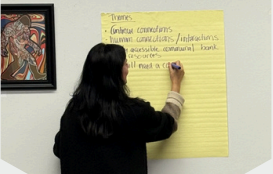




Kenai Peninsula Borough Transportation Gaps and Solutions 2026



A COLLABORATION TO ADDRESS THE TRANSPORATION NEEDS OF THE KENAI PENINSULA



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
PARTICIPANTS	3
CELEBRATING WINS	4
OPENING COMMENTS	5
PRESENTATIONS	6
907 RESOURCE NAVIGATION	8
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION	9
CLOSING COMMENTS	10



INTRODUCTION

On May 13, 2026, transportation providers, community organizations, Tribal entities, Borough representatives, and community members convened to discuss transportation needs and opportunities across the Kenai Peninsula. The hybrid meeting was facilitated by Denali Daniels + Associates, with opening remarks from Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Peter Micciche, who expressed the Borough's support for the group's ongoing efforts.

Building on discussions from the August 2025 convening, participants reviewed progress to date, heard updates from transportation service providers, and identified strategies to address current and emerging transportation challenges across the peninsula.

The event was co-hosted by the 100% Communities Transportation Action Team, the Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Sponsorship was provided by Bridges Community Resource Network, Inc., Central Area Rural Transit Services, Inc. (CARTS), and the Kenai Peninsula Foundation.



PARTICIPANTS

Many representatives from community organizations and members of the public attended. A list of participants is displayed below.

PARTICIPANT NAME AND ORGANIZATION	
Barrickman, Tawnya	<i>The Leeshore Center</i>
Beech, Johna	<i>Kenai Peninsula Food Bank</i>
Bell, Brandi	<i>Kenaitze Indian Tribe</i>
Biskeborn, Heidi	<i>Kenai Peninsula College</i>
Bunch, Julie	<i>Kenai Public Health</i>
Cannava, Dana	<i>Kenai Peninsula Borough</i>
Cochran, Taylor	<i>Alaska Cab</i>
Coreson, Caitlin	<i>Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District</i>
Cox, Tyson	<i>Central Area Rural Transit System</i>
Fielden, Becky	<i>Central Area Rural Transit System</i>
Friedman, Becky	<i>Peninsula Community Health Services</i>
Gensel, Kathy	<i>Bridges Community Resource Network</i>
Gillham, Pamela	<i>Love INC, Nikiski Shelter of Hope</i>
Jackson, Tometria	<i>State of Alaska Department of Corrections</i>
Luna, Melanie	<i>Ideal Option</i>
Ly, Yen	<i>Seward City Transit</i>
McGee, Brandy	<i>Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiatives</i>
McKinley, Amanda	<i>Kenai Public Health</i>
McTrusty, Nicki	<i>The Leeshore Center</i>
Micciche, Peter	<i>Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor</i>
Mundy, Wayne	<i>Community member</i>
Navarre, Tim	<i>Kenai Peninsula Foundation</i>
Novotny, Monique	<i>Mo on the Go Transport</i>
Parsons, Bradley	<i>Peninsula Independent Living Center</i>
Reinhart, Patrick	<i>Alaska Mobility Coalition</i>
Riley, Katie	<i>State of Alaska Public Health</i>
Rohr, Leslie	<i>Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition</i>
Schultz, Jessie	<i>Central Area Rural Transit System</i>
Silk, Tonya	<i>Nikiski Shelter of Hope</i>
Stockwell-White, Mary	<i>Central Peninsula Hospital - Health Equity</i>
Struffert, Abby	<i>100% Communities</i>
Tichenor, Karen Martin	<i>Kenai Peninsula Board Member</i>
Warfle, Jason	<i>Kenai Peninsula Job Center</i>
Wenzell, Anthony	<i>Central Peninsula Hospital</i>
Winston, Maggie	<i>Peninsula Independent Living Center</i>



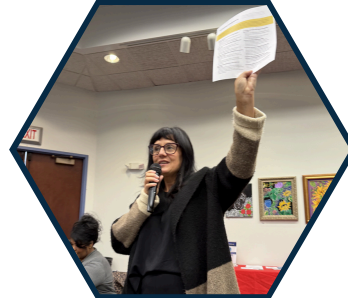
CELEBRATING WINS

2025-2026

In the opening of the meeting, the group walked through goals set at the August 2025 meeting, sharing what had been accomplished over the past year. Key accomplishments included:

- The 100% Communities Transportation Action Team was established and continues to meet monthly, with Karen, Jessica, and Tim serving as co-chairs and an expanded leadership structure supporting continuity.
- Kenai Peninsula transit service is now operational, generating excitement among participants and community members.
- Seward continues to make progress toward developing a city and area transit system.
- The 907 Navigation app was recognized as a major success, providing one of the most comprehensive and accessible transportation resource tools available across the Kenai Peninsula.
- Ongoing efforts are underway to maintain the transportation inventory and ensure service information displayed in the app remains current and accurate.

