

Appendix B

Agency and Public Coordination Records

Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment

Scoping Summary Report

Prepared by: HDR Alaska, Inc. 2525 C Street, Suite 305 Anchorage, AK 99503

> October 2013 Rev. 3

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# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADEC ADF&G ANCSA APE ARRC DOT&PF EA FHWA KGB MSB NEPA PSA ROW SHPO	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Area of Potential Effect Alaska Railroad Corporation Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities environmental assessment Federal Highway Administration Knik-Goose Bay Matanuska-Susitna Borough National Environmental Policy Act public service announcement right-of-way State Historic Preservation Officer
SSR	Scoping Summary Report

# I. INTRODUCTION

# I.I Project Background

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), through its Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study (2006) and the Traffic Study Update (2011), has identified the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project to improve mobility for people and freight within the downtown core of Wasilla. More specifically, the project seeks to:

- Improve travel efficiency
- Reduce congestion
- Enhance safety

Consideration of a project in downtown Wasilla began almost thirty years ago with preliminary planning efforts in the early 1980s. Most recently, a 2006 Traffic Study evaluated alternatives and developed a recommended alternative. The leading alternative is a one-way couplet where the existing Main Street/Knik-Goose Bay (KGB) Road and Yenlo/Talkeetna roadways would become multi-lane, one-way, south- and northbound routes, respectively.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has identified that an environmental assessment (EA) is the appropriate class of action for this project, in compliance with 1508.9 CEQ. Scoping activities have been used to inform, engage, and solicit comments about this long-standing project. The project has updated the traffic modeling in the 2011 Traffic Study Update report, which continues to support the one-way couplet alternative.

The extent of the improvements include approximately one mile of new/improved roadway for each of the couplet legs. At-grade intersection improvements to Yenlo Street/Parks Highway and Main Street/Parks Highway intersections including two railroad crossings will be necessary. A new traffic signal at the Yenlo Street/Bogard Road intersection will be constructed as well. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation will be required along both couplet legs.

# I.2 Purpose of Scoping

One of the key purposes of the scoping process is to provide early notification about the project to local governments, regulatory agencies, Alaska Native organizations, and the public. Early participation prevents misconceptions about the project, curtails unnecessary delays in satisfying information requests, and fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in a cost-effective manner.

This scoping summary report (SSR) has two objectives:

- 1. To provide a comprehensive, chronological record of the scoping process that took place during the scoping period used to inform the stakeholders and solicit comments.
- 2. To report the results of the scoping process, including identification of significant issues and comments from stakeholders.

This SSR describes the tools and techniques used in the stakeholder outreach process. It includes a brief description of the project, descriptions of outreach activities, an overview of comments received, and a summary of the issues identified.

# 2. SUMMARY OF SCOPING ACTIVITIES

This report describes the DOT&PF activities and efforts to notify stakeholders, solicit input and accommodate stakeholder and agency interests regarding the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project. Scoping activities were conducted from March 2012 through August 2012.

Descriptions of the agency, tribal, and public scoping activities, materials, and implementation are presented below.

# 2.1 Agency Scoping

On April 19, 2012, DOT&PF sent scoping letters to federal, state, and local agencies soliciting comments regarding the proposed project. The scoping letter package described the project purpose and need, identified the project area, summarized the preliminary environmental research, and requested comments. It included a figure of the project area and an appendix that described preliminary search results. Agency scoping correspondence can be found in Appendix A. The letter was sent to the following agencies:

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
- Alaska Department of National Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
- City of Wasilla
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB)
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

ADF&G responded that there are no fish streams in the projected area of the project and therefore no fish habitat permit is required. A copy of this response letter can be found in Appendix A. Informal project team meetings with the City of Wasilla and MSB Transportation Planner have indicated support for the project and leading alternative, but no formal response to the scoping letter was provided. The Wasilla Planning Commission and the City Council each passed resolutions supporting the leading alternative in 2006. No other responses have been received.

# 2.2 Section 106 Consultation

Initiation of consultation letters describing the project, a map of the project area and a map of the preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE) were sent to the SHPO and the following ANCSA parties, Tribes, and other involved parties on December 5, 2011. The ANCSA parties and Tribes also received a Project Consultation Options Form, to be returned to the FHWA if desired.

- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (Tribe)
- Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association (ANCSA party)
- CIRI, Inc. (ANCSA party)
- Eklutna, Inc. (ANCSA party)
- Knik Tribal Council (Tribe)
- Knikatnu, Inc. (ANCSA party)
- Native Village of Eklutna (Tribe)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historic Preservation Commission
- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- Dorothy G. Page Museum
- Wasilla-Knik Historical Society
- City of Wasilla Historical Preservation Commission

DOT&PF and FHWA conducted a cultural resources survey of the project area and concluded that there would be no historic properties adversely affected by the project. SHPO responded on August 16, 2012, concurring with the FHWA finding that no historic properties will be adversely affected by the project. A copy of the SHPO concurrence letter can be found in Appendix B. No comments were received from any of the other consulted parties, and the consultation process is considered complete.

The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council returned their Consultation Options Form with an indication of no need for further consultation and support of any response from the Knik Tribal Council. A copy of this form can be found in Appendix B. No other recipients responded.

# 2.3 Public Scoping Activities and Materials

The following section documents the activities and actions that occurred during the scoping process to gather input from the public. Appendix C provides public meeting advertisements, invitations, and materials along with written comments (letters, emails, and comment sheets).

# 2.3.1 Public Scoping Meeting

A public Open House and Project Kick-Off was held on April 4, 2012 at Fire Station #61 in Wasilla from 6 to 8 PM. The event was designed to introduce the project and its purpose and need, review project history and current status, outline the next steps in the project, and solicit questions from attendees. The recommended alternative and dismissed alternatives were discussed, and information on the 2011 Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study update was presented. A project fact sheet was distributed at the event that included a project description, a map of the proposed project area, and a draft project schedule. A copy of the fact sheet can be found in Appendix C.

The event was promoted through newspaper advertisements in the Wasilla Frontiersman, an event flyer, radio public service announcements, and a postcard. Sixty-four people signed in at the April 4 meeting. A copy of the sign-in sheets can be found in Appendix C.

# Newspaper Advertisement

Newspaper ads were published in the *Mat-Su Frontiersman* (March 23 and March 30) announcing the April 4 open house, its location, a basic project description, and a summary of the intent of the meeting. A copy of the ad can be found in Appendix C.

# Event Flyer

An event flyer was developed announcing the date, time, and location of the event as well as the planned content of the open house were distributed door to door within the project area. They invited all interested parties to attend, and mentioned the importance of stakeholder input. It included complete contact information for those with questions, and directed readers to the project website. Flyers were distributed to approximately 65 businesses, government offices, and local organizations in Wasilla. A copy of the flyer can be found in Appendix C.

# Radio Advertisement

A public service announcement (PSA) was drafted for Wasilla radio stations to invite listeners to attend the April 4 Open House. PSAs ran on both KAYO and KMBQ radio prior to the event. A copy of the PSA text can be found in Appendix C.

# **Postcard**

A postcard was mailed on March 19, 2012, to approximately 2,800 people and businesses in the Wasilla area and Anchorage inviting them to attend the April 4 Open House. The postcard gave the date, time, and location of the event, the planned content of the open house, and a note about the importance of stakeholder input. It included complete contact information and directed readers to the project website. A copy of the postcard can be found in Appendix C.

# Earned Media

An article was published on March 26, 2012, in the Mat-Su Frontiersman titled "State, Wasilla talk couplet at April 4 open house." The article, by Frontiersman reporter Greg Johnson, described the project purpose and mentioned the upcoming April 4 Open House. It included information on the project status and goals, current problems with traffic in the area, and quotes from Wasilla Mayor Verne Rupright. A photo of Yenlo Street and its significance to the project were included. A copy of the article can be found in Appendix C.

# 2.3.2 Other Events

The project was presented at the May 29, 2012 Wasilla Chamber of Commerce meeting by Murph O'Brien from HDR and Ron Martindale of Kinney Engineering Questions and concerns focused on construction impacts, which would be addressed during design and prior to project startup, specific Right of Way impacts and access to their businesses. The Chamber of Commerce has invited the project team to return regularly to answer questions. The PowerPoint presentation slides can be found in Appendix C. This presentation is identical to the April 4 public meeting presentation but includes graphics that were made available as display boards at the public meeting. On June 28, 2012, project display boards were set up outside the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Murph O'Brien described the project, its status, and answered any questions of meeting participants. The Chamber of Commerce requested the project team to attend about once a month to answer project questions. A brief summary of the project discussion can be found in Appendix C.

On August 9, 2012, a project booth was sponsored at the 5th Annual Mat-Su Transportation Fair, held at the Menard Sports Center in Wasilla. The fair showcased transportation projects and initiatives in the Mat-Su Valley, and was attended by over 400 local residents. The event was sponsored by DOT&PF, ARRC, the City of Houston, the City of Palmer, the City of Wasilla, and the Mat-Su Borough. A flyer was distributed listing all projects represented at the fair, with a diagram of transportation booths and exhibits. A copy of the flyer can be found in Appendix C.

# 2.3.3 Project Website

The website for the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project was created to include information pertaining to the EA. The website (www.wasillamainstreetproject.com) is hosted on the State of Alaska DOT&PF website and maintained by DOT&PF. The website address was included in all project material (handouts, postcards, newspaper advertisements). The site provided the following information:

- Overview of the project, with a project study area map, and purpose and need description
- Project schedule/timeline
- Public meeting and related documents such as the 2011 City of Wasilla Comprehensive Plan, the 2010–2013 Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the 2007 Mat-Su Borough Long Range Transportation Plan, and the Wasilla Main Street 2006 Traffic Study
- Contact information

# 2.3.4 Mailing List

The project mailing list includes 2,844 names and addresses from businesses, government officials, and the public in Wasilla, Palmer, Anchorage, and cities in Alaska and Outside. The current mailing list was updated in January 2012, and last used to send out the project postcard announcing the April public meeting. At any time, members of the public can request their names be placed on the mailing list through comment sheets, the project website and sign-in sheets at meetings.

# 3. SCOPING RESULTS: SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Only one agency responded to the scoping letter. As noted in Section 2.1, ADF&G notified DOT&PF that, because there were no fish streams in the project area, no permit was required.

There were seventeen written comment letters received from the public, all of which came via printed comment forms distributed at the April 4 open house meeting. Three additional comment letters were received via email, one of which was not substantive. The twenty letters contained

43 individual comments which are identified/paraphrased in a summary table in Appendix D. Copies of all twenty comment letters can also be found in Appendix D.

Of the 43 comments, five expressed support for the project and some specifically for the leading alternative. Two comments expressed opposition to the leading couplet alternative. Topics of concern included:

- Parking and access for businesses, including during construction activities (12)
- Desire for pedestrian facilities and crossings, bike paths, sidewalks benches and bus stops (4)
- Desire for a connection for southbound traffic on KGB to access the northbound Talkeetna Street (2)
- Interest in cross street improvements (1)
- Additional traffic lights at project area intersections (4)
- Add beautification and landscaping (3)
- Bisecting personal property, decreasing value (1)

Several of the comments identified existing project components that were not properly identified in project graphic displays at the public meeting. These project graphics were corrected for later meetings and presentations. Parking, driveway access, access during construction, pedestrian facility details, and beautification efforts will be addressed during project design phase.

DOT&PF responses to each substantive comment are noted in the comment summary table in Appendix D.

Appendix A Agency Scoping Correspondence

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

CENTRAL REGION DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

4111 AVIATION AVENUE P.O. BOX 196900 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900

PHONE: (907) 269-0539 FAX: (907) 243-6927

April 19, 2012

Subject: Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project Project No. STP-0001(408)/60077

Re: Request for Agency Scoping Comments

Dear Agency Representative:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is soliciting comments and information on a proposal to rehabilitate Main Street and nearby roadways in downtown Wasilla, Alaska. The proposed Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project, which is located in Section 10, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian, consists of improvements and traffic pattern changes to Main Street, Knik Goose Bay (KGB) Road, Yenlo Street, and Talkeetna Street in downtown Wasilla (See Figure 1).

#### **Project Background and History**

For three decades, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), the City of Wasilla, the Mat-Su Borough, and other interested parties have been discussing the need for improvements at the intersection of Main Street and KGB Road where they meet the George Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) mainline in downtown Wasilla. Main Street/ KGB Road is the critical north-south link in downtown traffic circulation, as it is the only north-south roadway crossing the ARRC mainline in downtown Wasilla. Over the years, the growing population, traffic, and limited north/south options has overburdened the road system and increased the demand for travel crossing the highway. The growth and discontinuous layout of the road system aggravate congested conditions. The at-grade railroad crossing at the KGB Road just south of the Parks Highway further exacerbates traffic issues in Wasilla.

