

# SOLID WASTE SERVICES CENTRAL TRANSFER STATION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN



## Prepared for:

Solid Waste Services  
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Anchorage, AK 99519

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## 1.0 Project Team

### Solid Waste Services

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Mark Spafford, General Manager

Suzanna Caldwell, Recycling Coordinator & Public Information Officer

### Tetra Tech

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Chris Coleman, Engineering Management (Project Manager)

### DOWL

4041 B Street, Anchorage, AK 99503

Katie Conway, Public Involvement Manager

Tim Potter, Senior Land Use Planner

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## 2.0 Overview and History

The 2018 Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan identified the need for a new central transfer station facility that:

- Addresses challenges inherited from legacy asset design/location;
- Improves vehicle access/egress;
- Segregates and expands operations and services;
- Redesigns and relocates a new transfer station building, administrative, and/or maintenance structures; and
- Accommodates future growth.

After the Master Plan was completed, a site selection study was conducted and a new site was selected and approved by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), as well as the Anchorage Assembly. Figure 1 (right) shows the location of the existing and proposed new Central Transfer Station facilities.



Building a new transfer station provides the following benefits:

- Allows Solid Waste Services (SWS) to continue operations with minimal impact to customers.
- Improves safety and reduces wait times.
- Incorporates additional recycling and waste diversion options that save residents money by extending the life of the Anchorage Regional Landfill.
- Reduces smells and litter.

### 2.1 Purpose of the Public Involvement Plan

Frequent, continuous communication with stakeholders and agencies will be key to the project's success. This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) details the proposed methods for communication with agencies, organizations, and the public. The objective of this effort is to work directly with the interested public and regulatory/permitting bodies to communicate the goals of the project and gather input required for advancement through required milestones.

### 2.2 Public Involvement Timeline

See Table 1 below for a timeline of public involvement related tasks on this project. This PIP will be continuously updated; tasks and the timeline could change as the project evolves. Though the PIP currently only extends through spring 2020, public involvement should be actively maintained through every stage of the project through final construction in order to keep stakeholders apprised of project progress.

Table 1: Public Involvement Tasks and Timeline

| Planning Action  | Meeting Name                                 | Tentative Schedule      | Meeting Purpose   |
|------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| Variance Request | Community Meeting                            | 8/21/2019<br>6pm to 8pm | The purpose of the meeting will be to introduce the project and discuss the variance request from AMC 21.05.060.E.10.i that requires transfer facilities to be 500 feet from academic schools, hospitals, or residential zoned districts. |
|                  | Taku/Campbell Community Council (CC) Meeting | 9/12/2019               | Provide project update and receive comments from the CC   |
|                  | Abbott Loop Community Council Meeting        | 9/26/2019               | Provide project update and receive comments from the CC   |
|                  | Taku/Campbell Community Council Meeting      | 10/10/2019              | Provide project update and receive comments from the CC   |
| Variance Request | Variance Hearing                             | 11/13/2019              | Urban Design Commission (UDC) Hearing*  |
|                  | Taku/Campbell Community Council Meeting      | 11/14/2019              | Provide project update  |

| Planning Action              | Meeting Name   | Tentative Schedule | Meeting Purpose   |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|
|                              | Taku/Campbell Community Council Meeting                | 12/12/2019         | Provide project update  |
| Conditional Use Permit (CUP) | Community Meeting                                      | February 2020      | The purpose of the meeting will be to introduce more detailed plans for the building and site to obtain public input. Per AMC 21.05.010, Table 21.50-1, a transfer station in the I-1, Light Industrial Zoning District requires a CUP. |
| Platting Process             | Community Meeting                                      | February 2020      | This meeting will likely be combined with the CUP community meeting. Currently, the site consists of six separate parcels that will need to be replatted for the new project.   |
| Conditional Use Permit (CUP) | CUP Hearing  | May 2020           | Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) required hearing   |
| Platting request granted     | Platting Hearing                                       | May 2020           | Platting Board required hearing**   |
|                              | Taku/Campbell & Abbott Loop Community Council Meetings | Winter/Spring 2020 | Keep stakeholders up to date on project progress  |

\*Schedule is subject to change based on meeting cancelations and/or other unforeseen conditions.

\*\*PZC could act as the platting authority so that the CUP and the Plat could be heard at the same hearing.

SWS will also give regular project updates to the Assembly Enterprise Committee, which meets monthly, and the Commercial Haulers, which meets quarterly.

### 3.0 Identification of Stakeholders

Project stakeholders include residents of neighborhoods adjacent to the new Central Transfer Station facility, MOA permitting bodies, residential and commercial users of the transfer station, and SWS. Changes associated with the construction of the new facility potentially impact everyone in Anchorage. Public involvement methods will prioritize engagement with core stakeholders, but will also include outreach to the community at large.

Below is an initial list of stakeholders. When possible, these entities will be included in the project mailing list. This list could expand throughout the project.

### 3.1 Public and Other:

- Property owners and residents in adjacent neighborhoods
- Business owners in adjacent areas
- Federation of Community Councils (Taku/Campbell CC and Abbott Loop CC)
- Commercial haulers

### 3.2 Utility Companies

- Alaska Communications
- Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility (AWWU)
- Chugach Electric Association
- ENSTAR Natural Gas
- General Communications, Inc.

