



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning and Environmental Linkages Study

Public Open House and Comment Period #1 Summary

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and
Kodiak Island Borough

February 2026



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.



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Abbreviations

DOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
hwy	highway
KIB	Kodiak Island Borough
mph	mile(s) per hour
PEL	Planning and Environmental Linkages



1 Study Overview

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in partnership with the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB), initiated a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study (also known as the Kodiak PEL Study) to explore options for replacing aging bridge structures and addressing flooding concerns around Sargent Creek and Russian River near Womens Bay on Kodiak Island (Figure 1-1). Two bridges—Sargent Creek Bridge #0989 and Russian River Bridge #0990—are more than 45 years old, and DOT&PF inspections have identified a need for bridge repair and/or replacement. In 2022, KIB received Bridge Investment Program funding from the Federal Highway Administration to begin addressing bridge and flooding issues as well as developing long-term, sustainable solutions that preserve infrastructure and maintain vital connectivity. This grant is funding 50 percent of the PEL study, which DOT&PF is leading in close collaboration with KIB.

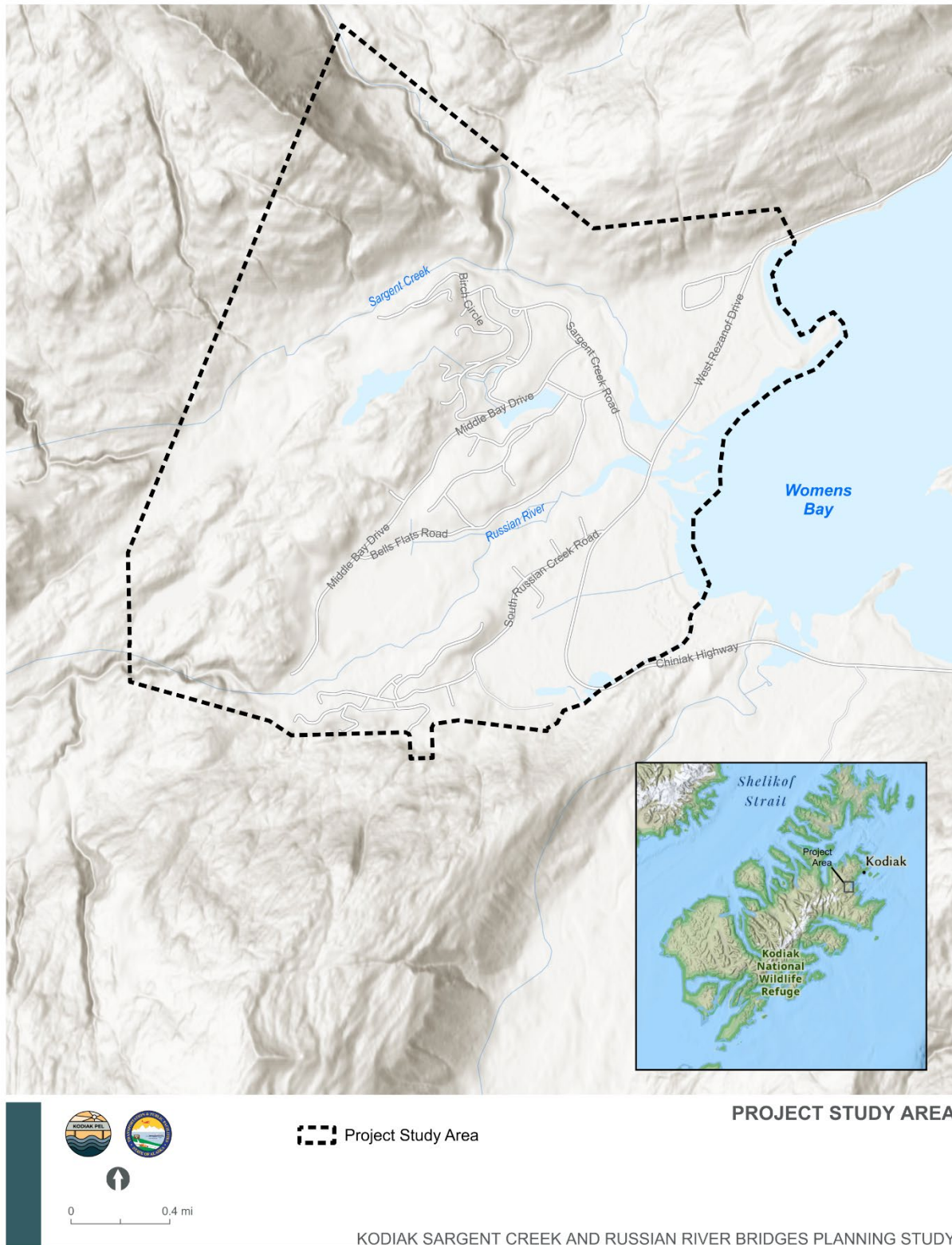
The Kodiak PEL Study, launched in 2025, will assess hydrological demands, explore potential modifications to bridge footings, and evaluate upstream mitigation opportunities and design alternatives. The PEL study will result in a report that can inform future environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition to examining the roads, bridges, and rivers, the study will consider the surrounding areas to gain a more complete understanding of contributing factors and flooding impacts.

At the end of the study period, multiple projects may be recommended to address flooding, safety, and other community concerns. DOT&PF will focus on bridge-related projects, while other recommendations may fall outside DOT&PF's scope for implementation. The recommendations from the Kodiak PEL Study may provide KIB and other organizations with the information needed to apply for grant funds to address community concerns that fall outside DOT&PF's purview.

This report is specific to the first public meeting and comment period for the Kodiak PEL Study. Additional community engagement is planned throughout the Study. A Public Involvement Plan is available for view on the Kodiak PEL Study website at kodiakpel.com under [Study Library](#).



Figure 1-1. Study area map





2 Study Kick-Off

The Kodiak PEL Study was kicked off with a deliberate, transparent outreach strategy designed to build early awareness and strengthen community partnership and trust. The effort was launched with a dedicated website and digital materials to clearly explain the PEL study purpose, need, and process as well as provide an accessible hub for information and updates. This initial outreach was followed by a public open house that created opportunities for residents, interested parties, and local partners to meet the study team, ask questions, and share firsthand experiences related to flooding, safety, and access within the study area. A formal public comment period accompanied the meeting, so community input could be documented and meaningfully incorporated into the study's planning and environmental decision making from the outset.

3 Public Open House Overview

The Kodiak PEL Study's public open house was held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station in Kodiak. This date also marked the launch of a 30-day public comment period through December 5, 2025. The event provided an opportunity for community members to learn about the study, meet the study team, and share input on needed improvements within the study area.

The open house was structured as a self-guided educational experience, featuring 10 informational posters that covered study history, study schedule, the draft purpose and need statement, and the draft alternative screening criteria. Attendees were encouraged to review the materials and provide comments on whether the content aligned with their understanding of local needs. Participants engaged in one-on-one conversations with 10 study team members, many of whom were staffing the informational stations. This contributed to rich discussions and resulted in individual comments on maps as an interactive opportunity to highlight areas of concern.

Attendees reviewed and commented on the draft purpose and need statement and alternative screening criteria. Public feedback was encouraged to help shape collaborative and durable solutions. Comments on the draft materials were requested by December 5, 2025.

The following materials were available to the public at the meeting (Attachment A):

- Ten Informational Posters
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Study Fact Sheet
- Comment Sheet



- Draft *Purpose and Need Statement Memorandum*
- Draft *Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum*
- One 36- by 24-inch study area map

The 10 informational posters consisted of the following:

1. Welcome

This poster includes the study name and nickname as well as a QR code to:

<https://linktr.ee/KodiakPEL>.

2. Study Overview

This poster includes a brief study description with area map.

3. What is a PEL Study and Why is DOT&PF Conducting One?

Conducting a PEL study minimizes duplication of effort, streamlines study delivery, promotes efficient and cost-effective solutions, engages partner agencies and the community early in the process, and encourages environmental stewardship.

4. What is the Kodiak PEL?

This poster provides a summary of what the Kodiak PEL Study will do and what benefits it produces.

5. Study Progress

This poster provides a summary of what has been completed and what is being worked on.

6. Draft Purpose & Need

The draft purpose and need statement is “The purpose of this Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is to identify a long-term and sustainable solution for replacing the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges and identify flood mitigation options.” The study would address the key needs: replace two bridges that are in poor condition and have superstructure deficiencies, reduce flooding in the Bells Flats and Russian Creek Subdivisions as well as on Sargent Creek Road and improve safety, efficiency, and reliability for moving people and goods between Kodiak and the area beyond Womens Bay. A link to the draft *Purpose and Need Statement Memorandum* was available in hard copies at the open house as well as on the study [website](#).

7. Draft Alternative Development and Screening Process

The draft alternative development and screening process proposes the following steps:

a. Purpose & Need



b. Alternative Selection Criteria

c. Preliminary Alternatives

d. Level 1 Screening

e. Refine Alternatives

f. Level 2 Screening

g. Recommended Alternative(s)

The draft *Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum* was available in hard copy at the open house as well as the study [website](#).

8. Draft Alternative Screening Criteria

Draft alternative screening criteria currently consist of two levels. The first level encompasses technical feasibility, flooding management, and operational concerns. The second level includes goals and objectives, environmental considerations, cost, and public support. The community is engaged through every screening level to gain support.

The draft *Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum* was available in hard copy at the open house as well as the study [website](#).

9. Schedule

This poster provides a high-level PEL study schedule with community engagement throughout the entire process, showcasing the study is currently in the “Study Introduction & Data Gathering” phase.

10. Contact Us and Comment

This poster provides contacts for email, website, online comment form, and library of materials.

The materials outlined above are available on the study [website](#) for the public to review.

3.1 Publicity

To support public engagement for the Kodiak PEL Study, a comprehensive publicity plan was implemented ahead of the November 2025 open house and associated public comment period. Outreach included print and digital advertising, radio announcements, direct mail, email campaigns, and social media posts, which were designed to inform the community and encourage participation and feedback. The content focused on study background, meeting details, and opportunities to comment on the draft purpose and need statement and alternative screening criteria.

The following tactics were implemented to encourage public participation (Attachment B):



- One legal ad in the *Kodiak Daily Mirror* on October 21, 2025
- One display ad in the *Kodiak Daily Mirror* on November 4, 2025
- One online/digital ad in the *Kodiak Daily Mirror* that ran from October 21 to November 4, 2025
- One radio ad on KMXT that ran 30 times between October 21 and November 4, 2025
- 3,821 postcards sent to Kodiak residents on October 27, 2025
- Flyers posted at nine locations on October 23, 2025:
 - Safeway
 - Rendezvous Bar & Grill
 - Kodiak City Fire Department
 - Women's Bay Fire Station
 - Java Flats
 - Bell's Flats Little Store
 - Harbormaster's Office
 - KANA Marketplace
 - Kodiak Visitor Information Center
- Seven e-blasts sent on:
 - October 24, 2025
 - October 30, 2025
 - November 4, 2025
 - November 6, 2025
 - November 25, 2025
 - December 4, 2025
 - December 5, 2025
- One Facebook event published on October 21, 2025
- Six Facebook posts published on:
 - October 21, 2025
 - November 4, 2025
 - November 6, 2025



- November 25, 2025
- December 4, 2025
- December 5, 2025
- Three Facebook private group posts on:
 - October 21, 2025
 - November 1, 2025
 - November 4, 2025
- Two website updates on
 - October 21, 2025
 - November 4, 2025
- Event posted on the Southcoast Public Involvement Calendar on October 21, 2025
- Event posted on the Southcoast Online Public Notice on October 21, 2025
- Event posted on the What's Up ListServ email on November 9, 2025

4 Open House Highlights

The open house (see Figure 4-1) ran a little over the intended 2-hour period, with the study team staying engaged to answer questions and connect with attendees. The most popular informational stations were the schedule and the interactive map, where people voiced and/or noted concerns tied to specific geographic areas.