The proposed project has been identified in a number of planning documents. The 2012-2015 Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) calls for improvements at Wasilla-Fishhook Road/Main Street in the form of developing a one-way couplet in downtown Wasilla, bounded by Bogard Road to the north, just north of where the KGB Road meets the Palmer-Wasilla Highway to the south and Yenlo/Talkeetna Streets to the east. The STIP indicates that the project is needed to "mitigate traffic congestion in downtown Wasilla, and is the initial effort to begin addressing the capacity and safety needs of the KGB corridor." The 2007 MSB Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) calls for improvements at the KGB Road/railroad crossing. The City of Wasilla, in its approved 2011 Comprehensive Plan, also identified the Main Street-KGB Road-Yenlo Street couplet as a future transportation project that is needed.

"Get Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in 1993 and a re-evaluation of that EA was prepared in 2003. Due to a number of reasons, the project was put on hold. To provide an interim solution, in 2001, Main Street was converted to a three-lane road with a travel lane in each direction and a two-way center left turn lane.

Over the past several months, DOT&PF and its consultant team began a number of technical and field studies in the proposed project vicinity. The studies include updating a 2006 traffic study, a cultural resources survey, a noise analysis, a Phase I contaminated sites analysis, and a conceptual relocation study.

# **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve mobility for people and freight in downtown Wasilla by addressing the following needs:

- Travel Efficiency
- Congestion
- Safety

# **Improvements Currently Under Consideration**

Based on the recommended alternative in a 2006 traffic study, the leading design concept is to create a one-way couplet configuration, whereby Main Street would become a three-lane, one-way southbound route and Yenlo Street and Talkeetna Street would become a two or three lane, one-way northbound route. Other proposed improvements include:

- Approximately one mile of new and improved roadway for each of the two-lane couplet routes.
- At-grade intersection improvements to Yenlo Street/Parks Highway and Main Street/ Parks Highway intersections (including two railroad crossings and traffic signals).
- New traffic signals as needed.
- Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation along both couplet routes.
- Pedestrian Facilities

# **Existing Site Conditions**

The project area is located in a mixed residential and commercial area in downtown Wasilla. The project area is generally bounded by the Main Street/KGB Road corridor to the west and the Yenlo Street/Talkeetna Street corridor to the east and from where the KGB Road and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway meet to the south and Bogard Road to the north.

In the project area, the KGB Road begins at the intersection with the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and extends north to the Parks Highway approximately 3,600 feet. North of the Parks Highway, the road becomes Main Street and continues approximately 1,500 feet where it ends at its intersection with Bogard Road.

The ARRC mainline track intersects the KGB Road about two car-lengths south of the Parks Highway/KGB Road intersection, which causes safety concerns as traffic has increased. The ARRC tracks and the Parks Highway are major east-west facilities that tend to inhibit the north-south vehicular movements in and around the City of Wasilla.

# **Request for Scoping Comments**

FHWA determined the appropriate level of environmental document for the proposed project is an EA. We have conducted preliminary research using the most current available data to identify environmental resources within the proposed project vicinity. This information is contained in <u>Appendix A</u> and is attached as a link below. Also below are links for each federal, State and local agency from which the DOT&PF is requesting comments and information. These links contain a list of questions that pertain to your agency. To ensure that all factors are considered in the development of the proposed project, please provide your written comments, recommendations, and the additional requested information to our office no later than May 21, 2012.

At this time, a formal agency scoping meeting has not been scheduled. The project team is available to meet with your agency if you would like to schedule a one-on-one meeting.

If you have any questions and/ or comments, please forward them to DOT&PF's Project Manager Kelly Petersen (<u>kelly.petersen@alaska.gov</u>) at 907-269-0546 or myself at 907-269-0539 (<u>brian.elliott@alaska.gov</u>).

We request your comments no later than May 21, 2012.

<u>ADEC</u>	<u>ADFG</u>	ADNR-SHPO	<u>ARRC</u>
<u>NMFS</u>	<u>USNPS</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>USEPA</u>
<u>USACE</u>	City of Wasilla	Matanuska Susitna Borough	

Sincerely,

Brian Elliott

Brian Elliott, Environmental Manager DOT&PF Central Region

Enclosures: Figure 1: Identified Issues Appendix A: Preliminary Research Results

cc: Christopher W. Riley, P.E., FHWA Central Region Area Engineer Kelly Petersen, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager Murph O'Brien, HDR Alaska, Inc. Consultant Project Manager

Contacted agencies: ADEC, Cindy Heil ADEC, William Ashton ADF&G, Michael Bethe ADNR, SHPO, Judith Bittner ARRC, Tom Brooks City of Wasilla, Archie Giddings City of Wasilla, Vern Rupright

MSB, Brad Sworts MSB, John Moosey MSB, Fran Seager-Boss NMFS, Jeanne Hanson NPS, Glen Yankus NPS, Joan Darnell NPS, Paul Hunter

USACE, Victor Ross USEPA, Jennifer Curtis USFWS, Maureen deZeeuw USFWS, Ann Rappoport USHUD, Carma Reed



#### LEGEND

* Intersection has Critical Crash Rate



- Intersection has Higher than Average Crash Rate
- Failing LOS by 2035

#### WASILLA MAIN STREET REHABILITATION

**IDENTIFIED ISSUES** 

Projection: AK Stateplane Zone 4, NAD 83 ft Aerial Image: May 3, 2010, Kodiak Mapping, Inc. Date: March 20, 2012

#### **APPENDIX A: Preliminary Research Results**

#### Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Properties

A literature review and built environment survey of the project study area was conducted in Fall 2011. As a result of the literature review, 15 previously recoded sites were identified within or in close proximity to the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). The field investigation identified an additional 18 buildings as being at least 45 years of age, for a total of 33 potentially historic buildings in the APE.

All identified buildings and previously recorded, unevaluated sites were evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). In summary, six buildings located in the APE are listed or recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP: sites were identified as being located within or near the project's preliminary area of potential effect (APE). The majority of these sites are located within the Frontier Village Historical Park, which is adjacent to the Dorothy Page Museum on Main Street. The 6 sites are:

- ANC-00088 Wasilla Depot, located adjacent to the Parks Highway and Knik Goose Bay (KGB) Road
- 2. ANC-00114 Teeland's Country Store (also known as Herning's), located between Main Street and Yenlo Street in the northern portion of the APE
- 3. ANC-00135 Wasilla Community Hall (Wasilla Museum), located within Frontier Village Historic Park
- 4. ANC-00293 Wasilla Elementary School (First Wasilla School), located within Frontier Village Historic Park
- 5. ANC-3566 322 North Main Street
- 6. ANC-3568 350 East Swanson Avenue

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, tribal entities, and other consulting parties will be conducted.

#### Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.

There are no wetlands in the project area. According to Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB) wetlands mapping, the closest wetlands is 2,035 feet to the southwest. The project area is located between Wasilla Lake and Lucille Lake, both 1,635 feet and 1,345feet away, respectively. At this time, neither wetlands nor waters of the U.S. are expected to be directly impacted; no work in or discharge of fill material would be placed below ordinary high water.

#### Anadromous Fish Streams and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) *Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* does not list any major anadromous fish streams in the project area. EFH does not occur in the project area.

#### Wildlife

Due to the minor amount of natural habitats in the project area, likely few vertebrate wildlife species use the area. Species most likely to occur in the undeveloped area include moose, snowshoe hare, northern red-backed vole, Cinereus shrew, pygmy shrew, Canada goose, Mew gull, Downy woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker, Black-billed magpie, Common raven, Tree swallow, Violet-green swallow, Black-capped chickadee, American robin, Yellow-rumped warbler, Dark-eyed junco, and Common redpoll. According to ADF&G, some of these have been identified as State of Alaska "Species of greatest conservation need." According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listings, it is unlikely birds that are identified as a USFWS Bird of Management Concern or Bird of Conservation Concern occur in the project area.

# **Bald Eagles**

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act provides for the protection of the bald eagle and the golden eagle by prohibiting, except under certain specified conditions, the taking, possession, and commerce of such birds. The USFWS developed the National bald eagle management guidelines in May 2007, which should be followed to comply with the Eagle Act. A survey conducted by the USFWS in 2003 did not document any bald eagle nests. An aerial survey for bald eagle nests should be done prior to construction.

#### **Threatened and Endangered Species**

Based on review of USFWS and ADF&G range maps and general habitat preferences, no bird species listed as threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate under the federal Endangered Species Act or endangered under Alaska Statute 16.20.190 occur in the Project area. In addition, no USFWS- or National Marine Fisheries Service-designated critical habitat exists within the study area based on a review of USFWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration websites.

#### State Refuges, National Wildlife Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries

There are no State Refuges, Wildlife Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas or Sanctuaries in the project area, according to MSB GIS mapping. In the region, there are the following three state refuges: Susitna Flats, Palmer Hay Flats, and Goose Bay. These are located 25 miles to the southwest, 2.5 miles to the south, and 19 miles to the southwest of downtown Wasilla, respectively.

# **Navigable Waters**

A review of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District's List of Navigable Waters web page on November 4, 2011 indicated there are no navigable waters within the project area.

# **Receiving Waters and Impaired Water Bodies**

The project area is located within Lucille Creek and Cottonwood Creek watersheds. Lake Lucille is listed as water quality impaired on the State of Alaska's 303(d) List. Lake Lucille is listed as a Category 4a water body, which means it is impaired but does not need a Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL), and/or a TMDL has been completed. Cottonwood Creek, which flows through Wasilla Lake east and south of the project area, is listed as a Category 5 impaired water body on the State of Alaska 303(d) List.

# **Contaminated Sites, Spills and Underground Storage Tanks**

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) has been prepared for this project to identify sites that are or could potentially be contaminated with hazardous materials. The Phase I ESA included a records review, historical aerial photograph review, and a visual evaluation of the Project Area grounds. A search of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) databases and a visual evaluation of the project area occurred in the summer of 2011. Personnel at the City of Wasilla and ADEC were also contacted.

The ESA identified one on-site recognized environmental condition (REC). Surface stains observed on Talkeetna Street within the project area were noted during the aerial photograph review. The impact or source of the staining is unknown, but may require cleanup of the surface-stained soils. While there are no "active" LUST sites or "open" contaminated sites in or adjacent to the project area, there are two active filling stations within 90 feet. A Tesoro filling station is located adjacent to Main Street, at 211 N. Main Street. A Holiday filling station is located 90 feet west of Yenlo Street, at 225 N Boundary Street. These sites constitute a REC due to their past documented releases of petroleum hydrocarbons and the potential for future releases.

# **Flooding/Flood Plain Management**

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the proposed project area is outside of the 100-year flood boundary.

#### **Coastal Zone Management**

As of July 1, 2011, the authorities of Alaska Coastal Management Program were repealed. As of that date, related regulations and the local coastal management plans are without statutory authority and therefore unenforceable. While some boroughs are continuing to implement their coastal district enforceable policies at a local level, MSB staff said they no longer reviewing projects for consistency with the MSB coastal management plan or enforceable policies.

#### **State Parks**

There are no State Parks in the project area.

#### Wild and Scenic Rivers

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Website was viewed on September 20, 2011; there are no wild and scenic rivers in the project area.

#### Air Quality

A review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Non-attainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants in Alaska on November 4, 2011 indicated that the proposed project is not located within a non-attainment or maintenance area.

#### Noise

A noise impact can occur when noise levels are unacceptably high or when a proposed highway project will substantially increase the existing noise environment. If impacts are identified, than abatement measures are considered. A traffic noise analysis will be completed to assess and evaluate any highway and construction noise impacts according to DOT&PF noise policy and federal noise standards for federal-aid highway projects.



# DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF HABITAT

1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 6 Palmer, AK 99645-6736 PHONE: (907) 861-3200 FAX: (907) 861-3232

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

# FISH HABITAT CASE NUMBER FH-12-IV-0263

May 17, 2012

Ms. Angela Hunt Alaska Department of Transportation 4111 Aviation Avenue P.O. Box196900 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

Re: Scoping Comments Project No. STP-0001(408)/6007

Dear Ms. Hunt:

The Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, Division of Habitat has reviewed you plans for upgrading Wasilla-Fishhook Road/Main Street in the form of developing a one-way couplet in downtown Wasilla. The improvements will be bounded by Bogard Road to the north and to the south where KGB Road meets the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and Yenlo/Talkeetna Streets to the east. This project is necessary to mitigate traffic congestion in downtown Wasilla and represents an initial effort to address traffic capacity and safety needs of the KGB corridor.