Homer's need for intra-city transit support and continued funding challenges were also acknowledged as areas still needing attention.





OPENING COMMENTS

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH MAYOR MICCICHE

Mayor Peter Micciche expressed enthusiasm for the progress the group has made, particularly highlighting the new Kenai bus service as an exciting example of reliable, scheduled public transit that anyone can use. He spoke to the broader economic importance of transportation on the peninsula, noting that lack of transit affects commerce, job filling, and quality of life, especially as rising housing costs push more residents further out toward Anchor Point. He also raised the possibility of a major industrial project coming to the region and urged the group to plan ahead for workforce transportation needs to avoid traffic congestion. He noted that pending legislation released that day could include funding that would be a game changer for peninsula-wide transportation, and he closed by thanking the group for their continued commitment and offered the Borough's support.



PRESENTATIONS

To watch a recording of these presentations, or to view the slides and/or flyers provided by the presenters, please click [HERE](#). Nine individuals presented at the May 13, 2026 convening:

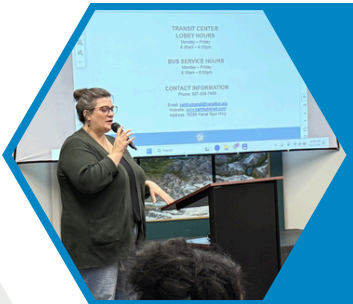


CAITLIN CORESON

KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Caitlin Coreson is the Program Manager at Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District. KPEDD's GIS maps are publicly available at kpedd.org and will continue to be expanded. Mobile optimization is a next step.

Contact: caitlin@kpedd.org



BRANDI BELL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE, KAHTNU AREA TRANSIT

Brandi Bell serves as the Transportation Manager for Kenaitze Indian Tribe. Kahtnu Area Transit is in its first phase, and expanding significantly in June 2026. The TripShot Rider App simplifies the rider experience. Paratransit is available but underutilized. Stop infrastructure improvements are on the radar.

Contact: kahtnutransit@kenaitze.org | <http://www.kahtnutransit.com>



PATRICK REINHART

ALASKA MOBILITY COALITION

Patrick Reinhart, the Executive Director of the Alaska Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education, talked about the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC). Patrick shared about HB26, which adds public and community transit to the DOT's formal responsibilities and requires legislative reporting. AMC is seeking new members.

Contact: alaskamobilitycoalition@gmail.com | <https://alaskamobility.org/>



MAGGIE WINSTON

PENINSULA INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER

Maggie Winston, Co-Executive Director of the Peninsula Independent Living Center (ILC), has a focus on Outreach and Advocacy. The ILC voucher program is a critical resource for individuals with disabilities. Seward remains underserved. Wheelchair-accessible vehicle availability is a peninsula-wide challenge being actively addressed.

Contact: <https://peninsulailc.org/> | mwinston@peninsulailc.org

PRESENTATIONS, CONT.



JESSICA SCHULTZ

CENTRAL AREA RURAL TRANSIT SYSTEM, INC.

Jessica Schultz is the Executive Director of Central Area Rural Transit System (CARTS). CARTS is experiencing strong growth and is investing in fleet expansion and accessibility. A comprehensive regional transit study is being pursued. The CARTS app is highly regarded by users.

Contact: <https://ridecartsak.org/> | jschultz@ridecartsak.org



TAYLOR COCHRAN

AAA ALASKA CAB, INC.

Taylor Cochran, the owner of AAA Alaska Cab, Inc., presented some of the history of Alaska Cab and some of their current projects and partnerships. Fuel cost management is an ongoing challenge requiring creative solutions.

Contact: <https://www.akcab.com/> | taylor@akcab.com



MONIQUE "MO" NOVOTNY

MO ON THE GO TRANSPORT

Monique "Mo" Novotny of Mo On the Go Transport fills a specific niche in Non-Emergent Medical Transportation Services, with a higher level of personal assistance. Growth is pending Medicaid and other payer approvals.

Contact: <https://moonthegotransport.com/en/> | moonthegotransport@gmail.com



YEN LY

SEWARD CITY TRANSIT

Yen Ly, the President and Founder of Seward City Transit, provided an overview of their services, addressing a significant gap in Seward. Rural Health Transformation Program funding could be transformative. Coordination with peninsula-wide efforts is a priority.