A total of 26 people signed into the public meeting; however, 34 people, in addition to the study team, attended.



Figure 4-1. Public Open House #1



4.1 Summary of Comments

The comments summarized in the following subsections represent a comprehensive summary of input received during the public open house and throughout the formal public comment period.

4.1.1 Public Open House

Overall, attendees were appreciative of the study team hosting the event and thankful to learn that the Kodiak PEL Study was moving forward. The event offered opportunities to gain understanding and awareness of the study as well as share comments on the draft purpose and need statement and screening criteria; comments at the meeting were provided verbally, on sticky notes on study area maps, on physical comment cards, and digitally with a study team member on an iPad. A total of 10 comment forms were submitted during the public meeting, 4 of which were handwritten and 6 of which were submitted digitally through the website comment form.

4.1.2 Public Comment Period

During the 30-day comment period, an additional five comments were received through a combination of email and the electronic comment form on the study website.

Attachment C provides all combined comments and their responses.



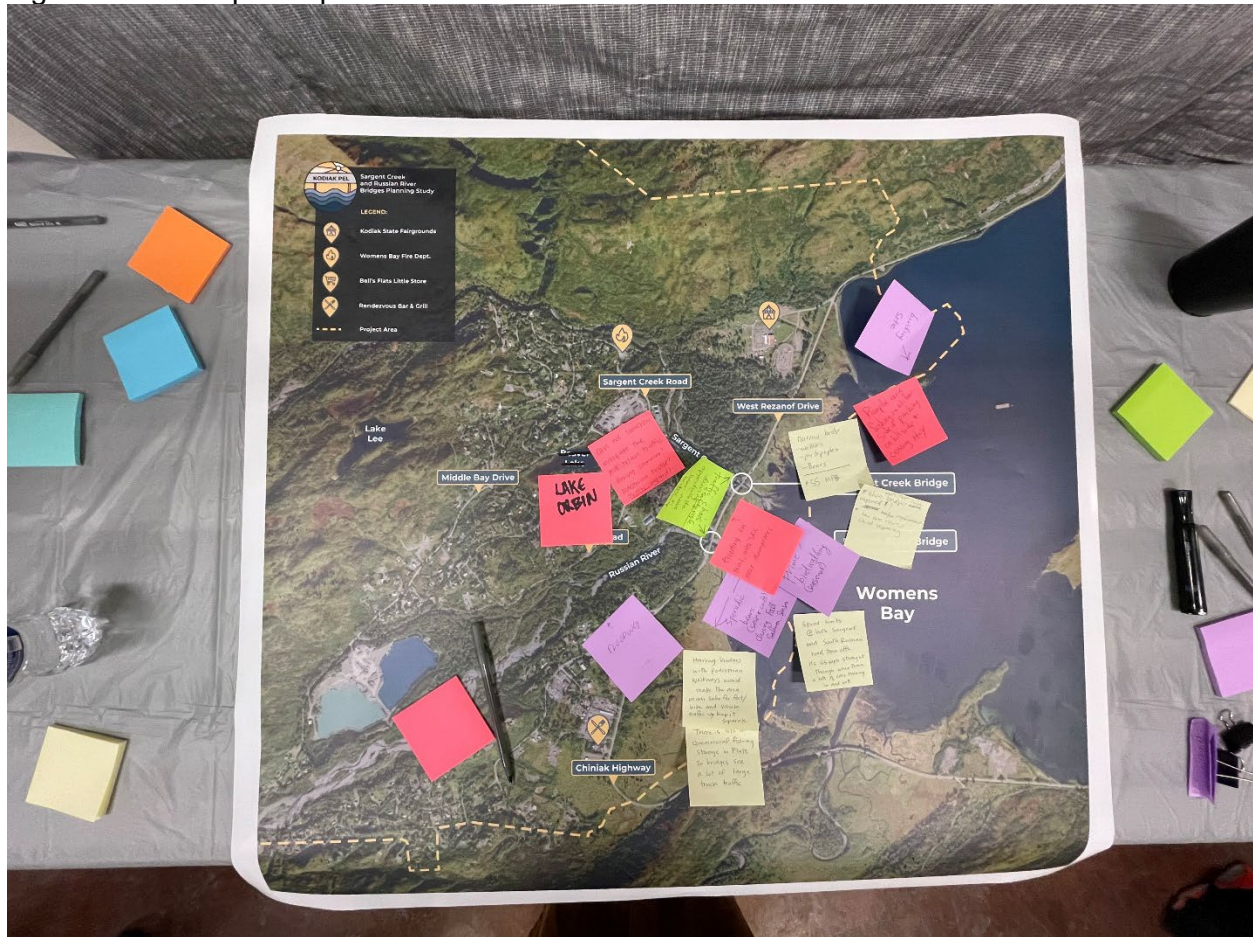
4.1.3 Comment Highlights

The following location-specific comments were collected from the maps during the public open house; see Figure 4-2 for an example map with comments:

- “Having bridges with pedestrians walkways would make the area much safer for foot/bike and vehicle traffic. Keep it separate.”
- “There is a lots of commercial fishing storage in Flats so bridges see a lot of large truck traffic.”
- Flooding location call outs near Russian River
- “Can we somehow mitigate the pedestrian traffic during summer? Pedestrian bridge? Traffic hazard!”
- “Traffic chaos and safety risk during opportunistic bear views on bridges and vicinity”
- “Sporadic bear (sow and cubs) during fall salmon season”
- “Flooding on trail, onto SRC near dumpsters”
- “Prime birdwatching (seasonal)” location near the bridges
- “Speed limits at both Sargent and South Russian Road turn offs. It’s 55 mph [miles per hour] straight through when there is lots of cars turning in and out.”
- “Narrow bridge [for] walkers, photographers, [and] bears. 55 mph.”
- “People are fishing on water side and parking on hillside and crossing hwy [highway].”
- Birding site call outs in marsh
- “Salmon passage affected from gravel at the mouth of Sargent Creek and Russian River.”
- Callout of “Small Creek”
- “When were the lasts bridges improved? Maybe replacement time more issues started happening.”



Figure 4-2. Example map with comments



The following topics were discussed with study team members during the poster session at the public open house:

- Challenges at the two bridges with safety concerns during bear viewings and sufficient space for pull outs
- Previous U.S Coast Guard studies that affected adjacent parcels
- Koniag Inc.'s plans to build wildlife viewing platforms, a boardwalk, and trails within the study area; it plans to build a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the Sargent Creek bridge
- Improving the pedestrian accommodations on the Sargent Creek bridge (e.g., installing sidewalks)
- Water characteristics discussions such as:
 - Small Creek is a feeder toward town, past Sargent Creek
 - Water diversion from Sargent Creek to Small Creek using existing infrastructure



- Braided nature of the stream and evidence of prior stream channels showing tendency for waterway to migrate over time
- Flooding experiences and suggestions:
 - Flooding oftentimes flows onto Sargent Creek Road
 - Raise bridges and Sargent Creek Road
 - Storm surges and increased flooding occurrences
- Suggestions on design:
 - Add a fish culvert
 - Raise the road and bridges
 - Reduce the speed limit
 - Add speed bumps
 - Install a camera
 - Construct pull-off lanes near bridges
 - Add a separated bike or pedestrian path from town to base
 - Use the existing pullout and connect to bike trail
 - Add signage of bear activity
- Collaboration with the Island Trails Network
- Many people fish within and near the study area
- Local radio station interview with study team staff
- The Study should consider alternatives, including dredging the creek, building a second bridge over Sargent Creek, and widening the shoulders of the existing road

The following key messages/issues were highlighted during the formal comment period:

- Flooding and hydrology
- Bridge condition and structural safety
- Environmental and fish habitat considerations
- Pedestrian, bicycle, and multimodal safety
- Traffic operations and wildlife viewing management

Since this open house marked the official launch of the Kodiak PEL Study, the study team invited public comments on two key documents: the draft *Purpose and Need Statement Memorandum* and the draft *Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum*.



The *Purpose and Need Statement Memorandum* explains why the Kodiak PEL Study is needed and what issues it aims to address. The *Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum* will be used to assess potential alternatives to determine whether they meet the study's goals and which ones should move forward for further evaluation.

This process will ultimately lead to the selection of a recommended alternative, which will then advance into the environmental review, design, and construction phases.

5 Next Steps

Next steps include updating the purpose and need statement and alternative screening criteria based on public feedback. At the same time, the study team will begin developing potential study alternatives.

The next public open house is anticipated in spring/summer 2026.

Attachments





Attachment A

Meeting Materials

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Posters



Welcome!

**Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges
Planning and Environmental
Linkages (PEL) Study**
— also known as *Kodiak PEL*



Scan the code
with your phone.

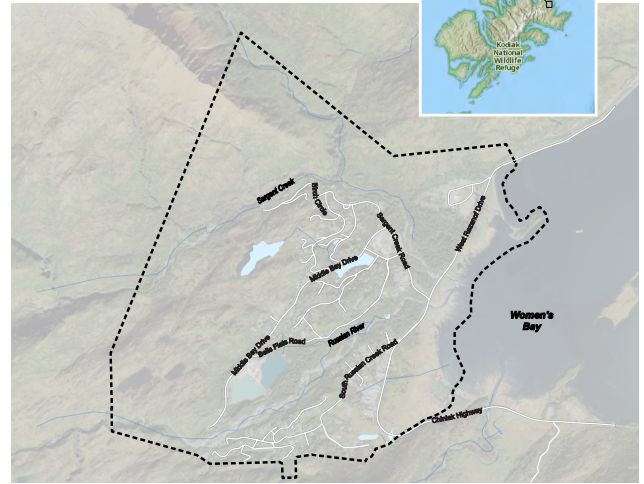


Study Overview

The Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges are in poor condition, are structurally deficient, and need to be replaced.

This area also experiences repetitive flooding that negatively impacts the Sargent Creek Road and the surrounding area.

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and Kodiak Island Borough are partnering on the PEL study to develop solutions.



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PROJECT STUDY AREA



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)

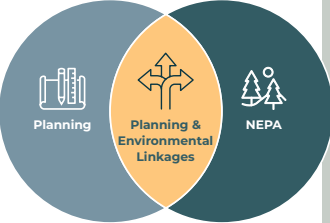
Recommendations from the PEL study and the public and agency input received, may be adopted, or incorporated into future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies.