The project area is located in a mixed residential/commercial area in downtown Wasilla. There are no specified fish streams or resident fish streams in the projected area of the project, therefore a Fish Habitat Permit is not required pursuant to the Fish Passage Act (AS 16.05.841) or the Anadromous Fish Act (AS 16.05.871)

If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>mike.bethe@alaska.gov</u> or by phone at (907) 861-3202. Thank toy for the opportunity to comment on the referenced project.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Bethe, Habitat Biologist Division of Habitat (907) 861-3200

cc: A. Ott, Habitat B. Swarts, MSB D. Massey, AWT M. Agnew, AWT Archie Giddings, City of Wasilla





# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Anchorage Fish & Wildlife Field Office 605 West 4th Avenue, Room G-61 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2249



In reply refer to: AFWFO

November 1, 2012

Re: Section 7 Consultations in Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Area

Dear Agency Representative:

Thank you for your recent request for section 7 consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., ESA). You have requested a species list or concurrence with a determination of effects on species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as threatened or endangered. The activity you propose is to occur in the Anchorage and/or Matanuska-Susitna area (AMS). The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office (AFWFO) is modifying our procedure for responding to section 7 consultation requests for proposed activities occurring in the AMS.

Until now, the AFWFO has reviewed and responded to section 7 requests for projects occurring in the AMS. However, due to decreased staff resources, our office will no longer respond to such requests. At this time, no federally listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat under FWS jurisdiction occur in the AMS. Section 7 of the ESA, and our implementing regulations, require that for federally executed (funded, authorized, etc.) activities, our concurrence is required when it is determined that the activity *may affect* a listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. Concurrence is not required for activities that will have *no effect* on listed species. Because no listed species under FWS jurisdiction occur in the AMS area, it is reasonable to conclude that proposed projects confined to the AMS will have no effect.

To document your compliance with section 7 requirements for a FWS trust species, simply visit our consultation website (http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/anchorage/endangered/consultation.htm) and verify that the effects (direct, indirect, and interrelated and interdependent) of your project are confined to the AMS. The website includes a distribution map of listed species in Southcentral Alaska. You will also find other useful information to guide you in making the correct determination of effects. Please remember that if project plans change or new species are listed, your determination of effects may change. It is the responsibility of the action agency to reconsider potential effects and reinitiate section 7 consultation as appropriate. You should still contact the National Marine Fisheries Service to determine whether projects in the AMS area could affect any listed species under their jurisdiction.

Thank you for your understanding, and please don't hesitate to contact me at (907) 271-1467 with questions or concerns regarding Alaska's endangered and threatened species.

Sincerely,

Eu V.L

Ellen W. Lance Endangered Species Branch Chief

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: deZeeuw, Maureen [maureen_dezeeuw@fws.gov] Wednesday, November 28, 2012 3:41 PM Smith, Linda Kimberly Klein Re: Wasilla Main St project: T&E Species

Hello Linda,

I apologize for our slow response. No, there are no federal endangered or threatened species in the vicinity of the Wasilla Main Street Improvements Project. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely, Maureen de Zeeuw

On Thu, Nov 15, 2012 at 3:05 PM, <<u>Linda.Smith@hdrinc.com</u>> wrote:

Maureen,

DOT&PF and FHWA are preparing an Environmental Assessment for the Wasilla Main Street Improvements project in downtown Wasilla, AK. We sent an agency scoping letter in April, 2012 but did not receive any response from USFWS.

We state in the scoping package (please see attachment for the letter and figure) that we had not identified any species listed as threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate under the federal Endangered Species Act or endangered under Alaska Statue 16.20.190 in the project area. We also did not identify any USFWS or NMFS-designated critical habitat within the study area.

DOT&PF would appreciate a response from USFWS to concur that no listed species or designated habitat is present. Responding to this email would suffice for our documentation needs. If this statement is in error, we would also appreciate knowing as soon as possible to start additional consultation procedures with your agency.

Thank you, Linda Smith From: Sent: To: Subject: Griswold, Keith - NRCS, Wasilla, AK [keith.griswold@ak.usda.gov] Tuesday, December 04, 2012 10:04 AM Smith, Linda RE: Wasilla Main Street: Request for CPA-106

If you have deemed it not necessary to obtain the signature, that is your call. I only have to report the CPA-106 to my agency to comply with FHWA.

Thanks

Keith Griswold District Conservationist, NRCS

From: Smith, Linda [<u>mailto:Linda.Smith@hdrinc.com</u>] Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2012 9:56 AM To: Griswold, Keith - NRCS, Wasilla, AK Subject: RE: Wasilla Main Street: Request for CPA-106

Thanks Keith.

Looking at the form and assigning the max value of points for the questions that may be relevant, I estimated about 25 points (It would probably be more like 5 points).

Given that NRCS assigned 27 out of 100, it would seem that the project is well below the 160 point threshold for minimum protection.

Per FHWA guidance, if their section (Part VI) is under 60, they don't even submit the forms.

That said, it looks like 7CFR658.4 wants FHWA to fill it out for your agency's reporting purposes. It is not insignificant for DOT&PF to get FHWA's signature on things, so we wanted to check with you how to close the matter.

Thanks, Linda

From: Griswold, Keith - NRCS, Wasilla, AK [mailto:keith.griswold@ak.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2012 8:05 AM
To: Smith, Linda
Subject: RE: Wasilla Main Street: Request for CPA-106

Linda, here is the form with my part that is completed. Some other agency will have to fill out the remainder of the form. Once the other entity has filled out the remainder of the form and signed/dated, please send me a copy.

Thanks

Keith Griswold District Conservationist, NRCS 1700 E. BOGARD ROAD, SUITE 203, BLDG. A WASILLA, AK 99654 (907) 373-6492 ext 101 (907) 315-5054 cell (907) 373-7192 fax

From: Smith, Linda [mailto:Linda.Smith@hdrinc.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2012 10:23 AM
To: Griswold, Keith - NRCS, Wasilla, AK
Cc: OBrien, Murph; Elliott, Brian A (DOT)
Subject: Wasilla Main Street: Request for CPA-106

Keith,

Attached is the roadway design file in ESRI shapefile format for the proposed Wasilla Main Street project.

With this email, DOT&PF is requesting a CPA-106 impact assessment.

Please call or email me if you have any questions about the project or the attached files.

Thanks,

Linda

#### LINDA SMITH HDR Alaska, Inc.

M.S.

Environmental Planner

2525 C Street, Suite 305 | Anchorage, AK 99503 907.644.2000 | Direct: 907.865.2207

Linda.Smith@hdrinc.com | hdrinc.com

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

# Smith, Linda

From:	Smith, Linda		
Sent:	Thursday, November 15, 2012 2:32 PM		
То:	'alex.strawn@matsugov.us'		
Subject:	Wasilla Main St project: Floodplain Consultation		

Alex,

I'm sending this email to summarize the phone conversation we had earlier this afternoon. We discussed the Wasilla Main Street Improvement project, whose project area is covered by FEMA FIRM Panels 8080E and 8085E.

You confirmed that the project area is contained in Zone X, which means the project area is outside the 0.2% floodplain. You informed us that this means that the project is not within a regulatory floodplain and would not adversely impact a floodplain. As such, no Flood Hazard Development permit would be required for the project.

Thank you for the information. I'd appreciate you confirming this record of conversation, or correcting any inaccuracies by email.

- Linda Smith

#### LINDA SMITH | HDR Alaska, Inc.

M.S.

Environmental Planner 2525 C Street, Suite 305 | Anchorage, AK 99503 907.644.2000 | Direct: 907.865.2207

Linda.Smith@hdrinc.com | hdrinc.com

Appendix B Section 106 Consultation Correspondence



Federal Highway Administration Alaska Division

December 05, 2011

P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648 (907) 586-7418 (907) 586-7420 www.fhwa.dot.gov/akdiv

In Reply Refer To: STP-0001(408)/6007

Ms. Judith Bittner State Historic Preservation Officer Alaska Office of History and Archaeology 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to rehabilitate Main Street and nearby roadways in downtown Wasilla, Alaska. The Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project, which is located in Section 10, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian, consists of improvements and traffic pattern changes to the Main Street/Knik Goose Bay Road, Yenlo Street, and Talkeetna Street in downtown Wasilla (see Figure 1). For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

#### **Project Description**

The project is early in its development stage, however DOT&PF has prepared a traffic study that identifies a recommended alternative for design. The leading alternative is a one-way couplet whereby the existing Main Street/Knik Goose Bay Road would become a two-lane, south-bound route and Yenlo Street and Talkeetna Street would become a two-lane, north-bound route. The extent of the improvements include approximately one mile of new/improved roadway for each of the two-lane couplet legs. At-grade intersection improvements to Yenlo Street/Parks Highway and Main Street/Knik Goose Bay Road/Parks Highway intersections (including two railroad crossings) would be necessary. A new traffic signal at the Yenlo Street/Bogard Road intersection would be constructed as well. Right-of-Way acquisition and utility relocation would be required along both couplet legs. The types of impacts associated with the project are unknown, but not anticipated to be significant under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As such, DOT&PF has secured a class of action determination from FHWA of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project.

#### **Preliminary Area of Potential Effect**

Based on previous consultation between DOT&PF and your office (May 19, 2011), we have identified a preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE) (Figure 2). The preliminary APE includes the project footprint and staging areas for equipment and materials, and takes into account potential noise and visual effects, as well as changes in traffic patterns which may occur as a result of the project. Material sources have not yet been identified however material will likely come from commercially available sources.

# **Preliminary Efforts to Identify Historic Properties**

The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) database and records at the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) were researched on August 8, 2011, and 16 AHRS sites were identified as being located within or near the project's preliminary APE (Table 1). The majority of these sites are located within Frontier Village Historic Park (Figure 2), and five of these sites are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Windshield surveys conducted on August 11, 2011, identified additional potentially historic buildings within the preliminary APE that have not been previously recorded in the AHRS. Additional reconnaissance and intensive survey to identify and evaluate potential historic properties within the preliminary APE will be conducted by HDR Alaska, Inc., in the fall of 2011.

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	(Wasilla Museum)		
ANC-00288*	Frontier Village Historic Park	Not Evaluated	
ANC-00293*	Wasilla Elementary School (First	Listed in the NRHP	
	Wasilla School)		
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ANC-00456	Woodward Cabins	Not Eligible for the NRHP	
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ANC-00471	Wasilla Section House	Not Evaluated	
ANC-00680*	Wasilla's First Library	Not Evaluated	
ANC-00681*	Second Post Office	Not Evaluated	
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ANC-00684*	Trench Cabin	Not Evaluated	
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ANC-00765	Maurine Cabin Site (Dodsons	Not Evaluated	
	Cabin Site)		

* Denotes resources located within the Frontier Village Historic Park

#### **Consultation Efforts**

We are consulting with the following parties for this project: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (and MSB Historic Preservation Commission); the Alaska Railroad Corporation; the Dorothy Page Museum; the Wasilla-Knik Historical Society; the City of Wasilla Historical Preservation Commission; the Knik Tribal Council; the Native Village of Eklutna; the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council; Cook Inlet Region, Inc.; Knikatnu, Inc.; Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association, Inc.; and Eklutna, Inc.

If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7429, or by e-mail at chris.w.riley@dot.gov. However, I encourage you to include the DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager so that your comments and concerns may be immediately directed to project development. The point of contact is:

Brian Elliott, Central Region Environmental Manager Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-6900 (907) 269-0539 brian.elliott@alaska.gov

We request your input on our proposal so that we can incorporate your concerns into project development. Your timely response will greatly assist our compliance efforts and the preparation of any required environmental documentation. For that purpose, we request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

