MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

DATE:

January 30, 2014

TO:

Planning Commission

FROM:

Chrissy McNally, Planner

Community Development Department

FILE NO.:

CSP2013 0032

PROPOSAL:

Transfer of ownership of Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei parking area from

DOT&PF to CBJ.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant:

State of Alaska DOT & PF

Property Owner:

State of Alaska DOT & PF

Property Address:

NHN Glacier Highway

Legal Description:

Right-of-Way

Parcel Code No.:

0 Parcel

Site Size:

52,718 square feet

Comprehensive Plan Future

Land Use Designation:

CBJ Natural Area Park

Zoning:

D1

Utilities:

Public

Access:

Glacier Highway/ Wildmeadow Lane

Existing Land Use:

Public Right-of-Way/ Parking Lot

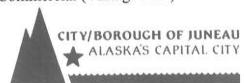
Surrounding Land Use:

North - D1, Category B Wetlands, view of Mendenhall Glacier

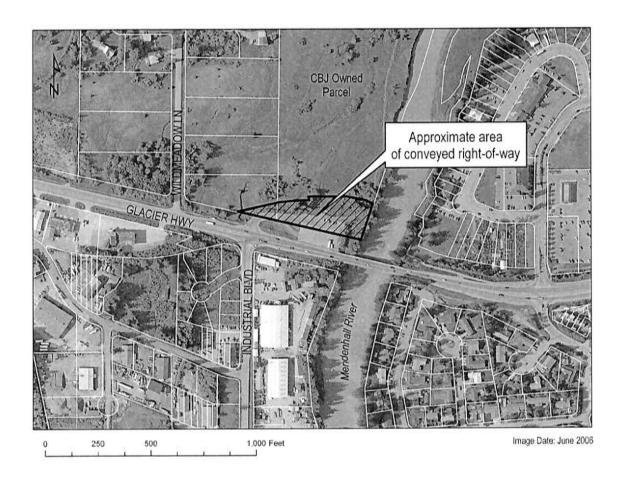
South - Lumber yard, Industrial Boulevard

East - D1 Residential

West - Mendenhall River, Light Commercial (Vintage Park)



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Attachment A: Proposed parking lot realignment

Attachment B: Preliminary plat

Attachment C: DOT&PF confirmation of commercial use fees

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BACKGROUND

The parking area located at 10 mile Glacier Highway will be reconstructed during the Brotherhood Bridge replacement project. This project was given local consistency review under CSP2013 0011. The proximity of the intersection of Industrial Boulevard and the entrance to Wildmeadow Lane creates potentially dangerous turning conflicts; the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposes to abandon the existing driveway access to the parking lot and to construct a new driveway to the parking lot from Wildmeadow Lane in order to reduce these potential conflicts. This parking lot will be extended a few feet north to align with the new entrance and allow for the widening of Glacier Highway at Brotherhood Bridge (see Attachment A).

The parking lot to the east of Brotherhood Bridge is the western access point for the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei and Brotherhood Park. The Kaxdigoowu Heen trail is designated a Recreation Service Park by the *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan*. The parking lot is also a scenic photo location for bus tours and locals as well as a pick-up point for river-rafting tours and a staging area for coaches awaiting pick-ups in Auke Bay.

The CBJ owns the land that encompasses the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei and Brotherhood Park. Over time, CBJ Parks and Recreation (P&R) has taken on the maintenance responsibilities of the parking lot though the parking lot is part of DOT&PF Right-of-Way. DOT&PF is transferring ownership of the parking lot to CBJ. A consistency review under CBJ 49.10.170(c) City and borough land acquisitions, disposals and projects is required for this proposed land acquisition;

"The commission shall review and make recommendations to the assembly on land acquisitions and disposals...The report and recommendations of the commission shall be based upon the provisions of this title, the comprehensive plan, and the capital improvements program."

ANALYSIS

The CBJ owns approximately 24 acres adjacent to the subject parking lot. This parcel is zoned D1 and was purchased with federal Land and Water Conservation Funds. The reconstructed parking lot is being funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). These different funding sources offer different management tools for the two parcels. Greg Chaney, CBJ Lands Manger preferred that the parcel remain separate from the larger CBJ parcel due to the funding sources. A Preliminary Plat minor subdivision, SMN2013 0031 accompanies this consistency review (see Attachment B).

The acquisition of the parcel will allow CBJ to charge commercial use fees to tour operators who use the parking lot as a photo stop or staging. According to Deputy Lands Manager, Dan

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Bleidorn, the CBJ did not want to acquire ownership of the parking lot unless commercial use fees could be charged in order to offset the cost of maintenance. It is illegal to charge tolls on roads constructed with Federal Highway Administration funds. The CBJ wanted confirmation that commercial use fees could be charged to tour operators and would not be considered a toll. DOT&PF was able to confirm that commercial use fees would not violate provisions of the FHWA (see Attachment C). Commercial use fees will provide an important revenue stream for the CBJ to sustain the CBJ's maintenance effort in the parking lot.