What is a PEL Study and Why is DOT&PF Conducting One?

A Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study is a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision making that:

- Considers ideas early and works with a community to identify solutions at the start of transportation planning.
- Connects planning to the National Environmental Policy Act by using planning information to help speed up environmental review.
- Focuses ideas and issues by narrowing down options and preparing for key issues in later project phases.

Conducting a PEL study minimizes duplication of effort, streamlines project delivery, promotes efficient and cost-effective solutions, engages partner agencies and the community early in the process, and encourages environmental stewardship.



What is the Kodiak PEL?

The Kodiak PEL will:

- Evaluate hydrological demands
- Identify potential changes to bridges
- Determine opportunities for upstream mitigation
- Produce design alternatives
- Involve government, tribes, and the public during the process

PEL Benefits

 Accelerates project delivery	 Aligns with future requirements	 Stimulates development of new tools	 Helps build relationships for agencies and the public
 Early engagement in decision-making	 Helps identify interested parties early on	 Creates better outcomes for the community	 Improves planning products



Study Progress

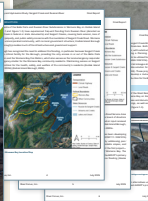
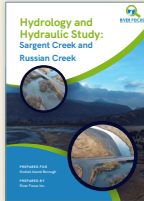
As of November 2025

What We've Done

- Draft Purpose & Need Statement
- Draft Alternative Screening Criteria
- Advisory Committee Meeting
- Field work (Summer 2025)

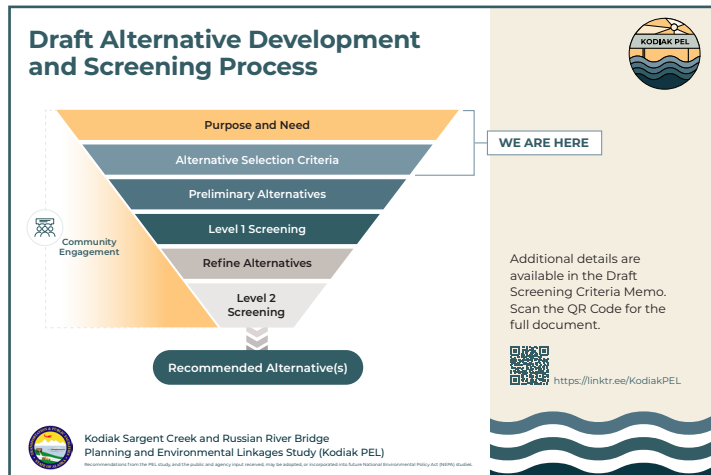
What We're Working On

- Literature Review & Data Collection
- Hydrographic and Hydrology Survey
- Topographic Survey
- Geotechnical Analysis
- Community Engagement



Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Posters



Draft Purpose & Need

Purpose	Need
The purpose of this Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is to identify a long-term and sustainable solution for replacing the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges and identify flood mitigation options.	The study would address the following needs: - Replace two bridges that are in poor condition and have superstructure deficiencies - Reduce flooding in the Bells Flats and Russian Creek Subdivisions and on Sargent Creek Road - Improve safety, efficiency, and reliability for moving people and goods between Kodiak and the area beyond Womens Bay

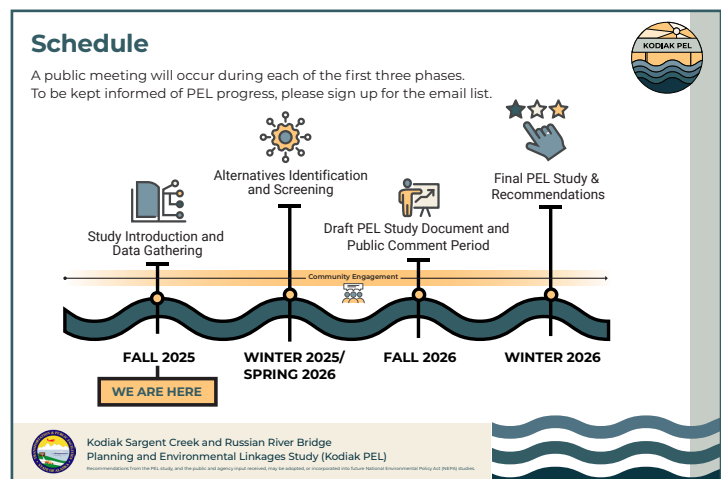
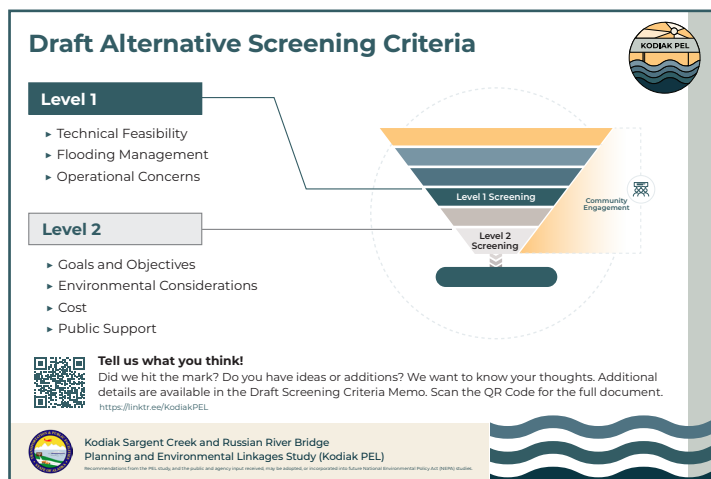
Other goals and objectives are:

- Provide a 75-year service life after construction
- Improve flood resilience
- Enhance active transportation and recreational opportunities
- Identify partnership opportunities
- Reduce project delivery costs and time
- Minimize construction impacts on local residents and businesses

Tell us what you think!
Did we hit the mark? Do you have ideas or additions? We want to know your thoughts. Scan the QR code to view the full draft P&N or to comment.

<https://linktr.ee/kodiakpel>

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)



Contact Us & Comment

Email us inquiries@kodiakpel.com

Visit our website: <https://kodiakpel.com>

Fill out an online comment form: <https://kodiakpel.com/contact1>

Library of materials <https://linktr.ee/kodiakpel>

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)

View materials online at kodiakpel.com/library1 or by scanning the code.



Attachment A: Meeting Materials



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study (Kodiak PEL)?

The Kodiak PEL was initiated in 2025 to look at replacing deteriorating bridge structures at Sargent Creek and Russian River near Womens Bay and investigating the flooding around them. The Kodiak PEL will evaluate hydrological demands and identify potential changes to the bridge footings, opportunities for upstream mitigation, and bridge design alternatives through a PEL study report.

What is a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study?

A Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study is an early and collaborative planning process that narrows down a range of possible solutions prior to a more detailed review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Agencies, stakeholders, and the public are engaged throughout the study process to identify issues, potential impacts, and opportunities that shape possible alternative solutions. The PEL process expedites environmental review, design, and construction by allowing planning-phase work to be used during the environmental review phase of the federal transportation project development process.

What kind of issues will the Kodiak PEL review?

The Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges were constructed more than 45 years ago and are nearing the end of their useful lives. The structures and nearby properties have been subjected to severe flooding, which has eroded rivers' banks up and downstream. Vehicle use has changed over the years, too, with heavier loads and increased use, and visitors to Kodiak often stop on the bridges to see bears and salmon, causing pedestrian safety concerns. We will be looking at not just the roads, bridges, and rivers but also the surrounding areas to get a more comprehensive picture of the impacts and contributing factors.

What kinds of projects might be identified during the PEL study?

Possible projects could include repairing the bridges in place, raising or moving the bridges and road approaches upstream or downstream to a more stable location, bank stabilization, gravel extraction to improve stream hydrology, and trail and pedestrian safety improvements. These are provided as example projects only; the Project Team will work with stakeholders and the public during the PEL study process to identify a range of possible projects. These are the currently identified issues, but we understand that there may be other influencing factors not yet discovered.

Frequently Asked Questions

continued...



Who is responsible for completing the Kodiak PEL?

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is the owner of the bridge structures and associated right-of-way and is responsible for the PEL study's environmental review process. DOT&PF will be responsible for implementation for projects specific to the bridge structures. Additional projects and responsible parties may be identified as part of the PEL study that address other community needs and concerns within the study area.

Who is funding the Kodiak PEL?

Kodiak Island Borough (KIB) is the project sponsor. It received funding through the Federal Highway Administration's Bridge Investment Program in 2022 to address issues at these two locations and identify long-term, sustainable solutions to keep the bridges in good repair long into the future.

What is the project schedule?

DOT&PF and KIB initiated the Kodiak PEL in August 2025 and are in the initial stages of getting the project introduced and data gathering started. Public open houses will be held during the data gathering, alternatives development, and draft PEL study phases. Final recommendations are anticipated in late 2026. Once the PEL study is complete, DOT&PF anticipates a NEPA environmental review process for the bridges. Pending approval, design and construction could begin as early as 2029.

How can I get involved?

Input from the community is essential to identifying the Kodiak PEL's purpose and need statement, issues to be addressed, and developing screening criteria used to refine the range of possible solutions! Send your thoughts to inquiries@kodiakpel.com. Sign up for the Kodiak PEL email list and learn more about the PEL study and upcoming public involvement activities at KodiakPEL.com.

Attachment A: Meeting Materials



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study

Study Fact Sheet

Overview

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB), launched a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL) study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and Russian River, near Womens Bay on Kodiak Island. These bridges are more than 45 years old. DOT&PF bridge inspections have found that both Sargent Creek Bridge #0989 and Russian River Bridge #0990 have cracks in the concrete girders, resulting in a "poor" superstructure rating.

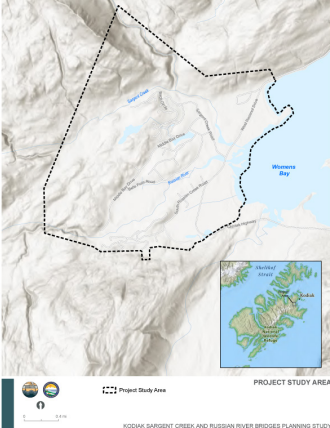
In 2022, KIB received Bridge Investment Program funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to address issues at these two locations and identify long-term, sustainable solutions to keep the bridges in good repair and maintain vital connectivity.

DOT&PF, working with KIB, launched the Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study (Kodiak PEL) in 2025 to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding in the area. The Kodiak PEL will evaluate hydrological demands and identify potential changes to the bridge footings, opportunities for upstream mitigation, and design alternatives through a PEL Study report that can be brought forward for additional environmental review during a subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. We will be looking at not just the roads, bridges, and rivers but also the surrounding areas to get a more comprehensive picture of the impacts and contributing factors.

At the end of the study period, multiple projects with different owners may be recommended that address ongoing flooding, safety, and other community concerns. The DOT&PF-specific projects will be focused on the bridge, other projects may fall outside of the DOT&PF purview for implementation.