In the

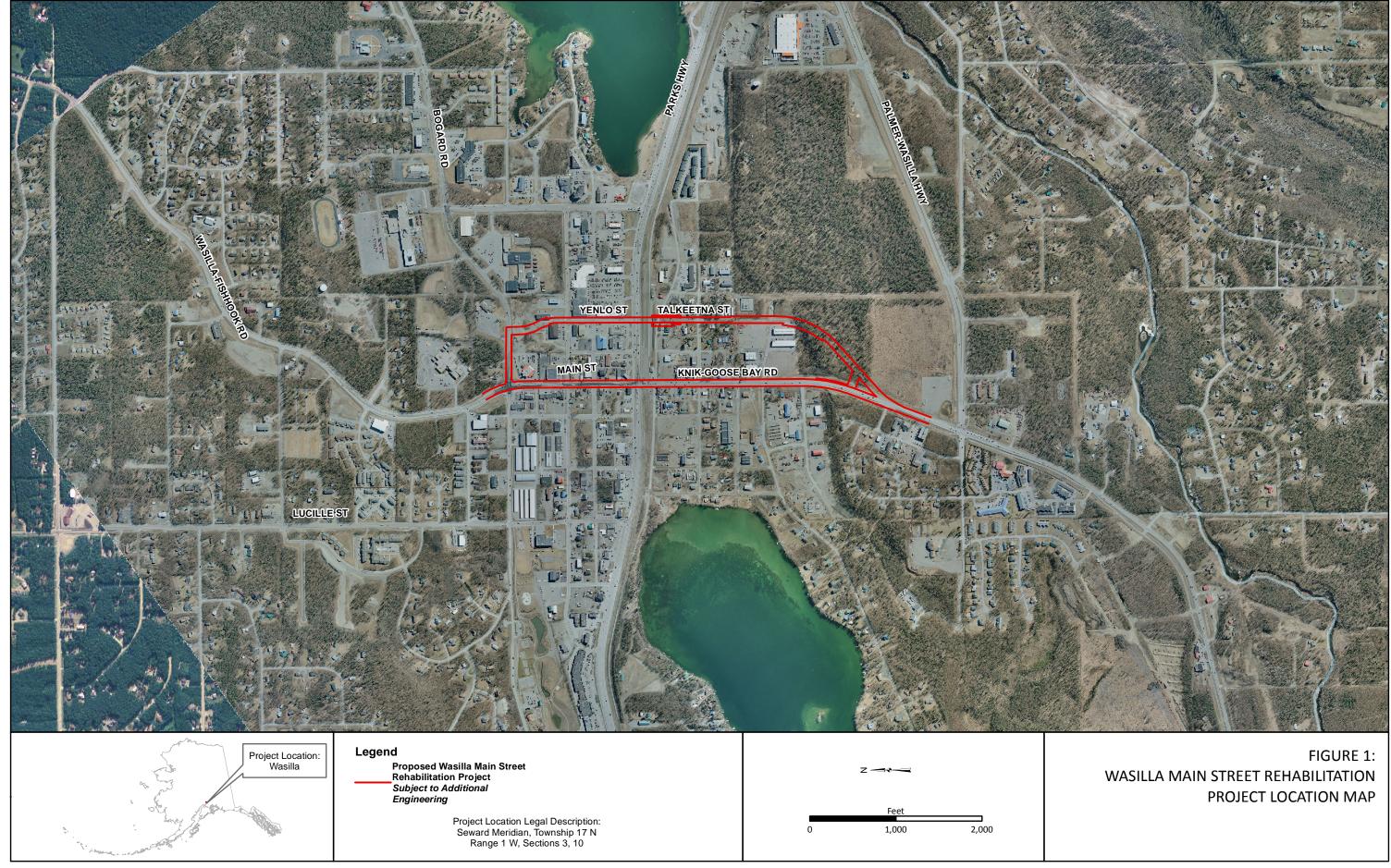
Christopher W. Riley, P.E. Central Region Area Engineer

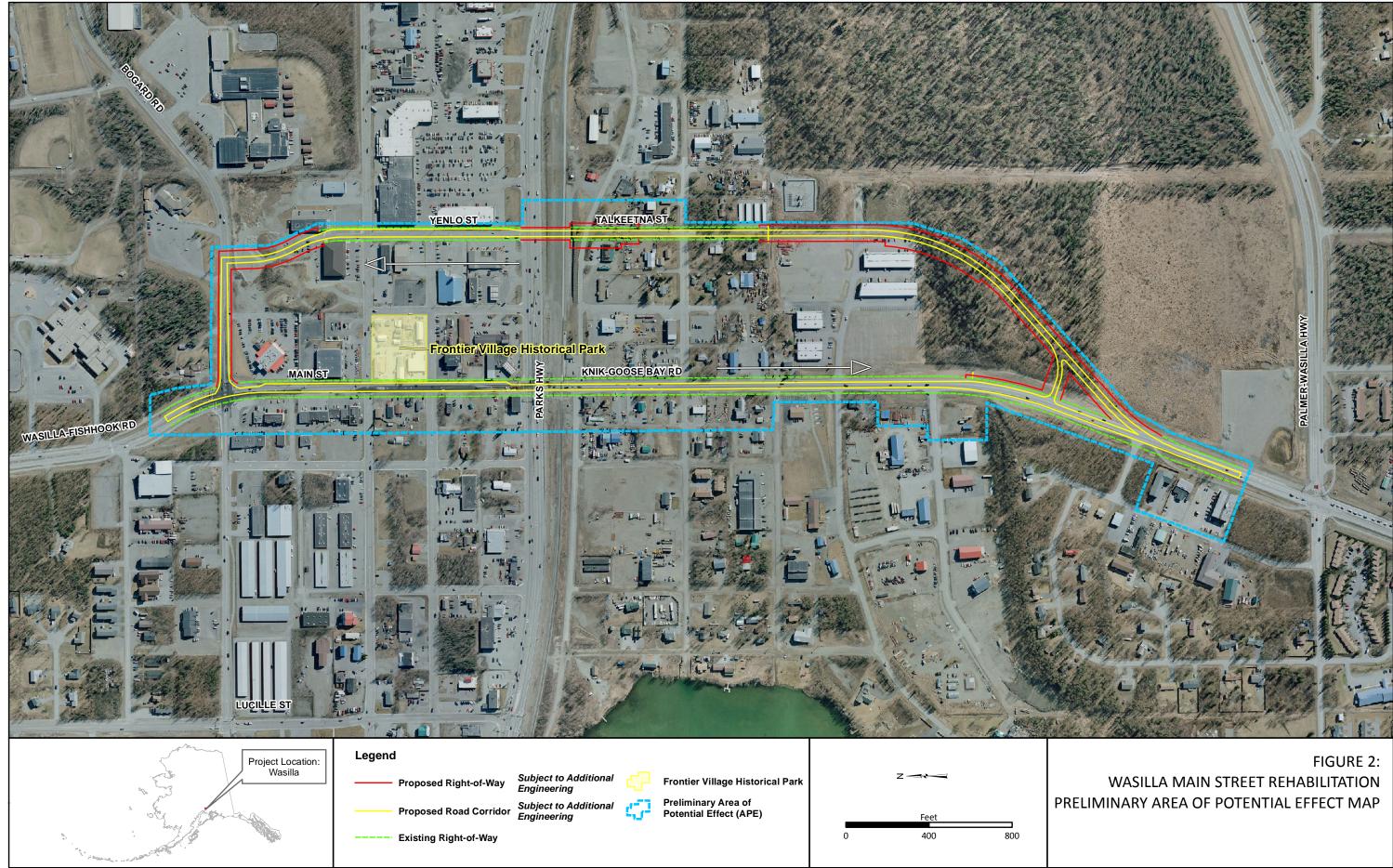
**Enclosures**:

Figure 1: Project Location Map Figure 2: Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

cc w/o enclosures:

Kelly Petersen, P.E., DOT&PF Central Region, Project Manager Brian Elliott, DOT&PF Central Region, Regional Environmental Manager Laurie Mulcahy, DOT&PF Statewide, Cultural Resources Manager







Federal Highway Administration Alaska Division

December 05, 2011

P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648 (907) 586-7418 (907) 586-7420 www.fhwa.dot.gov/akdiv

In Reply Refer To: STP-0001(408)/60077

Ms. Fran Seager-Boss Culture Resource Division Planning Department Matanuska-Susitna Borough 350 E. Dahlia Ave. Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Mr. Seager-Boss:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to rehabilitate Main Street and nearby roadways in downtown Wasilla, Alaska. The Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project, which is located in Section 10, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian, consists of improvements and traffic pattern changes to the Main Street/Knik Goose Bay Road, Yenlo Street, and Talkeetna Street in downtown Wasilla (see Figure 1). For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

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* Denotes resources located within the Frontier Village Historic Park

#### **Consultation Efforts**

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Christopher W. Riley, P.E. Central Region Area Engineer

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Project Location Map Figure 2: Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

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Alaska Division

December 05, 2011

P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648 (907) 586-7418 (907) 586-7420 www.fhwa.dot.gov/akdiv

In Reply Refer To: STP-0001(408)/60077

Mr. Christopher Aadnesen President Alaska Railroad Corporation P.O. Box 107500 Anchorage, AK 99150

Dear Mr. Aadnesen:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to rehabilitate Main Street and nearby roadways in downtown Wasilla, Alaska. The Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project, which is located in Section 10, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian, consists of improvements and traffic pattern changes to the Main Street/Knik Goose Bay Road, Yenlo Street, and Talkeetna Street in downtown Wasilla (see Figure 1). For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

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Alaska Division

December 05, 2011

P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648 (907) 586-7418 (907) 586-7420 www.fhwa.dot.gov/akdiv

In Reply Refer To: STP-0001(408)/60077

Ms. Edith Baller President Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association, Inc. P.O. Box 875046 Wasilla, AK 99674

Dear Ms. Baller:

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#### **Consultation Efforts**

We are consulting with the following parties for this project: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (and MSB Historic Preservation Commission); the Alaska Railroad Corporation; the Dorothy Page Museum; the Wasilla-Knik Historical Society; the City of Wasilla Historical Preservation Commission; the Knik Tribal Council; the Native Village of Eklutna; the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council; Cook Inlet Region, Inc.; Knikatnu Inc.; and Eklutna Inc.

If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7429, or by e-mail at chris.w.riley@dot.gov. However, I encourage you to include the DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager so that your comments and concerns may be immediately directed to project development. The point of contact is:

Brian Elliott, Central Region Environmental Manager Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-6900 (907) 269-0539 brian.elliott@alaska.gov

Your timely response will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into project development. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you complete the enclosed Project Consultation Options form and forward it to the FHWA within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

hm

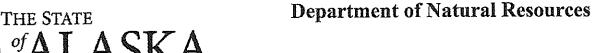
Christopher W. Riley, P.E. Central Region Area Engineer

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Project Location Map Figure 2: Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map Project Consultation Options Form

cc w/o enclosures:

Kelly Petersen, P.E., DOT&PF Central Region, Project Manager Brian Elliott, DOT&PF Central Region, Regional Environmental Manager Laurie Mulcahy, DOT&PF, Cultural Resources Manager



DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION Office of History and Archaeology

> 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565 Web: http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha Phone: 907.269.8721 Fax: 907.269.8908

August 16, 2012

oţ

**GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL** 

- 3130-1R FHWA File No.: 3330-6 ANC-03568 3330-6N ANC-03554 thru ANC-03567 AND ANC-03569 thru ANC-03571
- Determinations of Eligibility for properties in Wasilla Downtown and Evaluation SUBJECT: of Effect for the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project

Christopher W. Riley, P.E. **Central Region Area Engineer** Federal Highway Administration P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648

Dear Mr. Riley,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office received FHWA's letter and the attached report titled Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Cultural Resources Survey & National Register Evaluations on August 13, 2012. After reviewing the report and FHWA's letter our office concurs with your following National Register eligibility findings:

AHRS #	Property	Eligibility
ANC-03554	420 S. Knik-Goose Bay Road	Not Eligible
ANC-03555	490 S. Knik-Goose Bay Road	Not Eligible
ANC-03556	501 S. Knik-Goose Bay Road	Not Eligible
ANC-03557	560 S. Knik-Goose Bay Road	Not Eligible
ANC-03558	601 S. Knik-Goose Bay Road	Not Eligible
ANC-03559	500 E. Railroad Avenue	Not Eligible
ANC-03560	477 S. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible
ANC-03561	545 S. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible
ANC-03562	546 S. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible Federal Highway Administration

AUG 212012

Juneau, Alaska

ANC-03563	590 S. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible
ANC-03564	545 S. Talkeetna Street	Not Eligible
ANC-03565	231 N. Main Street	Not Eligible
ANC-03566	322 N. Main Street	Not Eligible
ANC-03567	344 N. Main Street	Not Eligible
ANC-03568	350 E. Swanson Ave	Eligible (Criterion A)
ANC-03569	276 A N. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible
ANC-03570	276 B N. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible
ANC-03571	322 N. Boundary Avenue	Not Eligible

We reviewed the undertaking for potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. We concur with your finding that no historic properties will be adversely affected by the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project.

Please note that as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3, other consulting parties such as the local government and Tribes are required to be notified of the undertaking. Additional information provided by the local government, Tribes or other consulting parties may cause our office to reevaluate our comments and recommendations. Please note that our comment letter does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties.

Please contact Summer Rickman at 269-8717 or at <u>summer.rickman@alaska.gov</u> if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

1 MIS Mahan depity

Judith E. Bittner State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB:slr

#### **Chickaloon Village Traditional Council**

#### Project Name: Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Federal/State Project Numbers: STP-0001(408)/60077

Please check the appropriate response(s) from the list below and use the back of this form or additional sheets if you wish to make comments:

- _____ There are no known places of traditional religious or cultural importance present or within the vicinity of the proposed project and further consultation is not requested.
- There are or may be places of traditional religious or cultural importance present or within the vicinity of the proposed project and further consultation is requested.
  - The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council will continue consultations for this proposed project directly with Brian Elliott, Central Region Environmental Manager, and with the understanding that the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council may at its discretion resume consultations with the Federal Highway Administration.
- X The Chickaloon Village Traditional Council has no interest associated with this proposed project and further consultation is not required. We support whatever Knik

If you have chosen to do so, please indicate the manner in which you wish to continue consultation:

Mail:

Phone: 907-745-0707

Fax:

e-mail:

Other: (please describe)

Name of Chickaloon Village Traditional Council-designated contact for this proposed project:

ennitar t arrisor Please print

Signed:

Please mail to: Mr. David C. Miller, Alaska Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, AK 99802 Or, fax to: Mr. David C. Miller, 907-586-7420

Federal Highway Administration JAN 202012 Juneau, Alaska

Phone: 907-745-0707

Date: 1.17.12

Tribal Cauncil Says.

