

Alaska Highway West Local Area Plan Project Start-Up Survey Summary

INTRODUCTION

In June 2017, the Yukon government and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations held two public information sessions to discuss the start-up of a cooperative local area planning process for an area along the Alaska Highway from Ibex Valley towards Haines Junction. Following the meeting, a project start-up survey was distributed online and in hardcopy to seek community feedback on the local area planning process and key planning issues.

The results have been analyzed and summarized below. Where appropriate, survey analysis is limited to respondents who live or own property in the planning area.

Q1 & Q2: DO YOU LIVE OR OWN PROPERTY THE PLANNING AREA?

A total of 48 completed surveys were received. Of these, 22 respondents (46%) reside or own property in the planning area, while 26 respondents (54%) live elsewhere.

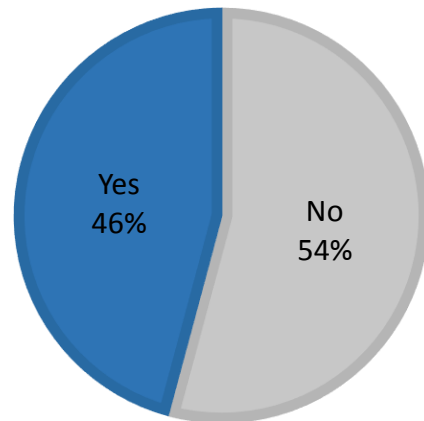


Figure 1. Percentage of respondents that live or own property in the planning area (n=48).

A total of 22 responses were received from property owners within the planning area. Of these, 14 (63%) live in the planning area, 3 (14%) live in the planning area seasonally, and 5 (24%) do not currently reside in the planning area.

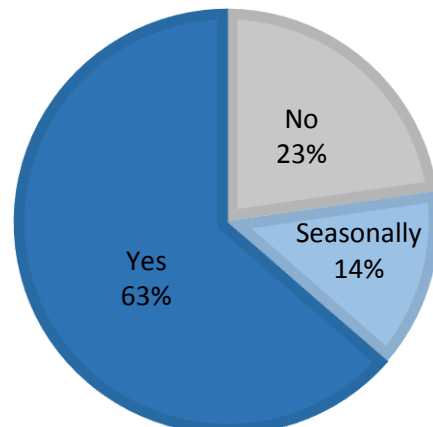


Figure 2. Percentage of property owners residing in the planning area (n=22).

Q3: WHERE IN THE PLANNING AREA DO YOU LIVE AND/OR OWN PROPERTY?

Survey responses were received from a cross-section of the communities, or development nodes, within the planning area. Of these, the most responses were received from Pine Lake (7) and Marshall Creek (6).

The survey also generated considerable response from those individuals living adjacent to the planning area (Mendenhall, Haines Junction, Bear Creek) or who have an interest in the planning area.

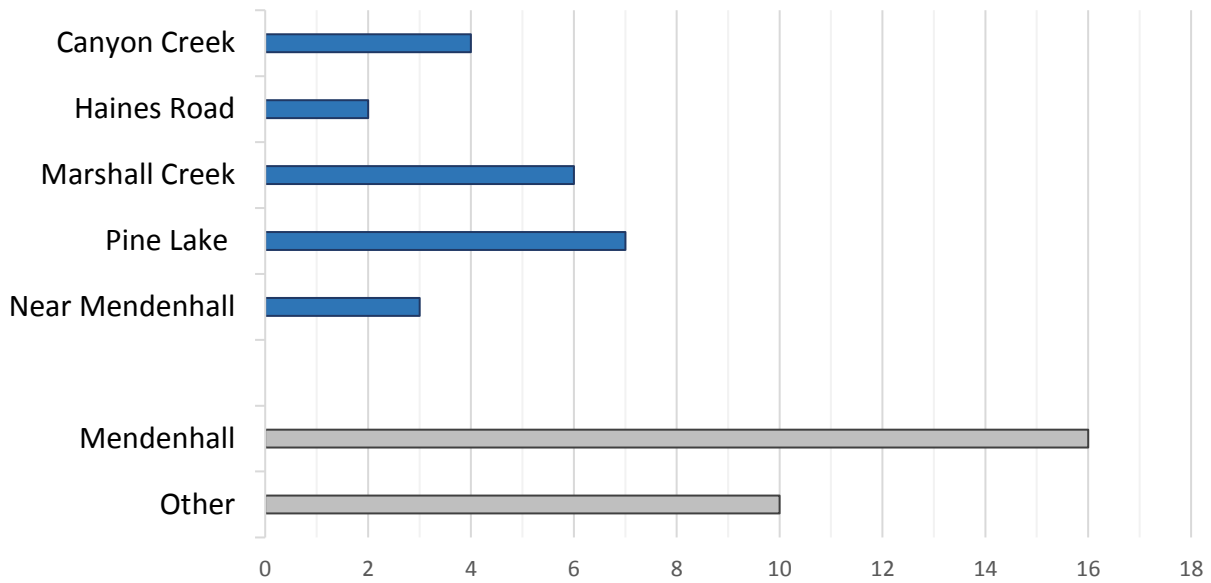


Figure 3. Location of survey respondents (n=48).