Contact: <https://www.sewardcitytransit.com/> | info@sewardcitytransit.com



ABBY STRUFFERT

100% COMMUNITIES ALASKA

Abby Struffert presented on 100% Communities Alaska, a model which aims to improve accessibility to each vital service until 100% accessibility for all Alaskans is achieved. Abby provided data which confirms transportation is a critical and underserved need for 1 in 4 Kenai Peninsula families. The action team framework provides a structured, data-informed path forward for each vital service. In order to coordinate people and entities, the Transportation action team will assume ownership of future Kenai Peninsula Transportation Gaps + Solutions convenings.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

During the lunch break, a representative from the Kenai Peninsula Foundation spoke about the organization's longstanding support for the Gaps and Solutions convening, noting that they have backed the effort since it began as a way to help community programs get started until other funding sources can be secured. Kenai Peninsula Foundation took the opportunity to present checks to two recipients: Central Area Rural Transit Services (CARTS) received \$2,500 and 100% Communities received \$1,250.



907 RESOURCE NAVIGATION ACTIVITY



Abby Struffert, 100% Communities Alaska, presented on the 907 Navigation App, which is a key public resource for transportation navigation. Agencies should verify and update their listings. The Community Alerts feature is a promising tool for real-time transit updates. Regular app maintenance should be built into the action team's workflow.

- [WEBPAGE: 907 System Navigation](#)
- [VIDEO: Kenai Peninsula Transportation Resources Made Easy | 907 Navigation App](#)
- [VIDEO: New Community Alerts Feature in the 907 Navigation App](#)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

NO WRONG DOOR: DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

In keeping with the overarching recurring theme of “no wrong door”, participants worked to define a shared vision for what this means on the Kenai Peninsula. Attendees broke into small groups (in-room and online) to answer two questions:

- In one sentence, what does "No Wrong Door" mean for transportation on the Kenai Peninsula?
- In the next year, what activities can promote the No Wrong Door approach?

Groups reported out on paper, online, and verbally.

#	No Wrong Door?	Activities
1	Any provider, when unable to meet a need, connects the individual to a provider that can. To include honoring fares across systems when at capacity, and maintaining a backup safety net when resources are exhausted. Emphasized warm referrals (not just phone numbers).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating successes (e.g., booth at market) • coordinated entry to measure unmet need • needs assessment surveys.
2	A warm handoff requiring service providers to operate as a community – knowing each other's services and following up on referrals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent provider updates to each other through multiple platforms • 907 Nav. App training for seniors and other community members • Information sharing in a variety of forms.
3	Multiple points of access Case manager - 1 person entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train customer service skills • Problem solving • Thinking beyond the “no”
4	No matter the door you walk through, you can get connected to the services you need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections + coordination (what is available) • 907 Navigation outreach - visibility + awareness • Support development of a general services coordinator with individual support categories underneath

THEMES

Themes across breakout groups included human connection, warm referrals, coordination, a dedicated coordinator role, an accessible communal resource bank, and ongoing communication among providers, with honorable mention for data collection. The groups aligned on transfer stations and reduced connection points as a long-term infrastructure goal.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Tim Navarre shared that the original goal of the Gaps and Solutions work: establishing transfer stations around the Kenai Peninsula so that riders traveling long distances, for example from Homer through Seward to Anchorage, encounter as few connection points as possible. He compared the frustration of too many transfers to having multiple layovers on a flight, and emphasized that minimizing those handoff points should remain a core, shared aim for the group. Karen Martin Tichenor built on this by pointing out that the Kenai Peninsula has long struggled to access state and federal funding because the region lacks integrated data collection to demonstrate the scale of its need. She expressed hope that Leslie Rohr's new coordinated entry role, which involves gathering data and resources around the homeless community, could grow over time and help make that case more effectively. Tim also took a moment to honor the late Joanna Geisler, who spent more than 30 years working on transportation access on the peninsula and whom he credited as the driving inspiration behind both the Gaps and Solutions convening and the voucher program model.

Abby Struffert announced that the next 100% Communities Transportation Action Team meeting is June 9 at 1:00 PM on Zoom, and encouraged participants to come with specific action items to carry into the year ahead. She also suggested inviting Rozell, the developer of the 907 Navigation app, to a future action team meeting so that providers could share updates and corrections in real time, and proposed that Rozell could attend twice a year to keep the app current and explore new filtering and sorting options. Denali added that DDA provides grant writing support, which may be available at no cost to organizations pursuing non-competing federal funding opportunities, and encouraged the group to reach out if they identified a relevant funding source.



NEXT STEPS

The meeting ended with action items as next steps, including:

- Transportation providers verifying and updating their listings in the 907 Navigation App.
- Agencies joining the Transportation Action Team meetings and listserv.
- Attending the June 9, 2026, 1PM action team meeting.
- Continuing work on transit expansion, mapping improvements, app enhancements, funding applications, and regional transportation planning.



DENALIDANIELS
+ ASSOCIATES

Prepared by Denali Daniels + Associates
May 2026