Appendix C Public Scoping Materials



#### **PROJECT CONTACTS:**

Kelly Petersen, PE Project Manager ADOT&PF 4111 Aviation Drive Anchorage, AK 99502 907-269-0546 E-Mail: kelly.petersen@alaska.gov

Murph O'Brien, Project Manager HDR Alaska, Inc. 742 S. Alaska Street Palmer, AK 99645 907-745-4129 E-mail: murph.obrien@hdrinc.com

#### **Project Description**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project following the guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DOT&PF has hired HDR Alaska, Inc. to provide support to develop the environmental study.

The DOT&PF, through its Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study (2006), has identified a proposed project to improve traffic flow and relieve congestion in downtown Wasilla. More specifically, the project will address the following problems:

- Congestion
- Safety
- Capacity -
- **Railroad conflicts**
- Long waiting lines

#### • WASILLA HIGH SCHOOL UCILLE ST IDITAROD ELEMENTARY BOGARD, RD • BRETT MEMORIAL ICE ARENA End Project WASILLA MIDDLE SCHOOL WASILLA To Fairba WASILLA YENLO ST MAIN ST WASILLA • CITY HALL Wasilla Lake PARKS HIGHWAY WASILLA TRAIN DEPOT TALKEETNA ST To Anchorage Lucille LEGEND Proposed Project Right-of-way (preliminary alignment) **One-way** Traffic Direction Railroad PALMER-WASILEA HWY KNIK-GOQSE BAY RD Begin Project 1,000 500 WASILLA Feet SENIOR CENTER

#### What is happening now?

The project is now in the data collection phase. This past summer/fall the project team conducted field work and initiated preparation of the following studies:

- . Noise
- **Traffic Analysis**
- **Environmental Phase I**





### Notice of Intent to Begin Engineering and Environmental Studies

Project Title: Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project No.: 60077/STP-0001(408)

The Alaska Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, is soliciting comments and information on a proposal to rehabilitate Main Street. The proposed project is located in Wasilla, Alaska. The purpose of this proposed project is to increase capacity, reduce congestion, and enhance safety.

There will be an open house public meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at Fire Station #61, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm with a presentation at 6:45 pm.

This proposed project will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Executive Orders: 11990 (Wetlands Protection), 11988 (Floodplain Protection), 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11593 (Historic Preservation), the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and U.S. DOT Act Section 4(f).

To ensure that all possible factors are considered, **please provide** written comments to the following address by May 4, 2012:

> Brian Elliott, Regional Environmental Manager DOT&PF Preliminary Design & Environmental P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Kelly Petersen, P.E., Project Manager, at 269-0546 or Brian Elliott, Environmental Manager, at 269-0539. Persons with a hearing impairment can contact DOT&PF at our Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) at 269-0674. We can offer reasonable accommodations for special needs related to other disabilities.

# Additional information can be found at **www.wasillamainstreetproject.org**

# **Frontiersman**

# 2606

Growing with the Valley since 1947.

PO Box 873509 Wasilla, AK 99654

(907) 352-2250 ph (907) 352-2277 fax

#### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ALASKA, THIRD DIVISION

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED, A NOTARY PUBLIC, THIS DAY

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE CHERYL METIVA WHO, BEING

FIRST DULY SWORN, ACCORDING TO LAW, SAYS THAT SHE IS THE

LEGAL AD CLERK OF THE FRONTIERSMAN AND THE VALLEY SUN

PUBLISHED AT WASILLA, IN SAID DIVISION THREE AND STATE OF ALASKA

AND THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT, OF WHICH THE ANNEXED IS A TRUE

COPY, WAS PUBLISHED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

MARCH 23, 28, 30 & APRIL 4, 2012

AND THAT THE RATE CHARGED THEREIN IS NOT IN EXCESS OF

THE RATE CHARGED PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR STATE OF ALASKA



HDR



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Additional information can be found at www.wasillamainstreetproject.com



# Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project OPEN HOUSE

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is hosting an Open House regarding the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project and we invite you to join us.

The Open House will feature a presentation on the history of the proposed project, including information on the results of the 2006 Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study.

# **OPEN HOUSE**

Wednesday, April 4, 2012 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with a presentation at 6:45 pm Fire Station #61 101 W. Swanson Avenue Wasilla, Alaska

Stakeholder input will be an important part of the development of this project and we encourage you to attend this Open House to provide comments. For more information, please visit the website at:

www.wasillamainstreetproject.com

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead HDR Alaska,Inc. 742 S. Alaska Street Palmer, AK 99645 PHONE: (907) 644-2074 EMAIL: rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com



DOT&PF - PD&E 4111 Aviation Avenue Anchorage, AK 99502 PRST-STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ANCHORAGE, AK PERMIT NO. XX

#### Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project

Open House and Presentation Wednesday, April 4, 2012

www.wasillamainstreetproject.com

From:	Schmidt, RaeShaun
To:	<u>"kathy@countrylegends1009.com"</u>
Cc:	<u>"kelly.petersen@alaska.gov";</u> "alvin.talbert@alaska.gov"; OBrien, Murph; Smith, Linda; Alcantra, Rosetta M.
Subject:	PSA for KAYO - Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project
Date:	Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:23:00 PM

Please join the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for an open house on the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with a presentation at 6:45 pm located at Fire Station #61, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska.

The open house will feature a presentation on the history of the proposed project, including information on the results of the 2006 Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study.

RAESHAUN SCHMIDT

T PLANNER

907.644.2032 | <u>RaeShaun.Schmidt@hdrinc.com</u> HDR Alaska | 742 S. Alaska Street | Palmer, AK 99654-6356 hdrinc.com

From:	Schmidt, RaeShaun
To:	"brittnee.maddox@ohanamediagroup.com"
Cc:	<u>"kelly.petersen@alaska.gov"; "alvin.talbert@alaska.gov"; OBrien, Murph; Smith, Linda; Alcantra, Rosetta M.</u>
Subject:	PSA for KMBQ
Date:	Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:21:00 PM

Please join the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for an open house on the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with a presentation at 6:45 pm located at Fire Station #61, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska.

The open house will feature a presentation on the history of the proposed project, including information on the results of the 2006 Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study.

RAESHAUN SCHMIDT

T PLANNER

907.644.2032 | <u>RaeShaun.Schmidt@hdrinc.com</u> HDR Alaska | 742 S. Alaska Street | Palmer, AK 99654-6356 hdrinc.com Front

# Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project CC

Please foin us on Wednesday, April 4, 2012

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Wednesday, April 4, 2012 6:00 – 8:00 pm Presentation at 6:45 pm Fire Station #61 101 W. Swanson Avenue Wasilla, Alaska

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the project website at www.wasillamainstreetproject.com or contact:

Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead HDR Alaska,Inc. 742 S. Alaska Street Palmer, AK 99645 PHONE: (907) 644-2074 EMAIL: rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com

Back

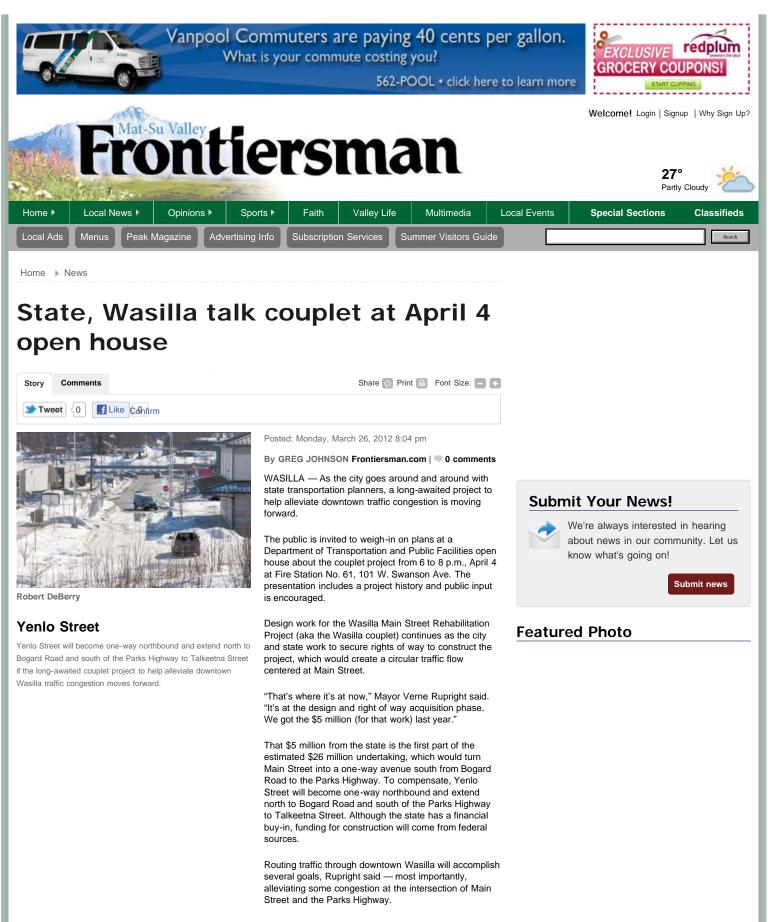
Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead HDR Alaska,Inc. 742 S. Alaska Street Palmer, AK 99645

Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project

Open House and Presentation Wednesday, April 4, 2012

www.wasillamainstreetproject.com

Name Address City, State, Zip PRST-STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ANCHORAGE, AK PERMIT NO. XX State, Wasilla talk couplet at April 4 open house - Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman: News



"We're looking for this to do a couple of things," he said. "No. 1, it gives us (with YenIo Street) another northsouth corridor through the city other than just KGB.



There will be more on-street parking for the core development. It's a wider boulevard, and you won't get traffic stacking problems on the highway."

That traffic stacking, particularly at the Main and Parks intersection, has worsened over the years, Rupright said, especially when trains running on the tracks just south of the highway.

"When those lights change and you get to that (first) stop sign on Main Street, it backs up into the highway, especially during rush hour," he said. "It happens a lot. Ultimately, the plan is for (Main Street) to be widened to three lanes and have lamps along it so it looks more like a Wasilla downtown core."

Because the state owns Main Street, the city is limited in what it can do with that short, but important, stretch of road, the mayor said.

Creating a couplet, an idea that's been around at least since 2006, is also important to the city's overall efforts to create a more hometown-feeling downtown district, Rupright said.

"We think this works toward that whole plan on that end of the grid," he said. "You have to cross those cross streets as well of Nelson, Swanson and Herning. Those will continue to be two-way. Overall, it will slow traffic down and give it a more boulevard effect. You can park and go do your shopping, stroll through the area and hit the businesses there."

City and state planners have previously set construction to begin by about 2015. That's a timetable Rupright said he'd like to hasten. The real benefit comes in extending Yenlo Street, he said. By stretching Yenlo Street to Bogard and south beyond the Parks Highway to Talkeetna Street, Rupright said it is expected to spread traffic out and help reduce congestion.

"The bulk of our population is to the south of us, so the bulk of our traffic comes from there," he said. "Hopefully, that will alleviate a lot of that standstill. This will give us different accesses across that railroad grid."

But that doesn't mean a couplet project that overall involves about four miles of road is a silver bullet that will cure Wasilla's traffic concerns, Rupright said.

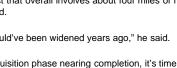
"KGB needs to be widened, and it should've been widened years ago," he said.

With the planning and right of way acquisition phase nearing completion, it's time for the public to weigh in on the plan, Rupright said.

Contact reporter Greg Johnson at greg.johnson@frontiersman.com or 352-2269.

Tweet 0

Like Confirm





Gray Owl

A Gray Owl sits on a bird feeder. (Courtesy Jo Rehn)

9:16 pm | See more

# Calendar

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Stories

Trouble knocks at Big Lake home twice in a week

Parks plans divide Valley

Willow woman loses consciousness, dies on Parks Highway

Wasilla man arrested for child molestation

*This information is voluntary. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation by the public in all projects and programs administered by the NON & PI PROJECT NAME Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project DATE April 4, 2012 ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.