CONFORMITY WITH ADOPTED PLANS

The proposed land acquisition is relevant to the Comprehensive Plan of the City and Borough of Juneau (2013) and the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan of the City and Borough of Juneau (2013) states that the CBJ government seeks to assure;

"protection of the scenic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat, watersheds and outdoor natural recreation resources that all Juneauites and visitors value and enjoy;"

There are also several Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Implementing Actions (IAs) and Development Guidelines (DGs) that are directly applicable to the proposed land acquisition:

- 5.6.DG2: When considering capital improvements and when reviewing permit applications for tourism-related developments, assess the costs and benefits of the proposed projects against the policies of this *Comprehensive Plan* and any CBJ-adopted Tourism Management Plan or BMPs.
- 5.6.IA5: Conduct frequent appraisals of public and private transportation facilities to ensure they meet local and tour-related use and demands.
- 9.1.SOP3 ...Investigate creative and innovative funding mechanisms for the acquisition and development of parks, facilities, trails and programs. Explore cooperative management agreements, joint ventures, private/public partnerships or other protocols to facilitate progress.
- 9.1.SOP8 Utilize a permit system for commercial use of public lands that includes commercial user fees as part of the funding source for dispersed recreation development and maintenance costs....
- 9.1.DG1 Ensure that proposed commercial use of public trails and their environs is consistent with the P&RD Commercial Use of Trails report.

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While not an officially adopted plan, CBJ endorses the Tourism Best Management Practices (TBMP) developed by the Juneau Convention and Visitor's Bureau. TBMP are "intended to minimize the impacts of tourism in a manner which addresses both resident and industry concerns and enhances our visitors' experience in the Capital City." Acquisition of the parking lot will better help CBJ ensure the guidelines of the 2013 TBMP are followed by tour operators that participate in the program.

The 2013 TBMP refers to the subject parking lot as the "Brotherhood Bridge Photo Lookout". Guidelines 8 and 9 of the section titled Agreements Regarding Transportation Vehicles instruct tourism vehicle operators to check vehicles for fluid leaks at all staging areas and turn off their engines whenever loading or unloading passengers or staging. Both of these guidelines are supported by the 2011 Juneau Climate Action and Implementation Plan which aims to "lower Juneau's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by decreasing area wide consumption of energy in general and fossil fuels in particular." Further, these guidelines are supported by Parks and Recreation Commercial Use Regulations, specifically 11 CBJAC 01.010(c)

"Establish rules to minimize environmental damage and mitigate impacts from the commercial use of parks and open spaces, and trails."

Thought the parking lot is a popular tourist destination, the Kaxdigoowu Heen trail is not permitted for commercial use. Under the section titled, *Agreements Regarding Walking, Hiking, Bicycling and Zipline Tours*, in TBMP, guideline 39 states;

"Operators agree to use trailhead parking in a courteous and responsible manner and to pay special attention to independent users. While utilizing the Brotherhood Bridge Photo Lookout, operators will not encourage visitors to use the trail unless the operator has a permit to do so."

If CBJ were to own the parking lot at this trailhead and popular photo location, CBJ P&R could ensure these guidelines are followed.

HABITAT

While relocating the driveway access to the Brotherhood Bridge parking lot to Wildmeadow Lane from its current direct access onto Glacier Highway will require fill of a wetland unit categorized as Class B in the Juneau Wetland Management Plan, this action is not the subject of this review.

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FINDINGS

The proposed land acquisition substantially conforms to locally-adopted plans. The proposed management of the parking lot to include commercial use fees also conforms to locally-adopted plans.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt the analysis and findings and recommend to the Assembly approval of CSP2013 0032, the transfer of ownership of Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei parking area from DOT&PF to CBJ.

CITY/STATE PROJECT AND LAND ACTION REVIEW APPLICATION

Project Number	Project Name (15	characters)		Case Number	Date Received
				CSP 2613 0032	11/27/13
TYPE OF PROJEC	CT REVIEW:				
City Pr	oject Review	City Land Acquisi	tion /Disposal	State Project F	Review
				-7	
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Please attach a cover lett	er to fully explain t	the project if there is not a	dequate space o	n this form.	
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PROJECT NOMBE	KS ASSUCIA	TED WITH PROPC	SAL:		
Is this project associate	d with any other L	₋and Use Permits?	No Yes	Case No.:	
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Local Improvement Dist	rict # (LID)		_		
State Project #		67987			
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For more information	regarding the	CITY/STATE PROJECT FE	ES	**************************************	
permitting process and	the submittals		Fees	Check No. Receipt	Date
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If you need any assist					
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Center at 586-0770.					

