



PO Box 863, Cooper Landing, AK 99572  
walkcooperlanding.org  
[walkcooperlanding@gmail.com](mailto:walkcooperlanding@gmail.com)

## SPECIAL MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** April 22, 2024

**WHERE:** Video conference

**TIME BEGUN:** 11:00 a.m.

**PURPOSE:** Gather the team supporting Cooper Landing Town Road Planning Project and ensure team members have same the understanding and are ready to work together. Further consideration by RTCA whether or not they will take CLT as a partner to help reach team goals.

**PRESENT:** D. Story, Chair CLT, R. Ruffner, KPB Planning Director, Z. Babb, RTCA Executive Director, R. Miranda, DPR, Chief Engineer, K. Pace, RTCA, E. Dean, RTCA, M. Beltrami, CLCC Treasurer (via phone), J. Cadieux, Secretary CLT

Those present introduced themselves and their function for the CLTRPP. D Story took some time to give a brief history of CLT and the Walkable Community Project.

**DISCUSSION:** This followed a question/answer format.

### **RTCA FOR CLT:**

**What** are the primary goals of CLT and CLTRPP?

See plans. Address the deficiencies of the current Sterling Hwy corridor traveling through the town of CL for all users.

**How** does CLTRPP relate to CL Walkable Community Project?

CL Walkable Community Project is the master plan of which CLTRPP is a part and the modern incarnation of. The CLWCP is accepted as a part of the KPB long term Plan and Transportation part of that plan. Some parts of the Walkable Community Plan have been accomplished, e.g. Foot bridge across Kenai River attached to vehicle bridge at outlet of the Kenai River. The CLTRPP will accomplish other goals of that original plan.

**How** does the CLTRPP address goals of the Walkable Community Plan?

It addresses a main part of the goals, as prioritized, for the Walkable Community Project for safety, connection, health, recreation, culture and history protection and highlight. We are trying to make the existing highway accessible for all travelers, cars, trucks, bikes, pedestrians.

The project needs to address deficiencies for highway vehicle users as well as active users of the corridor.

**How** do CLT/Walkable Community meetings go when held?

DS and JC meet roughly every other month formally and more frequently informally. For regular meetings about each quarter we tend to get more involvement from volunteers for winter snow trails than for general walkable community project except when we organize hand tool work on the Safety Path each spring. We now have M Beltrami as CLCC treasurer and tracking our finances as well. We follow a format for meetings similar to the CL Community Club and try to loosely follow Roberts Rules. Meetings are more formal if we have actual community members participating. We get more folks attending when we hold the meetings at the brewery in town.

**What** do the team partners see their roles as being for CLTRPP?

R Ruffner: Primary focus is SS4A. Planning effort. Hoping to determine how and if the goals align for that grant source and the goals of CLTRPP. They certainly don't want to duplicate efforts.

D Story explained how KPB has supported the project as the municipality for Cooper Landing. We did the work of DOT in submitting FLAP and TAP grant applications because it does not appear that DOT would do that for us.

R Miranda: Technical expertise for developing outdoor recreation structures. It is the division mission to help communities and agencies that seek our assistance. He was involved with our Cooper Creek bridge plans. He did the estimates for the CLTR planning level work. They will walk the site, collect data, do survey work, drone imagery work, GIS research mapping, environmental impact potentials. He and his engineering group have participated in TAP and FLAP projects. He agrees the project is needed and brings value to the community. They are very supportive. If professional surveying is needed they can hire for that.

M Beltrami: As a retired CPA with 30 years of experience she is prepared to file budget reports as required by granting entities. Her husband does drone work and mapping. He is currently working for the MP 45-60 Project doing drone work for that project so that capacity exists in the community.

**Are** the goals for this group as indicated on RTCA application and timeline?

Yes, as indicated. Timeline is at least targeting the next 2027 FLAP application? We need to know first if SS4A will be supporting our planning process financially and to what extent. We want to be ready in the next year with all application information ready.

R Ruffner: R&M has until October, 2024 to complete this planning phase of the SS4A grant project and then hopefully the build monies would be in the next funding cycle for SS4A but that is dependent upon what US Administration is in office for the next cycle. Community meetings for SS4A are in May. CLT should attend one of those.

D Story: He is involved in Active Transportation Coalition. Active transportation is not just for urban areas. Kenaitze Tribe is supportive but haven't signed a letter of support since their original letter early in the Walkable project (2011). DS believes Kenaitze Tribe would like to partner on a specific application for a tangible goal.

**What or who** is missing from this project team today?

Kenaitze Tribe. We anticipate they will become more active partners if funding is made available and we are ready to take action.

AKDOT&PF. We are optimistic with S Holland as the Regional DOT Director that DOT will be a more active partner but the specific planner assigned to our area has not been supportive. We likely can have DOT attend a future meeting.

**What** has been considered as a communication vehicle for the project? Story Mapping? Yes, especially a Story Map. DS tried to do a similar thing with the FLAP application. Not certain any eyes are on it even though it is posted on our website. We have done as much as we have been able to accomplish as two volunteers.

**What** is the public outreach plan?

It is aspirational and not clearly developed. We can send a letter to survey community involvement and we have funding for that mailing. We haven't undertaken much with that yet. We hope to have community meetings.

**CLT for RTCA:**

**How** do we get this on the STIP?

RTCA hopes to help us answer that. DS indicated biking/walking are still considered recreation vs a means of transportation by many. Funding is just not as readily available for these types of projects. Our first step is planning and that is also not often the target of funding.

**When** will CLT learn of whether or not RTCA has accepted our application?

By May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Can** RTCA lead our community outreach meetings if we get funded for the planning phase of our project?

Yes

**TASKS ASSIGNED:**

J Cadieux will share meeting notes with team members for them to review and edit if need be prior to her posting them on the website.

RTCA team will share any notes that they have with CLT/J Cadieux.

**TIME ENDED:** 12:00 noon