PUBLIC MEETING

SIGN IN SHEET



DATE April 4, 2012 Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project **PROJECT NAME** 

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NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	BETH FREAD	Jeani Sumpler	JERRY Ellis	DAND NYBERG	Evic Jencen

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*This information is voluntary. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation by the public in all projects and programs administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

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Deana Latauch	1452 Bertha LN. Wasilla AR 99654	Shel 148	T	M
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Michelle Eppelsheiner	Havi W. Lake Aut Anchorage, AK 89502		Y		
LAMARK ANDERSO	55645	1325	M		
Kim Ford representing charter college, wasilla	TIZ W. Parks Hwy. Wasillo, AK 99654	352-	L		
Devid Martin	undelmarthne	503-970- 2130	M		
Ronald TregHara	160. E. Park AVE. Wasilla.	376-3041 355-3180	5		
Burt Zent		376-6295	X		
Leone Marris		332-7089	Z		
Tire Crewbal		373-922	11		
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*This information is **voluntary**. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation by the public in all projects and programs administered by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

DATE April 4, 2012 **PROJECT NAME** Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project

	MAILING ADDRESS and *EMAIL	PHONE	*GENDER (M/F)	*RACE (W, AN, N, B, H, A, P, O)
Barbara J. Miller	P.D. Box 870151 Wasilla AK 99687 Yamulon's egei.net	376-5636		Q
Steven Dedart	3200 & Ngdmi AUR Wasilly Alk 99654	357-3526	Å	3
Steve Collignm	~	10	Z	3
MARLUND M Galle	POBOX BJISS7 WASILLA AK99657	6458-926	Π	3
Anne Kellernie	908870163 Wasella	376.6225	F	M
Doug Murier	WASIL UN AN 1344 DR	631-3365	121	
Kathy Zelmele	PUB 270028 ' Wasilly AK 99687	376- 5198		R
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RACE CATEGORIES: WHITE (W), ALASKA NATIVE (AN), NATIVE AMERICAN (N), BLACK (B), HISPANIC (H), ASIAN (A), PACIFIC	VE (AN), NATIVE AMERICAN (N), BLACH	(B), HISPANI	C (H), ASIAN (A), PAG	(A), PACIFIC

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Federal Highway Administration	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	Consultant Team
Christopher Riley	Kelly Petersen, P.E., Project Manager	Murph O'Brien, HDR Project
	Environmental	Manager
	Brian Elliott	Environmental
	•Brian Elliott	•Linda Smith. HDR
	Engineering:	·Linda Smith, HDK
	•Ryan Hammel	Public Involvement
	•Alvin Talbert	•Rosetta Alcantra, HDR
	Aivin faibert	•RaeShaun Schmidt, HDR
	Right of Way	hacondan och mat, non
	•Karen Michaelson	Traffic Analysis - Kinney Engineerin
		•Randy Kinney, P.E.
		<ul> <li>Jeanne Bowie, P.E.</li> </ul>
		•Ron Martindale

#### Wasilla Main Stree

#### **Meeting Purpose**

www.wasillamainstreetpro

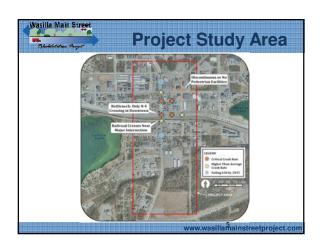
- Introduce the project
- Review project history and current status
- Outline next steps
- Answer questions
- Listen to you

# Project Purpose & Need

#### Improving local mobility for people and freight

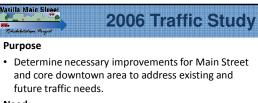
- Travel Efficiency increase traffic circulation, decrease delays, increase north-south corridor connectivity
- Congestion reduce intersection delay
- Safety reduce crash rates, minimize railroad conflicts, separate pedestrians and bicyclists from traffic stream

www.wasillamainstreetproject.





Wasilla Ma	Project History
1980s	1983: Preliminary Studies started
1990s	1992: Knik-Main Couplet proposed     1993: Environmental Assessment (EA) for Wasilla-Fishhook Rd (Glenwood- Schrock) completed. Knik-Main Couplet the preferred alternative.
2000s	2001: City raises concerns about Knik-Main Couplet impacts     2001: 3-Jane Main St proposed as interim measure while studies continue     2003: EA re-evaluated     2004-2006: Traffic Study supports new Main-Yenlo Couplet alternative     City Council concurs     2008: New suggested alternative requires new EA
2010s	2011: Traffic Study updated to check 2006 projections and conclusions     2012: DOT&PF and FHWA move forward with EA
	www.wasillanainstreetproject.co



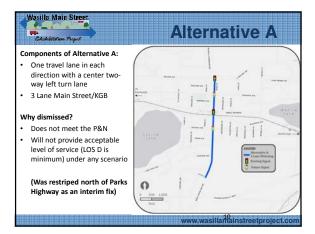
#### Need

• Wasilla's Downtown congestion impacts local mobility and travel efficiency.

#### Methods

- Extensive traffic analysis and public process
- Examined wide range of alternatives













# Where are we now?

- 2006 Traffic Study recommendations to move the Main-Yenlo couplet forward (modified to terminate at Bogard Road)

   Supported by City Council in 2006
- Funding available to address project
  - FHWA transportation improvements funding
  - City of Wasilla State Grant to acquire ROW pending completion of updated environmental assessment
- DOT&PF moved forward to re-evaluate the findings of the 2006 traffic study

# Wasilla Main Stree

#### 2011 Traffic Study

vw.wasillamainstreetproject.

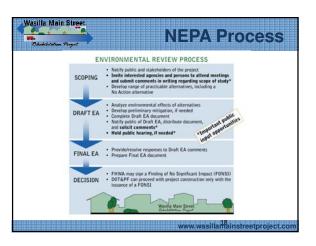
#### Findings of the update:

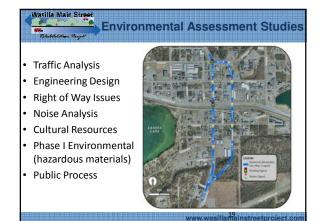
- Reevaluated all the alternatives using:
  - Updated traffic volumes and turning-motions
  - Extended traffic forecasts to 2035 (design year)
  - Included most recent crash rates (1999-2009)
- Confirmed 2006 Traffic Study conclusions

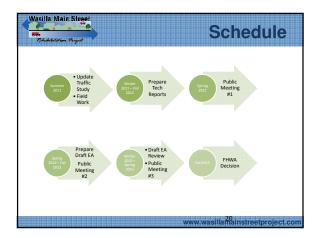
# NEPA Process

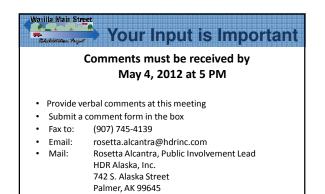
www.wasillamainstreetproi

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires a decision document to consider all reasonable alternatives and assess environmental consequences
- New document required:
  - Long time period since last evaluation
  - 1993 EA and 2003 Re-evaluation did not consider the Main-Yenlo Couplet

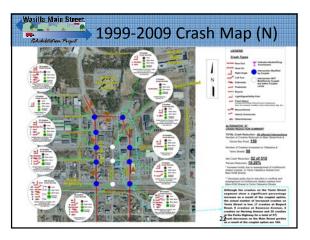


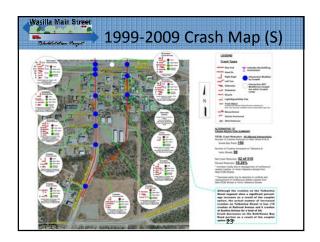




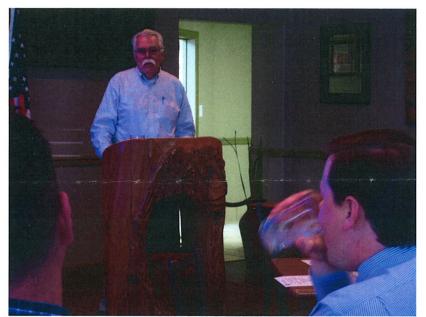


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# Wasilla Chamber Talks Local Infrastructure; Wasilla Couplet



Murph O'Brien, with HDR Alaska, gives a presentation on the Wasilla Couplet project during the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday.

In the Fiscal Year 2012 Capital Budget, I secured a \$5 million appropriation for what's being called the Yenlo Couplet in Wasilla. While most of the project's funds will come from federal dollars, the money I brought home is being used to jump start the project and get the ball rolling. This road project will create a one way circuit to move traffic more efficiently in the downtown area of Wasilla. So I was glad on Tuesday to get an update on the project along with the rest of the members of the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce. Murph O'Brien, with HDR Alaska and a respected planner, gave the update, informing the Chamber on the progress of the couplet project and what he expects to happen in the coming years. The Mat-Su Valley is the fastest growing area in the state, and these road projects are essential to maintaining the quality of life we have here. *Look for a Spectrum piece I am writing in Sunday's Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman about local transportation infrastructure.* 



#### August 9, 2012, 4-8 p.m. Menard Sports Center, Wasilla

Welcome to the 5th Annual Mat-Su Transportation Fair!

Tonight's fair showcases various projects and initiatives within the Matanuska-Susitna Valley communities. The back of this flyer will show you where to go to learn about projects you are interested in.

We encourage you to:

- Grab some refreshments and visit the many booths
- Pick-up a project fact sheet and other information provided
- Sign-up to receive future updates about the project or plan
- Talk one-on-one with each project's Team of Listeners
- Complete a written comment sheet to let the teams know what you think about the project or activity
- Bring your children to our Kid's Corner for face painting, coloring and other activities.

#### How did we do?

We welcome your feedback on tonight's meeting. Please take a few minutes to complete an evaluation form tonight and return it to us.

#### Thanks to our sponsors:

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Alaska Railroad Corporation City of Houston City of Palmer City of Wasilla Matanuska-Susitna Borough

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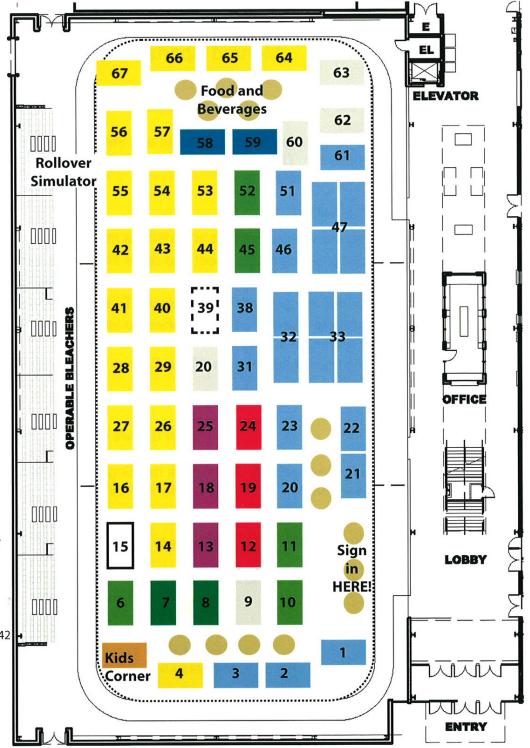
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#### 2012 Transportation Fair -- Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center Where do I find the project I'm interested in?

Parks Connectors: Machen Rd and Museum Dr, 57 Permit Center, 40 Port and Rail, 64 Port MacKenzie Access Road, 65 Port MacKenzie Master Plan, 16 Road Service Areas' CIP, 42 Safe Routes to Schools, 14 South Big Lake Road Realignment, 66 Title 43: MSB Subdivision Code, 29 Public Transportation Alaska Mobility Coalition, 29 Chickaloon Area Transit System (CATS), 6 MASCOT, 11 Mat-Su Senior Services, 9 Sunshine Transit, 39 Valley Mover, 10 vRide, 45





**Make tracks to the Transportation Fair** to learn about the many transportation Irsday, August 9, 2012 4-8 pm Menard Sports Center 1001 S. Mack Drive, Wasilla projects under way in the Mat-Su **Borough!** 

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, City of Palmer, City of Wasilla, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, Mat-Su Transit and the Mat-Su Borough have teamed up to bring you the latest on Valley roads, rails and trails at this one-stop information destination.

#### Stop by anytime to find out more about:

- Alaska Railroad Projects
- Glenn Hwy Reconstruction: Parks Hwy to Old Glenn Hwy

#### Your Area Project Trunk Road: Parks Hwy to Palmer-Fishhook Road

- Knik Arm Crossing
- ✤ Safe Routes To Schools
- Parks Hwy Milepost 44-52, Wasilla to Houston
- ...And a lot more Valley projects

#### For more information contact:

Anne Brooks, Brooks & Associates 301 W. Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 440 Anchorage, AK 99503

Bring the family for children's activities, food and fun!

Tel: (907) 272-1877, E-mail: mycomments@brooks-alaska.com Persons with hearing impairment may call 711 to connect with a Communication Assistant to help connect with the project team. We are able, upon request, to make reasonable accommodations for specials needs related to other disabilities.