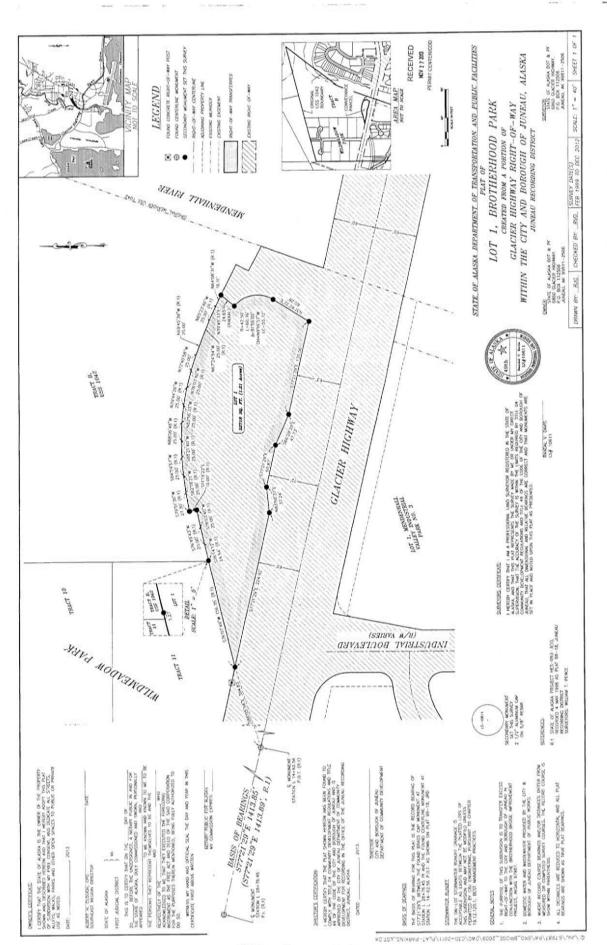
NOTE: MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

EVEN IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS ASSOCIATE WITH OTHER LAND USE PERMITS, THIS APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

	Assign Nar									
	Transfer	Description r excess Right-of-Way to the City & Borough of Juneau								
	ppopr	PROVIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF								
9	Street A		City/Zip							
-	NHN (Glacier Highway	99803	99803						
	A pro	escription(s) of Parcel(s) (Subdivision, Survey, Block, Tract, Lition of Glacier Highway Right-of-Way								
	N/A	or's Parcal Mumb								
		WNER/LESSEE	NAME AND POST OF			William Park				
	Property	y Owner's Name of Alaska DOT&PF		Richard Ger		Work Phone: 907-465-4543				
	Malling	Address	11. 2506	Home Phone:		Fax Number:				
-	6860 C	ilacier Highway , P.O. Box 112506, Juncau AK 998	11-2506	Other Contact	Phone Num	ber(s):				
1		.germiller@alaska.gov		Rob Murph						
		the state of the second of	Man and L	ts, not needed on Build	61					
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	х	XIII (XIVV)		10.17.2013						
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- 1	NOTICE: The City and Borough of Juneau staff may need access to the subject property during regular business hours and will attempt to contact the landowner in addition to the formal consent given above. Further, members of the Planning Commission may visit the property before the scheduled public									
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Christine McNally

From:

Murphy, Robert B (DOT) < rob.murphy@alaska.gov>

Sent:

Monday, December 16, 2013 4:15 PM

To:

Dan Bleidorn

Cc:

'alex.viteri@dot.gov'; George Schaaf; Christine McNally

Subject:

RE: Brotherhood Bridge Parking

Follow Up Flag: Flag Status:

Follow up Flagged

Hi Dan,

Following up on our conversation I can confirm that if the Brotherhood Bridge access road and parking lot are transferred to CBJ that fees can be charged for commercial bus use of the facility. The fee schedule will need to be reasonable so as to not discourage low income use. The revenue collected will need to be used exclusively for maintenance of that facility. CBJ will be required to keep an accounting of revenue collected for that facility separate from other park facilities, and the same will be true of tracking maintenance costs.

We've begun drafting a Memorandum of Agreement that will be similar to other agreements we've entered into with CBJ, such as for Riverside Drive, Channel Wayside, Auke Lake Wayside and a number of others, which covers the use, operation and maintenance of those facilities. We'll add the provisions regarding CBJ's ability to collect fees to offset maintenance costs to the agreement, but otherwise they will be very similar. We'll need to get legal review of the agreement before sending it over to you but I hope to have that for you shortly.

Thanks,

Rob Murphy Right of Way Group Chief SE Region

From: Dan Bleidorn [mailto:Dan Bleidorn@ci.juneau.ak.us]

Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 11:39 AM

To: Murphy, Robert B (DOT)

Cc: 'alex.viteri@dot.gov'; George Schaaf; Christine McNally

Subject: RE: Brotherhood Bridge Parking

Hi Rob,

When can I expect to receive the written documentation?

From: Dan Bleidorn

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 10:57 AM

To: rob.murphy@alaska.gov
Cc: 'alex.viteri@dot.gov'

Subject: Brotherhood Bridge Parking

Good morning,

I spoke with Alex Viteri at the FHWA concerning the City's request to charge user fees for commercial vehicles that use the brotherhood bridge parking last week. To further clarify, the City and Borough of Juneau would only charge fees for commercial users of this facility and would use the fees solely for maintenance of the facility. Noncommercial users would not be charged for use of the parking lot.

After our discussion, it seems like the City request does not contradict the regulations for using FHWA funds for this project.

The sole purpose of this email is to confirm that all concerns have been addressed, and to have written documentation.

Thank you,

Daniel Bleidorn
Deputy Lands Manager
City & Borough of Juneau
Division of Lands & Resources