Q4: HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AND/OR OWNED PROPERTY IN THE PLANNING AREA?

A majority of respondents (12) indicated they have lived or owned property in the planning area for more than 10 years.

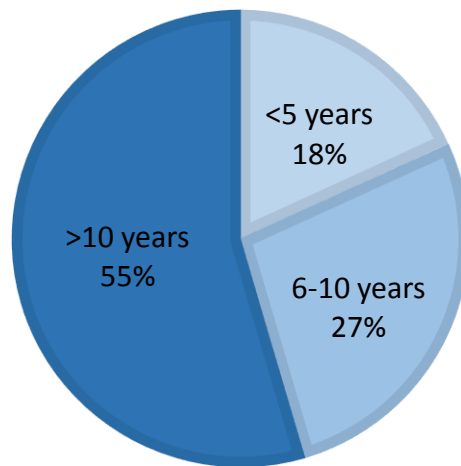


Figure 4. Percentage of property owners by duration of land interest in planning area (n=22).

Q5: WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

Of the options provided, most respondents indicated they were property owners and/or residents, or had a general interest in the future of the planning area. Other interests included:

- forestry values;
- opportunities for economic development;
- conservation and resource management;
- hunting values; and
- proximity to the planning area.

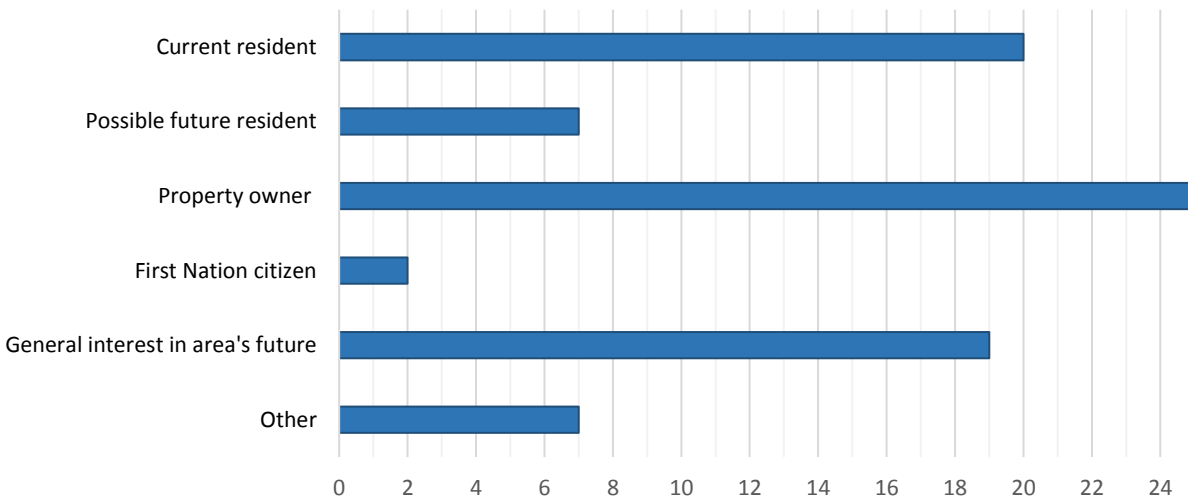


Figure 5. Respondent interest in planning process, based on frequency of response.

Q6: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PROPOSED PLANNING BOUNDARY?

Survey responses suggest a mixed reaction to the proposed planning boundary. Suggestions on how the boundary could be modified included:

- area should be more localized;
- focus planning on priority areas;
- remove existing titled lots from planning area;
- include Mendenhall;
- larger buffer around Mendenhall;
- include CAFN R-25B;
- include Haines Road south of Quill Creek;
- include ecologically sensitive areas;
- widen to facilitate more off-highway development.