Study Area

The Kodiak PEL study area is approximately 9 miles south of the city of Kodiak, near the head of Womens Bay, in the KIB. The bridges crossing Sargent Creek and the Russian River are approximately one-half mile apart, bounded by KIB; Koniag, Inc.; and privately owned lands.



PROJECT STUDY AREA

KODIAK SARGENT CREEK AND RUSSIAN RIVER BRIDGES PLANNING STUDY

Project Fact Sheet

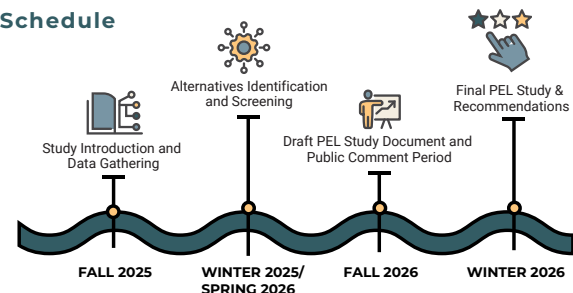
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The PEL Process

The PEL process is a continuous, comprehensive approach to inform transportation decision-making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning stage to minimize redundancies, promote efficient and cost-effective solutions, and enhance recommended project implementation. The PEL process also allows decision makers and stakeholders to narrow the range of alternatives to be considered and to identify and prepare for issues to be addressed in the later NEPA process and project design phases.

Public and agency input at milestone stages of a PEL study are key components in the document's development. DOT&PF's PEL process develops and screens potential alternatives with input from committees, agencies, and the public to narrow down a reasonable range of alternatives to improve road and bridge safety, connectivity, livability, operations, and resiliency in the study area.

Schedule



Next steps could include a NEPA process for the bridges, followed by design, and construction.

Get Involved

We want to hear from you! What issues have you observed at the bridge locations specifically and also surrounding areas? What recommendations do you have that could address those concerns? Send your thoughts to inquiries@kodiakpel.com. Sign up for the Kodiak PEL email list and learn more about the PEL study and upcoming public involvement activities at [KodiakPEL.com](https://kodiakpel.com).



Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Area Map



Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Purpose & Need (P&N) Memo



Sargent Creek
and Russian River
Bridges Planning Study

Memorandum

Date: 10/14/2025
Project Name: Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study
To: DOT&PF
From: HDR
Subject: Draft Purpose and Need Statement

Purpose

The purpose of this Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is to identify a long-term and sustainable solution for replacing the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges, and identify flood mitigation options.

Needs

The Project would address the following needs:

Replace two bridges that are in poor condition and have superstructure deficiencies

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) bridge inspections have found that both the Sargent Creek Bridge #0989 and Russian River Bridge #0990 have cracks in the concrete girders resulting in a “poor” superstructure rating. Both bridges are narrower than the adjoining Rezanof Drive roadway, in poor condition, and structurally deficient. The DOT&PF evaluated both bridges and determined that rehabilitation is not preferred because:

- The narrow width of the existing bridges would not be improved;
- Hydraulic capacity under the bridge would not be improved;
- Superstructure replacement is not common in Alaska; and
- A detour bridge for construction would likely be needed.

Replacement of these two bridges would reduce the number of bridges in Alaska categorized as poor, reduce the total person miles traveled over bridges in poor condition, and reduce the number of bridges that do not meet current geometric design standards.

Reduce flooding in the Bells Flats and Russian Creek Subdivisions and on Sargent Creek Road

The community has expressed concern about the repetitive flooding in the Bells Flat and Russian Creek Subdivisions as well as Sargent Creek Road, the only road that provides access to and from these subdivisions. These subdivisions are located partly in the Sargent Creek and

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Purpose & Need (P&N) Memo

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study Memorandum

Russian River floodplains, upstream of the two bridges, and have experienced increased flooding and erosion of property and roads in recent years. Sediment (gravel) accumulation behind the bridges has forced the stream and river to enter the bridges at an angle, and may be contributing to the flooding and channel instability upstream. Replacing these bridges to better align with flows, provide increased capacity to move water and sediment, and implement a sediment management plan, if needed, would help reduce the likelihood of these structures contributing to neighborhood and Sargent Creek Road flooding.

Improve safety, efficiency, and reliability for moving people and goods between Kodiak and the area beyond Womens Bay

The existing bridges on Rezanof Drive provide the only access between Kodiak proper and the area to the south, an essential link for local businesses, and a neighborhood with approximately 800 residents. Additionally, these bridges are used to access recreational and subsistence areas. The loss of these bridges would also pose life and safety threats as it would limit the provision of emergency services. These bridges do not have pedestrian or multimodal facilities.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives of this PEL Study are:

- **Provide a 75-year service life after construction.** The replacement bridges will be designed to current design standards, meet load and traffic requirements typical for regional traffic, and provide accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- **Improve flood resilience.** Local residents report that roads and buildings in the area are flooded multiple times every year. Bridges with adequate hydrologic capacity to minimize flooding in the area are less vulnerable to extreme weather events.
- **Enhance active transportation and recreational opportunities.** The Womens Bay area is used for fishing, wildlife viewing, and trail access. Currently, the area has one dedicated parking area. Vehicles are often parked along the side of the road, which results in pedestrians walking along the edge of the road; this is especially a problem with bears present. The community desires having a dedicated space for pedestrians to cross both bridges. Koniag, the Alaska Native corporation for this region, plans to develop the Russian River Use Area, which would include a parking area and boardwalk in the Russian River/Sargent Creek area to provide people with additional wildlife viewing opportunities. The southernmost section of the planned Kodiak Short Trail project terminates at Sargent Creek.
- **Identify partnership opportunities.** A long-term solution requires cooperation from multiple agencies due to land ownership, environmental concerns, and permitting needs. The PEL will engage the State of Alaska (DOT&PF), Kodiak Island Borough, the U.S. Coast Guard, Leisnoi Incorporated (the Alaksa Native village corporation), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other stakeholders in the process.

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Purpose & Need (P&N) Memo

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study Memorandum

- **Reduce project delivery costs and time.** Design and construction of replacement bridges could take 3 to 4 years. The information gathered as part of the PEL can be used to reduce design and construction costs and duration.
- **Minimize construction impacts on local residents and businesses.**

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo



Sargent Creek
and Russian River
Bridges Planning Study

Memorandum

Date: 10/31/2025
Project Name: Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study
To: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
From: HDR
Subject: **Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum**

Background

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Kodiak Island Borough, is conducting a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study to identify options for replacing bridge structures and investigating flooding associated with Sargent Creek and Russian River, near Womens Bay on Kodiak Island.

This *Alternative Selection Criteria Memorandum*, developed as part of the PEL study process, identifies the process and screening criteria to be used for completing alternatives screening that will lead to the selection of recommended alternative(s) for further consideration. The screening criteria were developed from the Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study Purpose and Need Statement as well as in consideration for other goals and objectives for the project. The alternatives screening process will be conducted during a later phase of this PEL Study using the process described below. The results of this process may be adopted or incorporated by reference by the appropriate agency during a subsequent environmental review process. This memorandum is consistent with 23 United States Code 168 and 23 Code of Federal Regulations 450.212 and 450.318.

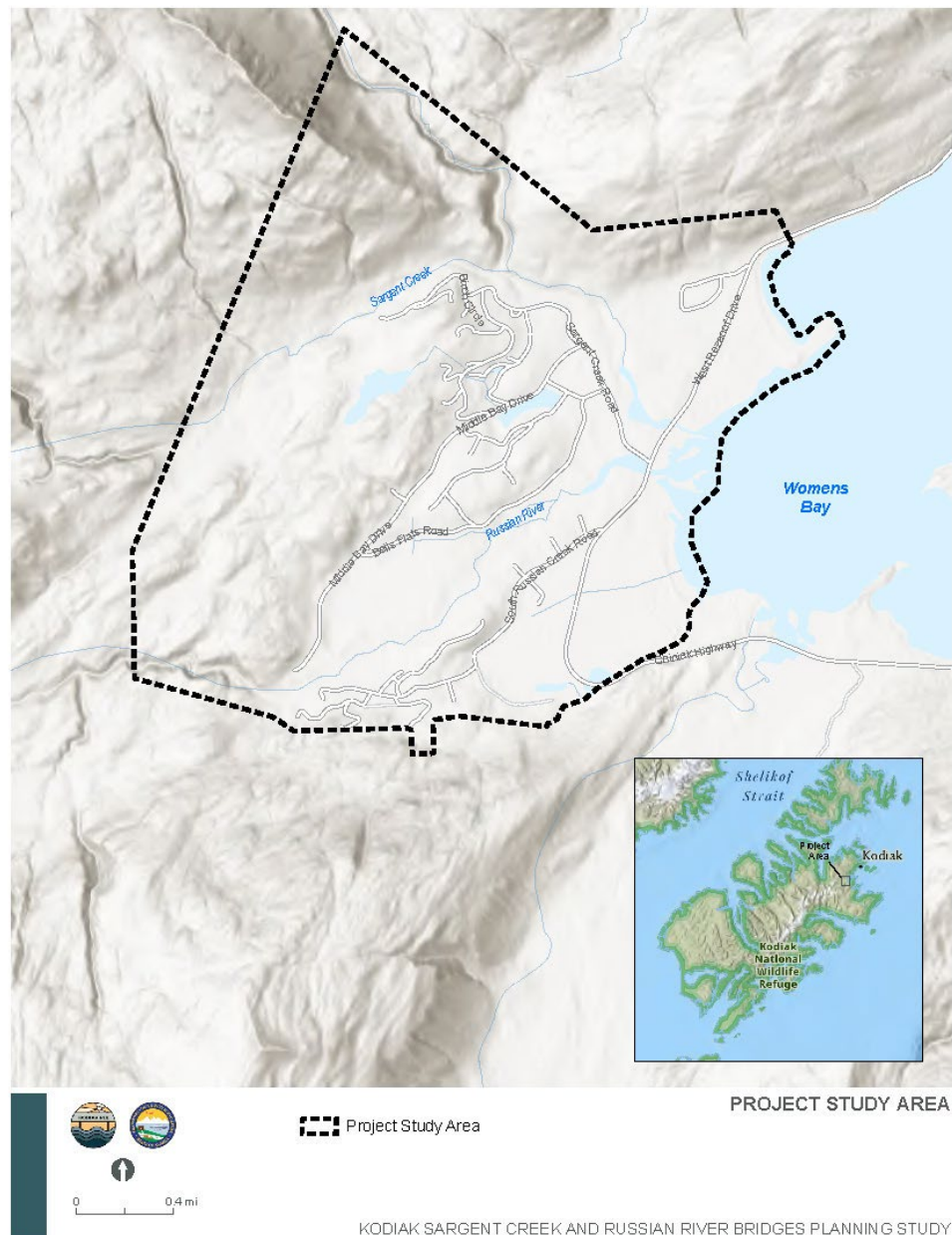
The study area is shown in Figure 1.

