

June 16, 2009

Dear Superintendent Anderson,

On behalf of the Denali Citizens Council board and members, I am requesting an extension of time to submit comments on the Mile 73-86 Safety Improvements EA. As you know, DCC members have traditionally followed park road policies and prescriptions closely, and we've been involved in all major planning documents and NEPA processes regarding the park road.

The EA was released on June 9, 2009, with a comment deadline of July 9, 2009. We request an extension of 30 days, with comments due on August 9, 2009. In addition, we request two public meetings, one at the east end of the park, one in Kantishna, with representatives from NPS and Federal Highways in attendance to provide more information. The extension and meetings are important for the following reasons:

- 1. This project is highly significant and comes at significant financial cost.** Although the EA is focused on safety improvements, it will have other impacts. To evaluate all possible cumulative impacts, considering the mission and purpose of Denali National Park and Preserve, will take people time. One month is barely enough time to comment, especially during the busy summer season.
- 2. This project is highly technical.** The EA itself has few figures to illustrate the meaning of some of the design and policy prescriptions, and little detailed information on how this EA changes the current situation. Helpful photos and design drawings are absent. More time to prepare comments, and public meetings, are necessary to promote public understanding of this complex project.
- 3. Most affected populations are at the park.** This summer, many of those most affected by the EA are present at the park. This group includes lodge managers, staff and guests in Kantishna, and drivers, local residents, business and corporate representatives at the east end of the park. They should be encouraged to be involved in the process in a meaningful way.

Thank you for considering this request. You may reach me at nancy@denalicitizens.org with your response.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bale

DCC Board

Nancy Bale
Anne Beaulaurier
Jean Balay
Cass Ray

Jenna Hamm
Joan Frankevich
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Jared Zimmerman

Julia Potter, Community Organizer