**Fransportation & Public Facilities** Alaska Department of

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 State of Alaska



DOT&PF > Wasilla Main Street Project Home

# Welcome to the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project web site! Wasilla Main Street Project - Home Page

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is preparing a Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project.

Street ©	ouse public ar	the prop	Please	Date: W	Time: 6 Locatio
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id agency input, conducting field work and preparing technical studies, and documenting iental Policy Act (NEPA) and FHWA requirements. This process will include seeking * will be preparing the EA over the next year or so, in accordance with the National osed project's environmental impacts.

Please join us for an Open House to kick off the EA:

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2012 Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with a presentation at 6:45 pm Location: Fire Station #61, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska For more details please click here to view the meeting flyer or on the flyer image at left

Above Photo Banner: Wasilia Main Street, Courtesy of Michael Weller, AKDOT&PF Traffio Data Technician

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Project Information

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- » Project Overview
- » Schedule
- » Documents
- » Contact Us

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# Wasilla Main Street Project - Project Overview

# Project Overview

efficiency, reduce congestion and improve safety within downtown Wasilla. This process requires us to consider all reasonable alternatives and assess environmental consequences. Public Involvement is a key component and we We are conducting a federally required Environmental Assessment to determine the best means to improve travel welcome your comments and input on the process.

# Project Study Area Map



# Purpose & Need

Improving local mobility for people and freight

Travel Efficiency – increase traffic circulation, decrease delays, increase north-south corridor connectivity

Congestion – reduce intersection delay

Safety – reduce crash rates, minimize railroad conflicts, separate pedestrians and bicyclists from traffic stream

# Project Information

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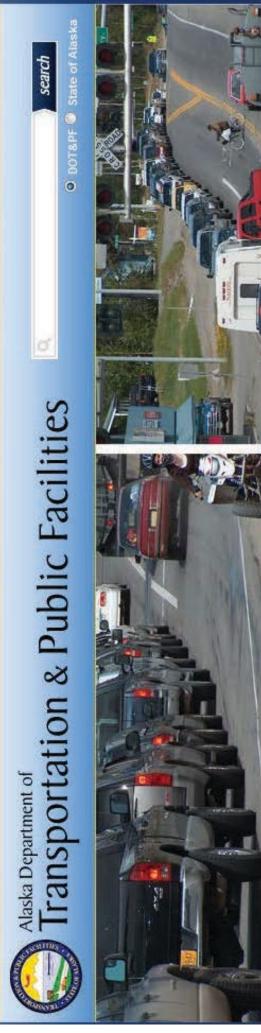
Schedule

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DOT&PF > Wasilla Main Street Project Home > Schedule

# Wasilla Main Street Project- Schedule

What is the project timeline?



Traffic Traffic Study Field Work click on the image to enlarge

Above Photo Banner: Wasilla Main Street, Courtesy of Michael Weller, AKDOT&PF Traffic Data Technician

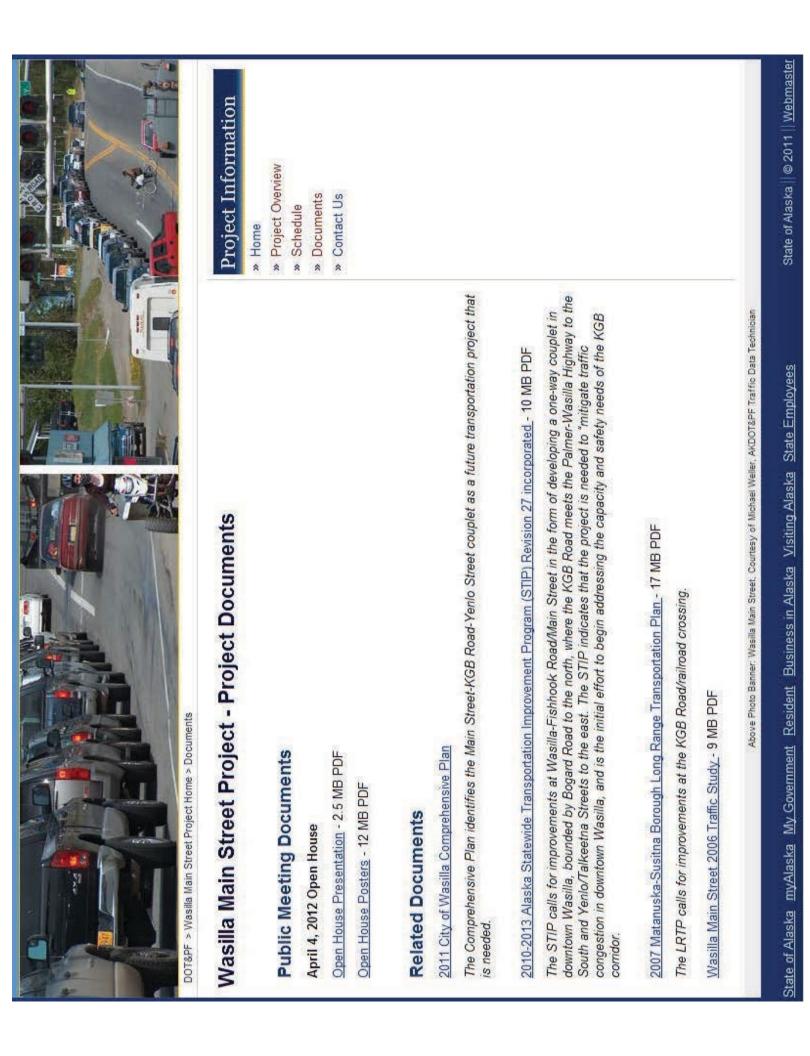
# **Project Information**

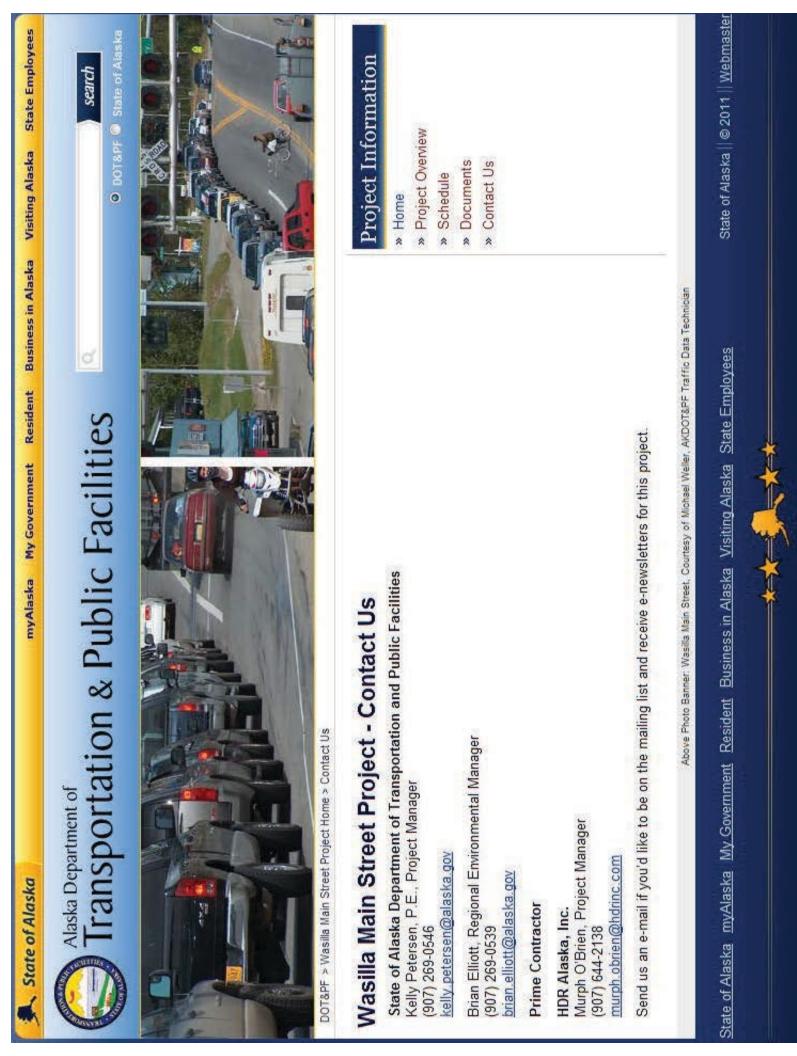
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Appendix D Scoping Comments

No.	Comment	DOT&PF Response
	(paraphrased where necessary for clarity)	
1	Alternative D provides no northbound option for the residents of Lakeview Ave or for the customers of commercial businesses on Centaur Ave. Please extend Lakeview Drive to the Northbound Lane.	There is a traffic signal proposed at KGB Road/Lakeview, and a connection east directly to Talkeetna is a possibility depending on land status. Residents will also be able to turn south onto KGB and take a left turn to directly access the northbound lanes along Talkeetna Street.
2	Consider incorporating adjacent bike paths with all new roads. Also allow good pedestrians with good sidewalks, benches and bus stops.	Pedestrian and bike facilities are being included in this project.
3	"Get 'er done!the sooner the better for all trying to do business.	
4	Add pretty sidewalks, lights, and curb/gutter	These features would be determined during the design phase in coordination with the City of Wasilla
5	Traffic light at Swanson and Main Street	A traffic light at Swanson and Main Street is recommended from the 2012 updated traffic study and is proposed.
6	Concerned about loss of traffic	It is assumed that enhanced traffic mobility would encourage more local traffic within downtown Wasilla.
7	Concerned about change of road level	The road profile is not anticipated to change noticeably along Main Street/KGB Road or Yenlo Street. The road profile would change along Talkeetna, decreasing to match the railroad track grade. This would require dead- ending Railroad Avenue on either side of Talkeetna Street. Reasonable access will be maintains
8	Good plan. Good alternatives.	
9	Improve your maps to show cross streets	Cross streets have been added to map graphics
10	Need well-defined pedestrian crossings to accommodate Wasilla's Lake-to-Lake Trail along Park Avenue for both KGB and Talkeetna Street	Pedestrian facilities and crossings will be provided at all intersections, however no traffic signals are identified or warranted at Park Avenue intersections with KGB Road or Talkeetna Street. DOT&PF will work with the City of Wasilla for safe access through the project area when the Lake-to-Lake Trail connection is pursued.
11	Include a southbound connection from Wasilla- Fishhook to direct traffic to Knik Street, and re- do stop signals along Knik. This would direct traffic turning right onto the Parks away from the Main Street intersection and enhance North-South flow.	Such a connector would impact existing private property and businesses. The proposed 3-lane facility with traffic signals should move traffic efficiently onto and across the Parks Highway without impacting Knik Street.

No.	Comment	DOT&PF Response
	(paraphrased where necessary for clarity)	
12	Concerned about a bottleneck from Yenlo to	The couplet should improve mobility according
	Bogard to Fishhook	to traffic modeling.
13	Needs a left turn to allow southbound traffic to	The turn was missing from the public meeting
	turn back to northbound without going to	graphic, but is included in the couplet.
	Palmer-Wasilla Highway and making a U-turn.	
14	Businesses on west side of Main Street	DOT&PF plans to work closely with the City and
	impacted by ROW takes could gain additional	businesses to ensure sufficient parking and
	parking behind those buildings	access is maintained.
15	Upgrade cross streets south of Parks Highway	This is a State project, and therefore the State
	concurrent with this project	will only upgrade the portions of the local, city
		roads impacted by the state road project.
16	If parking on Main Street is turned solely into	DOT&PF plans to work closely with the City and
	on-street parking, those businesses directly off	businesses to ensure sufficient parking and
	the street will have their parking decreased.	access is maintained.
	Allow for store front parking while still	
	providing on-street parking would enable easy	
17	access for the businesses	Traffia madaling from the 2012 Traffia Study
17	Proposed stop light at KGB/Susitna seems too	Traffic modeling from the 2012 Traffic Study Update shows a traffic light is warranted at
	close to the Parks/Main Street intersection. Seems like it would cause undue congestion	KGB/Susitna. The lights will be timed to
	Seems like it would cause undue congestion	minimize congestion.
18	Concerned about ROW, access for businesses,	DOT&PF and its construction contractor will
10	length of construction time, traffic flow during	work with businesses to minimize impacts
	construction as concerns.	during construction.
19	Are sidewalks and bike paths planned for Main	Yes.
	Street?	
20	What is being done for parking along Main	Parking impacts should be minimal. During
	Street? Businesses need the parking.	design DOT&PF will work with businesses
		concerning parking and access.
21	Seniors need benches so they can walk from	We are aware of these concerns. We will work
	the Senior Center and rest.	with the City of Wasilla and these details will be
		determined during final design.
22	Concerned about the loss of parking along Main	The road will not be widened along Main
	Street. How much will the road be widened?	Street. Small property slivers are identified for
		acquisition at cross street intersections.
		DOT&PF plans to work closely with the City and
		businesses to ensure sufficient parking and
22	The Verile couplet is the perfect plan. Ultreall	access is maintained.
23	The Yenlo couplet is the perfect plan. I like all aspects of it as currently suggested.	
24	Couplet is a wonderful and overdue project	
24	that will greatly improve traffic in central	
	Wasilla	
l	vvasilia	