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study Memorandum

Figure 1. Study area



Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study
Memorandum

Alternatives Development and Screening Process

This PEL Study approach for developing and screening alternatives is consistent with federal Planning and Environmental Linkages guidance, and follows a systematic, transparent process to identify transportation solutions, that best address the project's Purpose and Need while considering technical, environmental, social and economic factors. The screening process evaluates the performance of alternatives using established criteria to determine whether it reasonably meets the Purpose and Need and is acceptable from technical, environmental, social, and economic perspectives.

The alternatives development and screening process includes the following steps:

- Develop the Purpose and Need Statement
- Develop alternative selection criteria
- Develop a range of alternatives
- Apply Level 1 screening
- Refine alternatives, as necessary
- Apply Level 2 screening
- Identify and document recommended alternative(s)

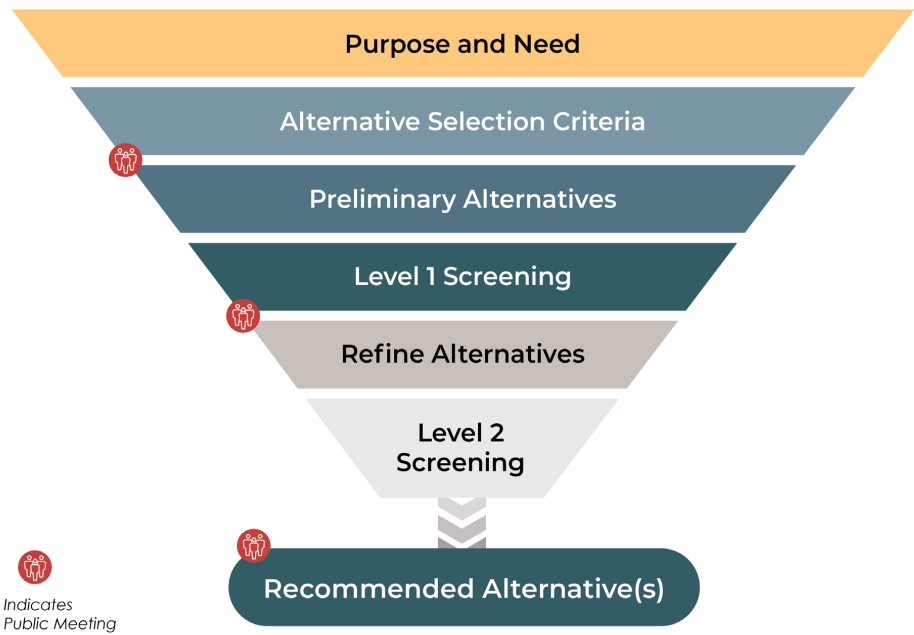
Figure 2 presents an overview of the alternative development and screening process.

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study
Memorandum

Figure 2. Overview of the alternative development and screening process



Alternative Screening Criteria

The screening criteria are used to ensure that all alternatives under consideration are evaluated equally. The Level 1 screening evaluates how well each alternative under consideration meets the project's Purpose and Need Statement. The Level 2 screening evaluates how well those alternatives that pass Level 1 meet the project's goals and objectives. A No Action alternative is carried forward throughout the process to provide a baseline for comparison. The following sections discuss the two screening levels and the screening criteria in more detail.

Level 1 Screening

The purpose of the Level 1 screening is to determine if the alternative meets the project's Purpose and Need Statement.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study is to identify a long-term and sustainable solution for replacing the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges and to evaluate flood mitigation options for Sargent Creek Road.

NEEDS

The Project would address the following needs:

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study Memorandum

Replace two bridges that are in poor condition and have superstructure deficiencies

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) bridge inspections have found that both the Sargent Creek Bridge #0989 and Russian River Bridge #0990 have cracks in the concrete girders resulting in a “poor” superstructure rating. Both bridges are narrower than the adjoining Rezanof Drive roadway, in poor condition, and structurally deficient. The DOT&PF evaluated both bridges and determined that rehabilitation is not preferred because:

- The narrow width of the existing bridges would remain unchanged;
- Hydraulic capacity under the bridge would not be improved;
- Superstructure replacement of this type is not common practice in Alaska; and
- A detour bridge for construction would likely be required during construction, adding significant cost and logistical complexity.

Replacement of these two bridges would reduce the number of bridges in Alaska categorized as being in *poor* condition, reduce the total person miles traveled over bridges in poor condition, and improve compliance with current geometric design standards.

Reduce flooding in the Bells Flats and Russian Creek Subdivisions and on Sargent Creek Road

The community has expressed ongoing concern about repetitive flooding in the Bells Flat and Russian Creek Subdivisions as well as Sargent Creek Road, the only access route to and from these subdivisions. These subdivisions are located partly in the Sargent Creek and Russian River floodplains, upstream of the two bridges, and have experienced increased flooding and erosion of property and roads in recent years. Sediment (gravel) accumulation behind the bridges may be contributing to the flooding and channel instability upstream. Replacing these bridges to better align with flows, provide increased capacity to move water and sediment, and implement a sediment management plan, if needed, would help reduce the likelihood of these structures contributing to neighborhood and Sargent Creek Road flooding.

Improve safety, efficiency, and reliability for moving people and goods between Kodiak and the area beyond Womens Bay

The existing bridges on Rezanof Drive provide the only access between Kodiak proper and the communities (or subdivisions?) to the south. These bridges form an essential link for local businesses and serve a residential area of approximately 800 residents. They also provide access to recreational and subsistence areas that are important to the community. Loss of either bridge would pose a significant life and safety concern by limiting emergency response access and restricting the provision of critical services. In addition, these bridges do not have pedestrian or multimodal facilities, limiting safe access for non-motorized users.

LEVEL 1 SCREENING CRITERIA

The Level 1 screening evaluates if an alternative meets the project’s Purpose and Need Statement. The general screening criteria will be applied to the initial set of alternatives

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study Memorandum

developed for the project. The flood management criteria will be based on a *Hydrology and Hydraulics Report* that is being developed by the PEL Study team to document existing river and floodplain conditions. The screening results will be quantified in terms of the performance measures shown in Table 1.

The results of the Level 1 screening, including identification of the alternatives recommended to advance to the Level 2 screening, will be documented in a *Level 1 Screening Report*. The draft report will be reviewed with the DOT&PF Statewide Environmental Office (SEO) and Stakeholder Working Group for concurrence prior to finalization.

Table 1. Level 1 screening criteria

Category	Criteria	Description	Measures
Technical Feasibility	Technical feasibility	Evaluates whether the alternative can be reasonably designed and constructed with available methods and within existing site constraints.	Yes/No
Flood Management	Flooding reduction	Estimates the frequency of flooding along Sargent Creek Road under each alternative.	High/Medium/Low
Flood Management	Hydraulic capacity of bridge opening	Evaluates the likelihood of floodwaters backing up upstream of the bridge during high-flow events.	High/Medium/Low
Operational	Multimodal accommodation	Determines whether the alternative can accommodate a 6-foot sidewalk or shared-use pathway to improve multimodal access.	Yes/No
Operational	Safety	Uses professional judgment to assess whether the alternative improves roadway and bridge safety for all users	Yes/No
Operational	Emergency vehicle access	Uses professional judgment to evaluate the degree of improvement in emergency response access (including neighborhood connectivity and bridge crossing reliability)	High/Medium/Low

Level 2 Screening

Alternatives that advance from the Level 1 screening will be refined to incorporate stakeholder and agency feedback, minimize environmental impacts, and improve constructability and feasibility. These refined alternatives will then be assessed against the Level 2 screening process to determine which alternative(s) should be recommended for advancement at the conclusion of the PEL Study. The Level 2 screening will consider other goals and objectives for

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study Memorandum

the project as well as the preliminary environmental impacts; The specific evaluation criteria and performance measures to be used are summarized in Table 2.

The No Action alternative will also be included in the Level 2 screening for baseline comparison.

Table 2. Level 2 screening criteria

Cost	Preliminary construction cost estimate	Evaluates the anticipated construction cost, and if it is reasonably attainable and appropriate in comparison to the other alternatives	High/Medium/Low
Cost	Preliminary annual maintenance cost estimate	Evaluates the anticipated annual maintenance cost, and if it is reasonably attainable and appropriate in comparison to the other alternatives	High/Medium/Low
Goals and Objectives	Improves active transportation and recreational opportunities	Assesses whether the alternative enhances active transportation (e.g. pedestrian and bicycle access) and recreational opportunities	Yes/No
Goals and Objectives	Accommodates parking lot/viewing area	Determines whether the alternative can reasonably accommodate a parking lot or viewing area	Yes/No
Goals and Objectives	Agency support	Evaluates whether the alternative is supported by participating agencies based on coordinated feedback	Yes/No

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study Memorandum

Goals and Objectives	Provides a 75-year service life	Uses professional judgment to determine whether the alternative is expected to meet a 75-year design service life	Yes/No
Goals and Objectives	Improves flood resiliency	Assesses whether the alternative is expected to improve flood resiliency and reduce the risk of repetitive flooding	Yes/No
Goals and Objectives	Reduces project delivery cost and time	Determines whether the alternative can be designed and constructed within a timeframe of fewer than 4 years	Yes/No
Goals and Objectives	Minimizes construction impact on the community	Estimates duration of lane reductions or closures on Rezanof Drive and associated community impacts during construction	Months
Environmental	Land Use/Property impacts	Estimates number of parcels that would be affected by the alternative	Number
Environmental	Wetland impacts (acres)	Estimates acres of mapped wetlands impacted	Acres
Environmental	Stream impacts (linear feet)	Estimates the total linear feet of stream channel impacted by the alternative	Feet
Environmental	Section 4(f) impacts	Identifies whether the alternative would affect Section 4(f) properties (e.g.,	Yes/No

Attachment A: Meeting Materials

Screening Memo

Kodiak PEL Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study
Memorandum

		publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic sites)	
Public Support	Level of public support	Uses professional judgment to assess the general level of public support based on community engagement and public comments	High/Medium/Low

The results of the Level 2 screening will be documented in the *Level 2 Screening Report*. The draft report will be reviewed by the DOT&PF SEO and the Stakeholder Working Group for concurrence prior to finalization.

Alternatives that advance from the Level 2 screening will be further refined (if necessary) and included in the PEL Study Report for consideration in future project development phases.

Identification of Recommended Alternative(s)

The process of identifying one or more recommended alternatives in a PEL Study is similar to the process used during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase of a project. Factors to consider include ability to satisfy Purpose and Need (which includes safety and mobility improvements), direct and indirect environmental impacts, avoidance and minimization of effects on sensitive resources, and cost and overall feasibility of project goals.

An alternative identified as “recommended” in a PEL Study is considered reasonable and feasible, and is recommended for consideration as a preferred alternative(s) during subsequent NEPA and project development phases. An alternative that is “not recommended” will not be advanced further within the PEL Study because it provides comparatively lower benefits and/or higher impacts than other alternatives. However, such alternatives may be revisited or further evaluated during later NEPA or project development if new information or circumstances arise. An alternative identified as “eliminated” is one that does not meet the project’s Purpose and Need or is deemed unreasonable due to environmental impacts, engineering constraints, or overall infeasibility. The identification and rationale for the recommended alternative(s) will be documented in a future *Recommendations Report*.