### 3.3 Government, Regulatory, and Resource Agencies

- State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Anchorage Assembly
- MOA
  - Solid Waste Services
  - Building Safety Office
  - Planning Department
  - Planning and Zoning Commission
  - Urban Design Commission
  - Platting Board

## 4.0 Stakeholder Issues and Concerns

Based on preliminary discussions with stakeholders, the project team has identified the following concerns related to the project:

| Topic   | Concern  |
|---------|--|
| Traffic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic patterns to and from the site for the various users.</li> <li>• Increased traffic to the existing surrounding roadways.</li> </ul>  |
| Noise   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased noise from the new facility. The new facility is located southeast of the current facility. The new facility will allow some of the operations to be moved indoors, thus decreasing the noise.</li> <li>• Potential concerns of the increased noise from traffic to and from the facility. The new facility should not have increased traffic volumes and is adjacent to the New Seward Highway. Noise generated from the site will likely be at lower levels than the traffic noise from the highway.</li> </ul> |
| Smell   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent property owners of the current facility have indicated a bad smell at certain times. The new facility will enclose more of the operations and reduce smell in adjacent areas.</li> </ul>   |
| Sight   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about the visibility of the site from the surrounding area. The properties directly adjacent to the site will see the new facility. However, the adjacent facilities are commercial or industrial uses. The residential zoned district to the east will have limited visibility of since the New Seward Highway is at a slightly higher elevation than the project site and residential zoned district.</li> </ul>   |
| Litter  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trash debris that is blown outside of the transfer station tipping floor.</li> </ul>  |

## 5.0 Public Involvement Methods

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### 5.1 Mailing List and Email

DOWL will maintain a mailing list of interested agencies, organizations, and individuals, including all residents, business owners, organizations, and property owners adjacent to the new Central Transfer Station location. This list will include both postal and email addresses to provide meeting and milestone notices to stakeholders.

The initial project mailing list was provided by the MOA and will be expanded through subscriptions received via the project website and public meeting participation.

### 5.2 Website

A website will be set up at [www.NewSWSCentralTransferStation.com](http://www.NewSWSCentralTransferStation.com). It will contain background information on the study as well as a schedule, meeting information, links and documents, and contact information for the project team. The website will be updated regularly, including at major project milestones.

The email address [info@NewSWSCentralTransferStation.com](mailto:info@NewSWSCentralTransferStation.com) will be listed on all communication materials. This email address will be linked to a distribution list that includes the SWS and DOWL Project Managers.

### 5.3 Internal and External Stakeholder Coordination

SWS will manage coordination with the Solid Waste Recycling Advisory Commission (SWRAC) and the Assembly Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee.

DOWL staff will provide regular project updates to community councils as well as organize and present at each of the planned community meetings and the presentations before UDC, P&Z, and the platting board. DOWL will prepare graphics and meeting materials for SWS review and approval prior to all meetings. DOWL will also provide meeting notes for SWS review and approval.

The project is located in the Taku/Campbell community council area and is adjacent to the Abbott Loop community council area. Regular updates will be provided to these community councils throughout the project.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Commission (SWRAC) will serve as the project steering committee and will provide ongoing input to the project team. SWS will keep the group apprised of project status at the commission's regularly scheduled meetings.

The Assembly Enterprise and Utility Oversight Committee reviews and makes recommendations about the operations and budgets of SWS. SWS will provide regular updates to the committee about the project status at the committees regularly scheduled meetings.

If requested, additional small group, government, or agency presentations will be scheduled.

### 5.4 Public Open Houses/Public Meetings

The project team will host at least two open-house-style public meetings, one for each planning action related to the project. Where possible, these meetings will be conducted at regularly scheduled community council meetings. In the event a community council meeting is not an option, DOWL will schedule a separate public meeting.

DOWL will be responsible for presentations to the PZC (one hearing for each planning action). For the planning entitlements, DOWL will post a notice at the site 21 days in advance of the scheduled public hearing, as required by Municipal Code. All open house materials will be uploaded to the project website prior to the public meeting.

### 5.5 Postcards

A postcard will be distributed to announce each public meeting at least 21 days in advance. The postcard will be mailed, and an electronic version will be emailed to the contact list and will contain graphics and text explaining the project, purpose of the meeting, and asking for public input.

### 5.6 Advertising

Public meetings may be advertised in local media, on the MOA public notice website, in public service announcements, and on SWS's social media sites. Meeting advertisements will be prepared by DOWL in advance to allow for SWS approval.

### 5.7 Social Media

DOWL will suggest ideas and create content for SWS to post regular updates to their Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds. Emphasis will be placed on coming events and important project milestones.

### 5.8 Media Communications

Communication with the media may be one of the most powerful tools for keeping a broad public audience informed and encouraging continued input throughout the project. The project team will consult with the SWS general manager and communications team prior to any media communications. SWS staff will be the project spokespeople.

### 5.9 Other

This is a project that warrants innovative ideas for engaging the public and generating awareness about and support for the project, as well as to educate the public about SWS operations and the benefits of the new facility. Some preliminary ideas include:

- DOWL will work closely with SWS to develop a communications plan that outlines messaging strategies to guide outreach efforts;
- Requesting AWWU send out project update summaries or meeting notice as an insert with their monthly customer bills;
- Using photography at open house meetings, on the project website, and in social media posts to show the deficiencies with the current transfer station;
- Using door prizes to encourage participation in public meetings;
- Initiating a competition among students to create a design for a dump truck or wall mural at the new facility; and/or
- Working in collaboration with the Anchorage Museum to put an artist in residence at the Central Transfer Station to make something beautiful with garbage that would be showcased at the new facility.

## 6.0 Comment Response and Documentation

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Comments received via email, mail, phone, or in written form will be distributed to the project team and archived in a comment database managed by DOWL.