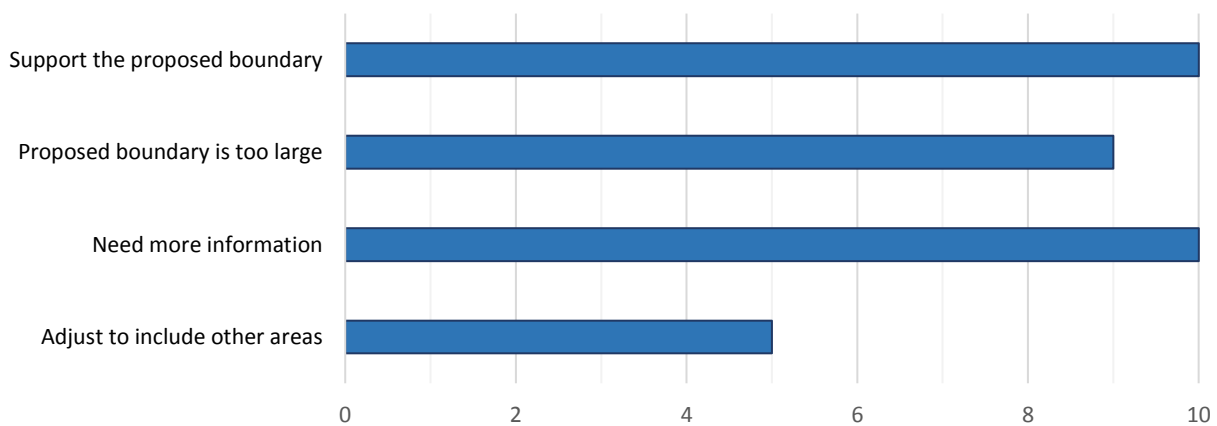


Figure 6. Summary of comments on proposed planning boundary.

Q7: WHAT ARE THE LAND USE PLANNING ISSUES YOU WANT EXAMINED AND/OR WANT MORE INFORMATION ON?

The most frequent response categories included:

- general interest in land use and development [5]
- agricultural land use and improved utilization of existing agricultural lands [5]
- residential development opportunities [4]
- discouraging unplanned development along highway corridor [4]
- trails and recreation [4]
- appropriate commercial land uses [3]
- encouraging economic development opportunities [3]
- future zoning regulations [3]
- environmental and wildlife values [3]
- hunting values [3]
- local area planning process (steering committee, First Nations participation) [3]

Other response categories included:

- maintaining rural character and service standards [2]
- visual impact of power/telephone infrastructure along highway corridor [2]
- highway and road maintenance standards [2]
- backcountry access [2]
- forestry values [2]

Q8: DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR NAMING THE LOCAL AREA PLAN?

A majority of respondents (8) indicated a preference for the name “Alaska Highway West Local Area Plan”. Some respondents preferred “Dezadeash Local Area Plan” (4) while others thought a First Nations / Southern Tutchone name would be most appropriate (2).

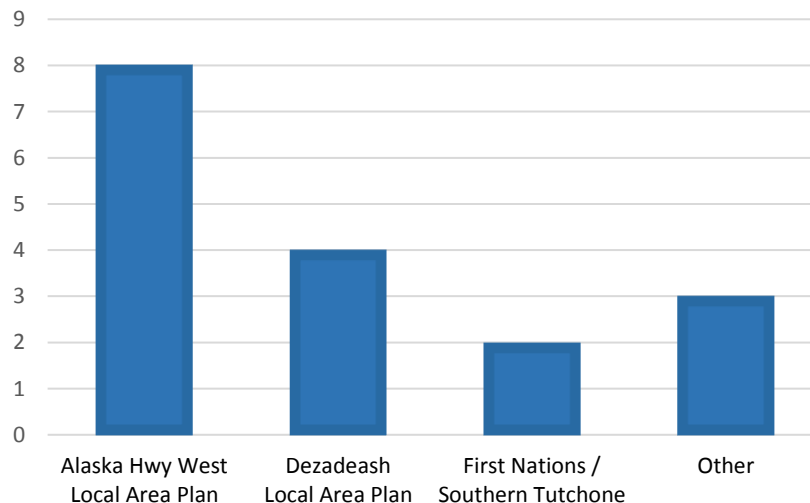


Figure 7. Respondent preference for naming the local area plan (n=17).

Q9: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS?

Feedback received from survey respondents suggests the majority of community members support the objectives of local area planning, but have questions or concerns related to the process.

- Some respondents raised concerns about the size of the planning boundary and the amount of time it will take to complete the process.
- Respondents also noted that the planning process should not limit the development rights of existing property owners.
- Others questioned the rationale for the planning process, suggesting that more information was needed before proceeding further.
- Some respondents expressed support for the planning process, noting the potential for increased land availability, land use certainty, and for promoting sustainable development.
- Respondents also expressed opposition to the planning process, citing concerns the plan will seek to restrict future development opportunities and impose unnecessary regulations on property owners.
- Several respondents requested to be involved and informed throughout the planning process.
- Other respondents reminded that all land use interests need to be considered through the process, specifically wildlife, forestry, and recreational values.