Attachment B Publicity

Attachment B: Publicity

State of Alaska Online Public Notice & Public Involvement Calendar

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Online Public Notices

VIEW Notice

Home Search Browse View Log In

Save the Date: Public Open House for the Kodiak PEL on November 4

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Mark your calendars! You are invited to the first public open house for Kodiak PEL to learn more about the project.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough, launched a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and the Russian River.

You are invited to join the study's kickoff public open house to discuss needed improvements at the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges. Your experiences will make a difference in identifying solutions that are collaborative and lasting.

At the public open house, you can:

- Learn about the project
- Meet the project team
- Discuss needed improvements
- Comment on the draft Purpose & Need
- Comment on the draft alternative screening criteria

Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and alternative screening criteria are requested by December 5, 2025.

Public Open House
Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5-7 p.m.
Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Snacks will be provided.

Learn more at: Kodiakpel.com
Email us: inquiries@kodiakpel.com

This planning document may be adopted in a subsequent environmental review process in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 168 Integration of Planning and Environmental Review. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

It is the policy of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) that no one shall be subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons who believe they may have experienced discrimination in the delivery of these federally assisted programs or activities may file a complaint with: Alaska DOT&PF Civil Rights Office, 2200 East 42nd Avenue, Room 310, Anchorage, AK 99508; Phone: 907-269-0851, Alaska Relay 7-1-1, or 1 (800) 676-3777; Fax: 907-269-0847.

Attachments, History, Details

Attachments None	Details Department: Transportation and Public Facilities Category: Public Notices Sub-Category: Location(s): Kodiak, Southcoast Region Project/Regulation #: Publish Date: 10/21/2025 Archive Date: 12/6/2025 Events/Deadlines:
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Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
SOUTHCOST REGION

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You are here: DOT&PF > Southcoast Region > Public Calendar

Public Involvement Calendar

Today November 2025 Month

Save the Date: Public Open House for the Kodiak PEL on November 4
Tuesday, November 4 · 5:00 - 7:00pm

538 Sargent Creek Rd, Kodiak, AK 99615, USA

Mark your calendars! You are invited to the first public open house for Kodiak PEL to learn more about the project.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough, launched a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and the Russian River.

You are invited to join the study's kickoff public open house to discuss needed improvements at the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges. Your experiences will make a difference in identifying solutions that are collaborative and lasting.

More details Copy to my calendar

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- Contract Bid Results
- Maintenance and Operations
- AsBuilds
- Survey Plats

Events shown in time zone: (GMT-08:00) Alaska Time - Anchorage
Add to Google Calendar

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Attachment B: Publicity

Newspaper Ads

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL) Public Open House

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough, launched a planning and environmental linkages study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and the Russian River. Learn more at the study's first open house.

Public Open House

Tuesday
November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm
Women's Bay
Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek
Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

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Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm

Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road | Kodiak, AK 99615

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough, launched a planning and environmental linkages study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and the Russian River. Learn more at the study's first open house.



Scan to learn more!
<https://kodiakpel.com>



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study



Public Open House

November 4, 2025

[Learn More](#)

Radio Ad, KMXT

"Come learn about how the Kodiak planning and environmental linkages study will tackle the flooding around the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges. Join us Tuesday, November 4, from 5 to 7pm at the Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station for a public open house. Learn about the project and meet the project team of local leaders, hydrologists, planners, and engineers. Comments on the study's draft purpose and need and the alternative screening criteria for possible solutions are encouraged by December fifth. For more information, visit KODIAK P-E-L DOT COM. This is sponsored by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities."

Attachment B: Publicity

Postcard

We want to hear from you!

How has flooding near the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges affected your daily life? Want to know more about what we're doing to fix it?

JOIN US! **Tuesday**
November 4, 2025

► Flip over to learn more!

Kodiak PEL
C/O HDR
582 E 36th Ave., Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-4169

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge
Planning and Environmental Linkages Study

(Kodiak PEL)

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough, launched a planning and environmental linkages study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and the Russian River. Learn more at the study's first open house. Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and screening criteria are requested by December 5, 2025

For details, visit:
<https://kodiakpel.com>



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

**Tuesday,
November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm**

Women's Bay
Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Attachment B: Publicity

Flyer

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)



NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in collaboration with the Kodiak Island Borough, launched a planning and environmental linkages (PEL) study to identify options for replacing the bridge structures and investigating flooding around Sargent Creek and the Russian River.

You are invited to join the study's kickoff public open house to discuss needed improvements around the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges. Your experiences will make a difference in identifying solutions that are collaborative and lasting.

At the public open house, you can:

- » Learn about the project
- » Meet the project team
- » Discuss needed improvements
- » Comment on the draft Purpose & Need
- » Comment on the draft screening criteria

Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and screening criteria are requested by **December 5, 2025**.



Email us
inquiries@kodiakpel.com



Learn more at:
<https://kodiakpel.com>



Scan for more!



Public Open House

**Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm**

Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Snacks will be provided

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Attachment B: Publicity

Eblasts



Save the Date!

Kickoff Public Open House for Kodiak PEL on November 4th!

Mark your calendars! You are invited to the first public open house for the Kodiak PEL to learn more about the project.

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge



Public Open House

TUESDAY
November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm



The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in partnership with the Kodiak Island Borough, invites you to the first public open house for the Kodiak Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at the Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Station.

This open house will introduce the project and gather comments from the public on the draft Purpose & Need and screening criteria to find possible solutions.

Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and screening criteria are requested by December 5, 2025.

Public Open House
Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm
Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
Snacks will be provided.

Learn more at: Kodiakpel.com
Email us: inquiries@kodiakpel.com

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Sargent Creek and Russian River PEL

Join Us on November 4th

We are beginning a planning and environmental linkages (PEL) study to improve the bridges at Sargent Creek and the Russian River, and to identify solutions to address flooding in the area. Your voice matters as we begin this process to help identify problems and collaborate on solutions.

Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and alternative screening criteria are requested by December 5, 2025.

Public Open House

Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
Snacks will be provided



Learn more at kodiakpel.com



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Sargent Creek and Russian River PEL

Join Us Tonight!

Join us to discuss needed improvements around the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges. Your experiences will make a difference in identifying solutions that are collaborative and lasting.

At the public open house, you can:

- Learn about the project
- Meet the project team
- Discuss needed improvements
- Comment on the draft Purpose & Need
- Comment on the draft alternative screening criteria

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Public Open House

Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
Snacks will be provided

Can't make the meeting, but still want to view the materials? Check out our library page on our [website](#) for the meeting posters. A meeting summary will be posted later!



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Eblasts



Kodiak PEL

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the open house!



Learn more and share your input by December 5, 2025.



Share Comments by December 5th

The project team is inviting public comments on two key documents: the draft [Purpose & Need](#) and [Alternative Screening Criteria](#). Feedback is requested by **December 5, 2025**.

View the Draft Purpose & Need

View the Draft Alternative Screening Criteria

Missed the meeting, but still want to view the materials? Check out our library page on our [website](#) for the meeting posters. A meeting summary will be posted later!



Learn more at kodiakpel.com



Email us at inquiries@kodiakpel.com

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Kodiak PEL

Share Comments by December 5th

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in partnership with the Kodiak Island Borough, hosted their first public open house on November 4th and invites you to share your feedback on two key documents: the draft [Purpose & Need](#) and [Alternative Screening Criteria](#). Feedback is requested by **December 5, 2025**.

Draft Purpose & Need

Draft Alternative Screening Criteria

Submit your comments in two easy ways:

- 1 email inquiries@kodiakpel.com
- 2 visit kodiakpel.com and enter your comments in the "contact us" page.

Missed the meeting? You can still view the materials. Check out our library page on our [website](#) for the meeting posters. A meeting summary will be posted later!



Learn more at kodiakpel.com



Email us at inquiries@kodiakpel.com

This planning document may be adopted in a subsequent environmental review process in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 168 Integration of Planning and Environmental Review. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

It is the policy of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) that no one shall be subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Persons who believe they may have experienced discrimination in the delivery of these federally assisted programs or activities may file a complaint with: Alaska DOT&PF Civil Rights Office, 2200 East 42nd Avenue, Room 310, Anchorage, AK 99508; Phone: 907-269-0851, Alaska Relay 7-1-1, or 1 (800) 676-3777; Fax: 907-269-0847.

[View email in browser](#)

[update your preferences or unsubscribe](#)



Kodiak PEL

Last Chance to Submit Comments for the Draft Documents

The comment period for the draft [Purpose & Need](#) and [Alternative Screening Criteria](#) ends tonight (December 5, 2025). If you have any thoughts on the draft documents, we'd love to hear it. Your voice will help shape the solutions for the Kodiak PEL Study.

Draft Purpose & Need

Draft Alternative Screening Criteria

Submit your comments in two easy ways:

- 1 email inquiries@kodiakpel.com
- 2 visit kodiakpel.com and enter your comments in the "contact us" page.

Missed the meeting? You can still view the materials. Check out our library page on our [website](#) for the meeting posters. A meeting summary will be posted later!



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[update your preferences or unsubscribe](#)



Attachment B: Publicity

Eblasts



Kodiak PEL

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in our Draft Purpose & Need and Draft Alternative Screening Criteria public open house and comment period. Your feedback is invaluable and helps guide the planning process to reflect community needs and priorities. We appreciate your time, insight, and involvement!

We are busy reading through all the comments and will take all into consideration.

We will be hosting another large public engagement opportunity for Spring 2026. Want to stay in the loop? Sign up for our [Study newsletter](#) or keep checking our website for updates at kodiakpel.com.

Missed the comment period? No problem!

You can submit a comment any time during the Study via our website or project email. Check out our website to view our Study materials under the [Project Library](#) tab.



Learn more at kodiakpel.com



Email us at inquiries@kodiakpel.com

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Social Media

Cama'i Kodiak
Private group · 6.6K members

+

Invite

↗

Share

👤

Joined

▼

AboutDiscussionFeaturedOpen questionsMembersEventsMediaFiles

Write something...

🗳️

Poll

📺

Live video

😊

Feeling/activity

Featured

6 new

Just now

There will be a public open house for the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges project on Tuesday, November 4 at the Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station. Details below... See more

JOIN US!

Open House & Kickoff Meeting

TUESDAY

November 4, 2025 | 5pm-7pm



Tue, Nov 4 at 5PM

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL)

538 Sargent Creek Rd, Kodiak, AK 99515-9424, United States

Shared to Cama'i Kodiak

👍

Like

💬

Comment

📤

Send

Comment as Pearl-Grace Pantaleone

🗨️

👤

📎

🔗

📧

New posts

All topics

About

Cama'i Kodiak!

Cama'i (pronounced chah-MY) is a traditional Alutiiq greeting, meaning "hello & welcome."

This is a kind and courteous group, a great place to find out about local events or discuss all things Kodiak.

We live in a supportive and inclusive community on Sugpiaq land. Please answer questions and agree to group rules for admittance to Cama'i Kodiak. See less

Private

Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Visible

Anyone can find this group.

