isn't over but it's better to be a little further apart.

With the probability of many new freight trains per day, rumbling by our homes and across our access roads, we have definite quality of life and safety concerns. The other corridor alignments do nothing to lessen our conflicts.

We sincerely hope that the Port McKenzie to Willow railroad route is the start of responsible development, that teams with a new highway, that will lessen the growing pressures on our present transportation systems.

Recreational trails are important to our locals, so much so that some Willowites have supported the Houston Rail Alignment. The business leaders of Willow, however, have confidence that the underpasses will be built along the best alignment possible-The Port McKenzie to Willow Route.

Willow never became the capital of Alaska, which may or may not be a good thing. If we were the capital though, I am sure our transportation systems and our access roads would have received more attention. We view the possibility of new rail and new roads through Willow as a favorable addition to our community. Let's plan them and build them.

Thank you,



Jim Huston, President
Willow Chamber of Commerce

Willow Chamber of Commerce

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Willow Chamber of Commerce

January 5, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Willow Chamber of Commerce has reviewed the Point McKenzie to Willow Railroad Corridor and gives strong support to its development. We have considered many aspects of a new corridor and feel that the overall benefits outweigh the negatives. We feel that this new railway alignment will lessen the number of trips through our most populated areas and there will be less negative impact in the more remote westerly route. It is our most sincere wish that the railroad designers can work closely with our local trails committee to ensure that there are adequate under passes at strategic locations to accommodate east-west trail systems.

With proper planning we hope that this new corridor can parallel an improved north-south trail system that will better connect Willow and the upper valley with Big Lake and beyond.

Please consider the Willow Chamber of Commerce as your partners in serving the Valley. Please keep in mind that we hope to have the return of a train depot at the historic Willow location serving a growing local and tourist need.

Above is a copy of our position letter on the corridor. Not mentioned is the obvious point that the railroad corridor will also be the route for the gas line, which is gaining support to the port.

Economics will push the railroad and gas corridors with or without Willow resident approval. It is wise for us to work with our rich Uncle Sam to meet our needs during the planning and construction processes.

Thank you,

Jim Huston, President

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