Kodiak, Alaska

Upcoming events

MAKE IT AWKWA!

TODAY AT 10AM

MomCo Meetup: A Blessing For Moms

Kodiak Bible Chapel

Shared to Cama'i Kodiak

Interested



THIS SATURDAY AT 11 AM

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

Saranof Park

for Cama'i Kodiak

Going



FRI, OCT 31 AT 7PM

Shake a Tail Feather... or a Skeleton!

Rendezvous Bar & Grill

Shared to Cama'i Kodiak

Interested

See all

November 4 at 12:27 PM · Cama'i Kodiak

Tonight is the night! Come out to the Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station from 5-7pm for an open house to learn more about the flooding in the flats and how DOT&PF is working with KIB and the public to find solutions.

If you can't make the meeting, check out the website for the meeting materials: <https://kodiakpel.com/library/>

Subscribe here to stay in the loop and receive project updates: <https://mailchi.mp/966bb318c2d2/kpel>

TONIGHT!

Kodiak PEL

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Public Open House

5pm-7pm



View in group

★ Rising contributor · November 1 at 2:57 PM ·

Bells Flats Bridge Replacement Open House - November 4th, 5-7PM

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities is holding an open house to get the community's feedback on the bridges at Sargent Creek and Russian River. They are looking to identify solutions to the flooding in the area. Please consider joining them at the Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station, 528 Sargent Creek Road



Sargent Creek and Russian River PEL

Join Us on November 4th

We are beginning a planning and environmental linkages (PEL) study to improve the bridges at Sargent Creek and the Russian River, and to identify solutions to address flooding in the area. Your voice matters as we begin this process to help identify problems and collaborate on solutions.

You and others

Like

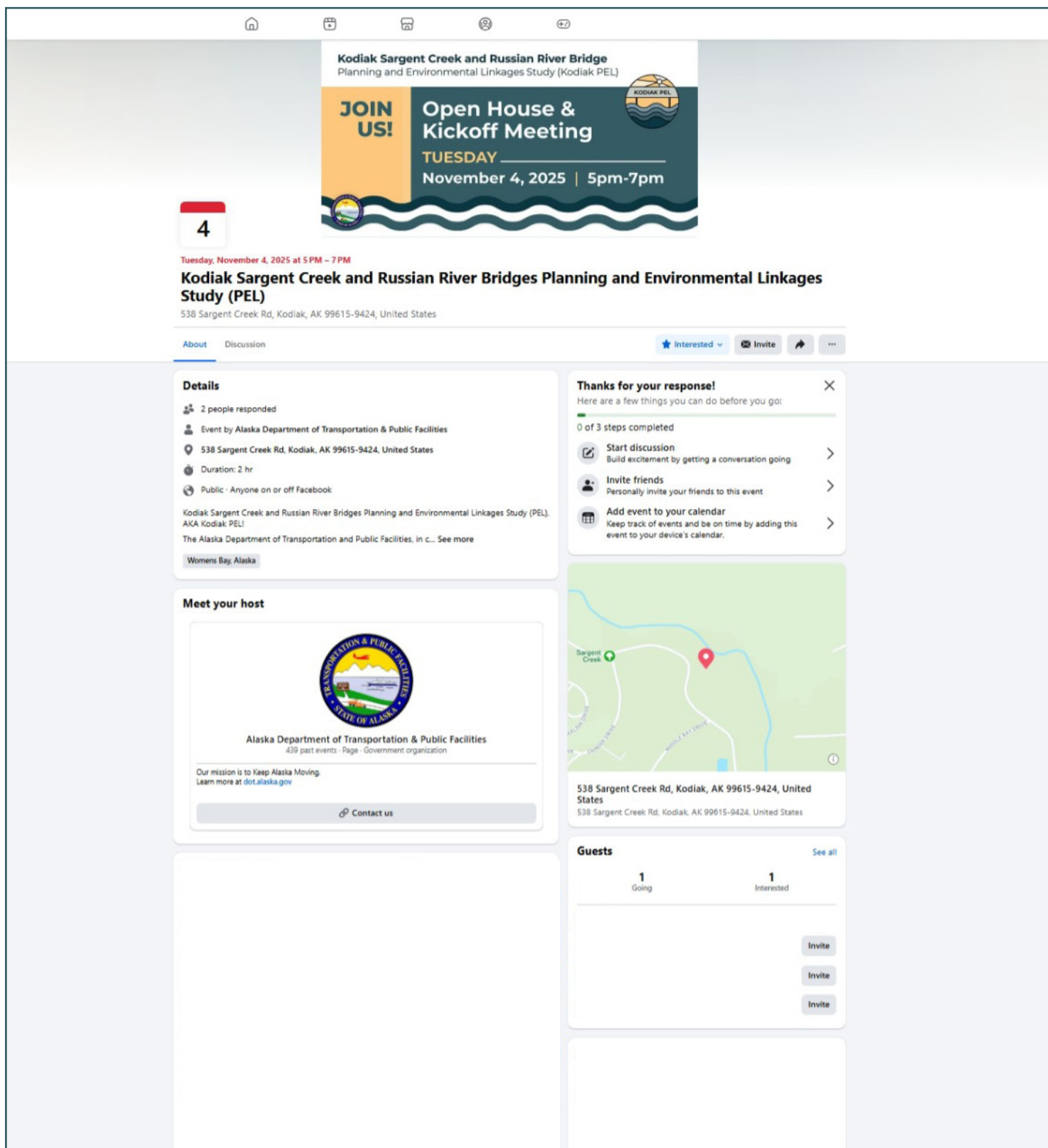
Comment

Send

1 comment

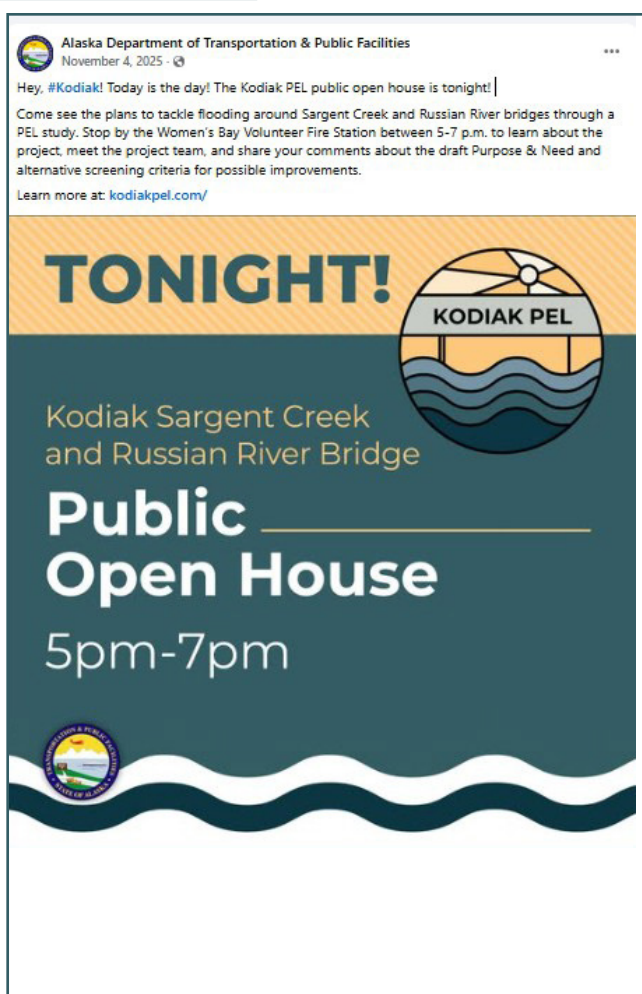
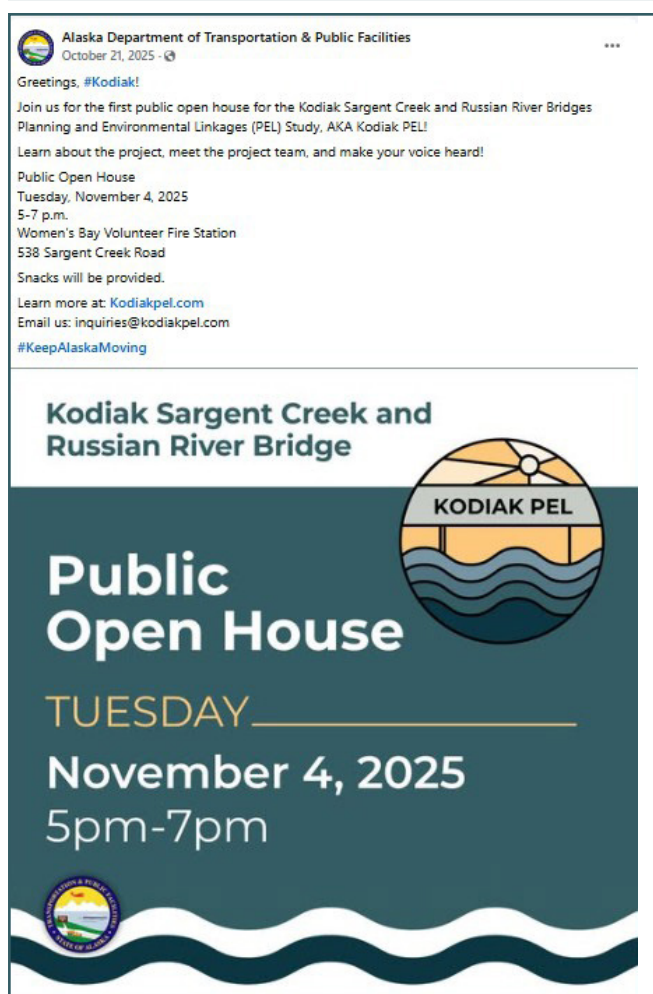
Attachment B: Publicity

Social Media Posts



Attachment B: Publicity

Social Media Posts



Attachment B: Publicity

Social Media Posts

 Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
November 6, 2025 · 🌐

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the first Kodiak PEL public open house! Your thoughtful feedback will help shape the solutions at both bridges.

Couldn't make the meeting? No problem. Materials are available on our website at: kodiakpel.com/.

Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and alternative screening criteria are requested by December 5.

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the open house!

Learn more and share your input by December 5, 2025.





 Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
November 26, 2025 · 🌐

Thinking about #Kodiak PEL and the draft documents out for review? There is still time to share your feedback!

We want to know if we hit the mark on our draft purpose and need as well as Draft Alternative Screening Criteria. Why should you care? Because these two documents will help guide decisions when selecting solutions in the Kodiak PEL planning process.

Get your comments in by December 5 at kodiakpel.com/

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Comment Period

NOW THROUGH

December 5, 2025





 Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
December 5, 2025 · 🌐

Calling all #Kodiak residents!

This is your last reminder to submit your comments on the draft purpose and need and alternative screening criteria for the Kodiak PEL Study. The comment period closes tonight.

Submit your comments in two easy ways:

- 📧 email inquiries@kodiakpel.com
- 🌐 visit kodiakpel.com and enter your comments in the "contact us" page.

Thank you for being part of the solution.

Last Call!

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Comment Period

Ends tonight!

December 5th





 Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
December 8, 2025 · 🌐

That's a wrap, folks!

Thank you to all who submitted comments for the #Kodiak PEL draft purpose and need as well as the draft alternative screening criteria. We are busy reading them and will take all into consideration.

We will prepare for our next large public engagement opportunity for Spring 2026.

Want to stay in the loop? Sign up for our Study newsletter here: <https://mailchi.mp/966bb318c2d2/kpel> Or keep checking our website for updates at kodiakpel.com.

Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Thank you to everyone who submitted comments!

Subscribe for updates at

<https://mailchi.mp/966bb318c2d2/kpel>





Attachment B: Publicity

Website Updates



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
SOUTHCOST REGION



[Home](#) [Travel](#) [Business](#) [News & Social](#) [Projects](#) [About Us](#)

Kodiak Sargent Creek & Russian River Bridges Study

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study



[DOT&PF > Southcoast Region > Projects > Kodiak PEL > Project Description](#)

[Home](#) [Project Description](#) [Public Involvement](#) [Project Library](#) [Contact Us](#)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study has two distinct elements. The first includes hydrologic, geotechnical, and environmental studies to identify current conditions and erosion issues, map wetlands in the study vicinity, and identify the location for the bridge footings. The second element is the PEL study itself, in which the study team works with stakeholders to develop a Purpose and Need Statement, identify PEL study objectives and goals, and draft a screening process and screening criteria to consider in alternative evaluation, which may include alternative bridge locations and/or upstream channel management and mitigation strategies.

The Kodiak PEL will be developed in four phases (as outlined below), and stakeholder engagement is key to developing reasonable solutions that can be moved forward to develop a subsequent NEPA environmental review document.

JOIN US

Click to learn more!



Public Open House
11/4/2025 | 5pm-7pm

Stay Informed!
Subscribe to our mailing list to receive project-related updates.

Bran Pollard, PE
DOT&PF Project Manager

Amy Burnett
Public Involvement Lead
inquiries@kodiakPEL.com

Quick Links

- [Southcoast Region](#)
- [Southcoast Region Projects](#)
- [DOT&PF Projects](#)

[Join the project email list!](#)

JOIN US! Details!



Open House & Kickoff Meeting

TUESDAY
November 4, 2025 | 5pm-7pm



Join us for the first public open house for the Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, AKA Kodiak PEL!

You are invited to join the study's kickoff public open house to discuss needed improvements around the Sargent Creek and Russian River bridges. Your experiences will make a difference in identifying solutions that are collaborative and lasting.

At the public open house, you can:

- Learn about the project
- Meet the project team
- Discuss needed improvements
- Comment on the draft Purpose & Need
- Comment on the draft alternative screening criteria

Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and alternative screening criteria are requested by **December 5, 2025**.

Public Open House Details

Tuesday, November 4, 2025
5pm-7pm
Women's Bay Volunteer Fire Station
538 Sargent Creek Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Snacks will be provided.

[Study Materials](#) [Join our email list](#)

Attachment B: Publicity

Website Updates



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
SOUTHCOST REGION



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Kodiak Sargent Creek & Russian River Bridges Study

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study



DOT&PF > Southcoast Region > Projects > Kodiak PEL

Home Project Description Public Involvement Project Library Contact Us

WELCOME – KODIAK PEL

SHARE INPUT!

[Click to learn more!](#)



Comments due by December 5, 2025

DRAFT



Purpose & Need and Screening Criteria

inquiries@kodiakPEL.com



Quick Links

- [Southcoast Region](#)
- [Southcoast Region Projects](#)
- [DOT&PF Projects](#)

[Join the project email list!](#)

The project team held the first public open house on November 4 for the Kodiak PEL Study, sharing the draft Purpose & Need and screening criteria.

Review materials and provide feedback by December 5, 2025:

DRAFT

Purpose & Need



DRAFT

Screening Criteria



DRAFT

Public Open House Materials



Your input will help shape future transportation improvements in Kodiak!

Attachment B: Publicity

Website Updates



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
SOUTHCOST REGION

Home Travel Business News & Social Projects About Us

Kodiak Sargent Creek & Russian River Bridges Study

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study



DOT&PF > Southcoast Region > Projects > Kodiak PEL > Project Description

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges PEL Study has two distinct elements. The first includes hydrologic, geotechnical, and environmental studies to identify current conditions and erosion issues, map wetlands in the study vicinity, and identify the location for the bridge footings. The second element is the PEL study itself, in which the study team works with stakeholders to develop a Purpose and Need Statement, identify PEL study objectives and goals, and draft a screening process and screening criteria to consider in alternative evaluation, which may include alternative bridge locations and/or upstream channel management and mitigation strategies.

The Kodiak PEL will be developed in four phases (as outlined below), and stakeholder engagement is key to developing reasonable solutions that can be moved forward to develop a subsequent NEPA environmental review document.

SHARE INPUT

Details!



Comments due by December 5, 2025

DRAFT

Purpose & Need and Screening Criteria



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, AKA Kodiak PEL, Public Open House Recap

On November 4, 2025, DOT&PF hosted the first public open house for the Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study, also known as Kodiak PEL.

The event introduced the study and provided an opportunity to:

- Learn about the project
- Meet the project team
- Discuss needed improvements
- Review and comment on the Draft Purpose & Need
- Review and comment on the Draft Alternative Screening Criteria

We are now in the comment period. Comments on the draft Purpose & Need and Screening Criteria are requested by **December 5, 2025**.

View documents and open house materials.

[Study Materials](#) [Join our email list](#)

SHARE INPUT

Click to learn more!



COMMENTS DUE

December 5, 2025



Stay Informed!

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive project-related updates.

Bran Pollard, PE
DOT&PF Project Manager

Amy Burnett
Public Involvement Lead
inquiries@kodiakPEL.com

Quick Links

- [Southcoast Region](#)
- [Southcoast Region Projects](#)
- [DOT&PF Projects](#)

[Join the project email list!](#)



Attachment C Meeting Results

Attachment C: Meeting Results

Sign In Sheet

Sign-In Sheet Please Print Legibly		Kodiak PEL Study Sign-in Sheet					Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study
Public Open House Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:00pm to 7:00pm Womens Bay Volunteer Fire Station 538 Sargent Creek Rd Kodiak, AK 99615							
Name (Please print legibly)	E-mail	Join Our Mailing List! (Y or N)	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)	How did you hear about this meeting? (Postcard, Newspaper, Facebook, Flyer, Other)		
Clark Yatsik		Y	M		Email		
Korne & Elana White					Email / Newspaper		
Diane Doucette-Conney		Y	F	W	Facebook post		
William Roberts		Y	M		MEMBER OF SERVICE BOARD		
Victor Weaver		Y	M	AN	Facebook		
Michelle Weekly		Y	F	W	Postcard		
Karen M. Hastein		Y	F	W	all of above		
Pete Cummings		Y	M	W	ALL Above		
Wendy A. Close Eskew		Y	F	W	Friend		
Brian Himelbloom		Y	M	W	newspaper		

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF. DOT&PF operates all programs without regard to race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: dot.alaska.gov/tvl_statement.shtml. To file a complaint, go to: dot.alaska.gov/cvtrts/titlevi.shtml.
*This information is voluntary. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation by the public in all projects and programs administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Race Categories: White (W), Alaska Native (AN), Native American (N), Black (B), Hispanic (H), Asian (A), Pacific Islander (P), and Other (O).

Page 1 of 3

Sign-In Sheet Please Print Legibly		Kodiak PEL Study Sign-in Sheet					Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridges Planning Study
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Name (Please print legibly)	E-mail	Join Our Mailing List! (Y or N)	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)	How did you hear about this meeting? (Postcard, Newspaper, Facebook, Flyer, Other)		
Clark Yatsik		Y	M		Email		
Korne & Elana White					Email / Newspaper		
Diane Doucette-Conney		Y	F	W	Facebook post		
William Roberts		Y	M		MEMBER OF SERVICE BOARD		
Victor Weaver		Y	M	AN	Facebook		
Michelle Weekly		Y	F	W	Postcard		
Karen M. Hastein		Y	F	W	all of above		
Pete Cummings		Y	M	W	ALL Above		
Wendy A. Close Eskew		Y	F	W	Friend		
Brian Himelbloom		Y	M	W	newspaper		

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Page 1 of 3

Attachment C: Meeting Results

Sign In Sheet

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Name (Please print legibly)	E-mail	Join Our Mailing List! (Y or N)	Gender* (M/F)	Race* (W, AN, N, B, A, P, O)	How did you hear about this meeting? (Postcard, Newspaper, Facebook, Flyer, Other)
Mike Milligan		Yes	M	W	Newspaper/Facebook
Davis Hovey		Yes	M	W	
Maya Edgerly			F	W	Other
Shelly Egler			F	W	Card in the mail
Caroline Roberts		No	F	W	Facebook / KIB
Brianna Cooper		Yes	F	W	Facebook / neighbors ☺

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Page 3 of 3

Attachment C: Meeting Results

Comments



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)



Please share your comments!

Pedestrian access on new bridges

Lower speed limit! - at least during
wildlife viewing season

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please add me to the project mailing list. ☐

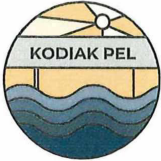
Comments can also be submitted via email at inquiries@kodiakpel.com or mail:

Mail to:

Kodiak PEL Study
c/o HDR
582 E 36 Ave Ste 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Attachment C: Meeting Results

Comments



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)



Please share your comments!

Raise both bridges (5-10'?) &
widen both and

accommodate vehicles

in which drivers/passengers

stop to gawk @ opportunistic

watching of bears (sows/cubs)

AST is involved to keep people

Brian Himmelblau

from getting
lost as they
prance across
the highway

Name:

E-mail:

Address:

City:

AK Zip: 99615

Please add me to the project mailing list. ☒

Comments can also be submitted via email at inquiries@kodiakpel.com or mail:

Mail to:

Kodiak PEL Study
c/o HDR
582 E 36 Ave Ste 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Attachment C: Meeting Results

Comments



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)



Please share your comments!

One of my main concerns is protecting the salmon that pass thru that river.
Also the flooding of the road has prevented me from going to work on some days.

Name: Michelle Weekly
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED]

Please add me to the project mailing list. ☐

Comments can also be submitted via email at inquiries@kodiakpel.com or mail:

Mail to:
Kodiak PEL Study
c/o HDR
582 E 36 Ave Ste 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Attachment C: Meeting Results

Comments



Kodiak Sargent Creek and Russian River Bridge

Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (Kodiak PEL)



Please share your comments!

Please Consider using "Small Creek" culvert (near East of Sargent Creek) for a water diversion. DOT did a great job of creating this culvert. More water could be diverted from Sargent Creek into "Small Creek" and ~~could~~ could potentially increase Salmon use of this area.

Name: Lorne White
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED] Zip: [REDACTED]

Please add me to the project mailing list. ☒

Comments can also be submitted via email at inquiries@kodiakpel.com or mail:

Mail to:
Kodiak PEL Study
c/o HDR
582 E 36 Ave Ste 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

Comments

[illegible]