No.	Comment	DOT&PF Response
	(paraphrased where necessary for clarity)	
25	Add a light at Lakeview rather than Susitna.	There will be a traffic light proposed at Lakeview Avenue and KGB Road as well as Susitna Avenue and KGB Road.
26	Concerned about the accessibility into my business and losing parking spaces out front. This may hurt my walk-in business.	DOT&PF plans to work closely with the City and businesses to ensure sufficient parking and access is maintained.
27	I'm not in favor of the one way proposal.	
28	I like the proposed couplet proposal. Please do everything you can to keep the railroad crossings at grade. A cut on the south side of Yenlo is preferable to an elevated roadbed on the north side.	The Talkeetna/Yenlo would cross the highway and the railroad tracks at-grade.
29	On street parking is taking too much right of way	DOT&PF will work with the City of Wasilla on parking and these details will be determined during final design.
30	Taking only west-side Main Street right of way because public land is on east side is unfair to private property owners	The road will not be widened along Main Street. Small property slivers are identified for acquisition at cross street intersections. DOT&PF plans to work closely with the City and businesses to ensure sufficient parking and access is maintained.
31	Beautification is very important	DOT&PF will work with the city of Wasilla during design to address landscaping needs.
32	Concerned about the lack of traffic flow for business	Traffic forecasting shows an increase in local traffic over the project lifetime. Improved mobility is anticipated to enhance access to local businesses.
33	Concerned about lack of access to Parks Highway	The one-way couplet would improve access to and from the Parks Highway within downtown Wasilla.
34	Concerned that a traffic light will not be placed at Swanson	Traffic lights are proposed at the Swanson intersections with Main Street and Yenlo Street based on the 2012 Traffic Study Update.
35	Why Yenlo and not street west of Main Street?	The Main Street-Knik Street two-way couplet concept was considered a preferred alternative at one time. Updated traffic modeling shows that it no longer meets the project purpose and need. Please see Chapter 3 for more detail.
36	Concerned about business access during construction.	DOT&PF and its construction contractor will work with businesses to maintain access and minimize impacts during construction.
37	This sounds like a great project.	

No.	Comment	DOT&PF Response
	(paraphrased where necessary for clarity)	· · · · ·
38	The Main-Yenlo couplet bisects my property, leaving remnant pieces that are greatly devalued.	All ROW acquisitions would be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act), as amended in 1987.
39	There should be a traffic signal at Centaur Avenue and KGB Road	Traffic engineers have modeled the project intersections. At this time, Centaur Avenue does not appear to benefit from traffic signals within the project design period (2035). Should traffic volumes change or perform differently once constructed, signals could be justified and installed as a separate project.
40	Against this project and want DOT&PF to evaluate other alternatives.	Other alternatives were evaluated in the 1993 EA, 2006 Traffic Study, and 2012 Traffic Study. The Main/YenIo-Talkeetna one-way couplet is the only alternative that provides an acceptable level of service for traffic through the design year 2035.
41	The Main-Yenlo couplet will make it harder to know how to get to businesses on Main Street and could cost them business.	The new traffic pattern may cause initial confusion, however after a short adjustment period, it is anticipated that traffic flow would improve in the area. This should encourage more trips to Main Street businesses even during peak traffic periods, and may result in increased economic activity.
42	Instead of a couplet, why not put a stop light with turn signals and turn lanes at the Main Street/Swanson intersection to move traffic better.	Just addressing the Main Street/Swanson Avenue intersection would not meet the project purpose and need. Increasing the capacity of the north-south corridor crossing the Parks Highway is still needed.
43	This project is unnecessary if the Wasilla Bypass goes in.	DOT&PF traffic modeling shows that even with the Bypass, the north-south corridor of Main Street-KGB is insufficient to meet traffic demand in both the downtown area and along KGB to access the Bypass.





Your input is important to this project. Please provide your comments below and submit at the meeting, mail to the address preprinted on the back of this page, or fax (see number at bottom). You can also email your comments (see information below). Attach extra pages as needed.

Name:	5	H	E	L	2		E	u	I	N	G	_																					
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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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IN 2009, THE RESIDENTS OF CAKEVIEW DR. AND PROPERTY OWNERS ON CENTRUR MES THE VEW over this issue And the Development of THE MAILS to b MSTRUCTED Across FRON

PETITIONED the planning Commission REQUINE THE Developer or the MAILS line up their main Access Across Rom CAKEVIEN to All an NORAHBAND For LAKEVIEW & Conmen Kon this ACCESS PROBOSED Public Involvement Lead . Phone: (9

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Place postage here

Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project c/o HDR Alaska, Inc. 742 S. Alaska Street, Suite 1 Palmer, AK 99645-6356



Your input is important to this project. Please provide your comments below and submit at the meeting, mail to the address preprinted on the back of this page, or fax (see number at bottom). You can also email your comments (see information below). Attach extra pages as needed.

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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

Please Consider incorporating adjacent bike paths with all new roads. Also allow for good pedestrian areas with good sidewalks, benches, bus stops. Thank you. Smathan Reminer

Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead 

Phone: (907) 745-4129

Fax: (907) 745-4139



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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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Fax: (907) 745-4139



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Fax: (907) 745-4139



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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead • Phone: (907) 745-4129 • Fax: (907) 745-4139 •



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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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Fax: (907) 745-4139



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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead • Phone: (907) 745-4129 • Fax: (907) 745-4139 •



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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

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Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead 
Phone: (907) 745-4129 
Fax: (907) 745-4139



## Comment Form yrdiv



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Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead 

Phone: (907) 745-4129

Fax: (907) 745-4139



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## **Comment Form**

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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

I think the couplet is a wonderful and overdue project which will greatly improve traffic in Centra Woilla

I would like to suggest that you pet a light at Lakevice rather than Susitaa. Lakeview can (does) go through to Talkeetra . Lakeview extends + serves a lot of property to the west, and to The East it runs into a very large Command arca that will see tremandors on the other hand growth. Susition goes only a few blocks to the west + hits the pake, + a few blocks to the Eas bits the railroad.

Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead • Phone: (907) 745-4129 • Fax: (907) 745-4139 •

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## Comment Form 7

Your input is important to this project. Please provide your comments below and submit at the meeting, mail to the address preprinted on the back of this page, or fax (see number at bottom). You can also email your comments (see information below). Attach extra pages as needed.

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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

oncerned about the lusi She pone anon proposal

Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead 
Phone: (907) 745-4129 
Fax: (907) 745-4139

From: Sent: To: Subject: Anne Kilkenny [annekilkenny@hotmail.com] Monday, April 16, 2012 8:45 PM Alcantra, Rosetta M. 041612 Anne Kilkenny

To Whom It May Concern:

I generally like the proposed Wasilla Main St/Yenlo couplet proposal.

Please do everything you can to keep both RR crossings at grade.

A cut on the south side of the RR at Yenlo is preferable in my opinion to an elevated roadbed on the north side.

Thank you,

Anne Kilkenny P. O. Box 870163 Wasilla, Alaska USA 99687-0163

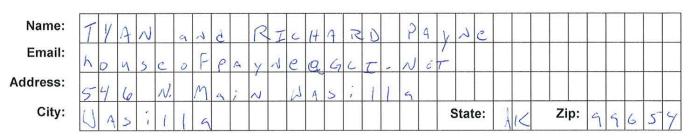
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Live Simply. Love Generously. Care Deeply. Speak Kindly. Leave the rest to God.





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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

parking taking 100 ing only -Side West on East side ha 15 OWNE Deantifi in ation at tor 21 PARKSHUY access to ACK 0-9 out Con U A SWAN SAN LUCA 5 0 6 50 Vyring Construction 055

Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead • Phone: (907) 745-4129 • Fax: (907) 745-4139 •

From: Sent: To: Subject: Terry Beal [beal@mtaonline.net] Monday, April 16, 2012 1:14 PM Alcantra, Rosetta M. 041612 Terry Beal

Rosetta Could you direct me to some maps of the proposal for Main and Yenlo. Hopefully online. This sounds like a great project.

### Terry Beal,

Land Sales Dynamic Properties 3111 C Street Suite 100 Anchorage, Ak 99503 Direct: (907) 261-7545 beal@mtaonline.net From: mark santoro [mailto:mdsantoro@msn.com] Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:00 AM To: OBrien, Murph Subject: RE: Wasilla Main Street

Murph, there are many concerns that I have in regards to the proposed Wasilla Main Street Alternative D Project.

First of all my property is in the core of Wasilla Commercial development surrounded by a 90,000 sq. ft. Native Medical Center to the south and many retail shops to the north. It is in a prime commercial zone in central Wasilla.

It is an elevated 14 acre lot with good drainage and dry ground and ideal for development, especially for a large "box" national retailer, if kept in its present form.

Now, your plans are to put in a diagonal main road bisecting the property, as well as a intersecting secondary road on the south west portion of the parcel, which once built will leave the remainder of the property at an elevated

position with no access to the road and 3 separated parcels. This will greatly devalue the remainder of the parcels.

Also, since there are 2 signalized intersections north of the Parks on Main St., and the majority of the traffic will be flowing south bound pass the Parks Hwy. on KGB Road, there should also be a signal at the point where Centaur Ave

and KGB Road meet.

I cannot see where this project will be beneficial to my property and I am set against it. If you have any alternative plans I would advise to to further evaluate these plans.

Thank You,

Mark Santoro

From: Murph.Obrien@hdrinc.com To: mdsantoro@msn.com CC: Kelly.Petersen@alaska.gov; Linda.Smith@hdrinc.com Subject: Wasilla Main Street Date: Mon, 4 Feb 2013 23:02:40 +0000

Hello Mark,

Good talking with you today. Lets open communication lines. I fully understand that Alternative D impacts your property. Please outline your concerns and we will see what we can do to address/mitigate them.

Talk to you soon.

Thanks Murph

MURPH O'BRIEN	SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONAL Palmer Office
	907.644.2138   fax: 907.745.4139   <u>murph.obrien@hdrinc.com</u> HDR Alaska Inc   742 S. Alaska Street Suite 1   Palmer, AK 99503
	hdrinc.com





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#### **Comments (Please Print)**

I don't like the proposed 2- one-way streets. For all the businesses on main Street, it will be harder to figure out how to get to them and could cost them business. Why not put a stop light with turn signals and turn lanes at the Post office / Library intersection. That should more traffic better since most people don't know how to use a 4-way stop.

This will all be a mute point if the Wasilla By-Pass goes in! _____

Contact: Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Lead 

Phone: (907) 745-4129

Fax: (907) 745-4139

**Additional Public Involvement Records** 

# PROOF OF PUBLICATION

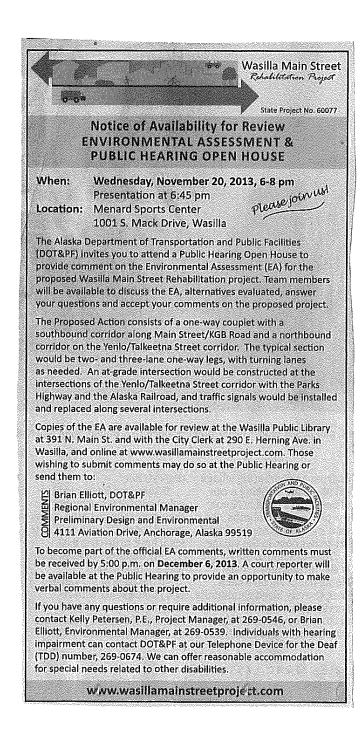
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#### Cindy Grove

being first duly sworn on oath deposes and says that he/she is an accounting clerk of the Anchorage Daily News, a daily newspaper. That said newspaper has been approved as a proof of publication and it now and has been published in the English language continually as a daily newspaper in Anchorage, Alaska, and it is now and during all said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of said newspaper. That the annexed is a copy of an advertisement as it was published in regular issues (and not in supplemental form) of said newspaper on 10/30/2013

and that such newspaper was regularly distributed to its subscribers during all of said period. That the full amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals.

Signed indy Gune



## **Frontiersman**

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PO Box 873509 Wasilla, AK 99654

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#### AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, STATE OF ALASKA, THIRD DIVISION

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED, A NOTARY PUBLIC, THIS DAY

PERSONALLY APPEARED BEFORE CHERYL METIVA WHO, BEING

FIRST DULY SWORN, ACCORDING TO LAW, SAYS THAT SHE IS THE

LEGAL AD CLERK OF THE FRONTIERSMAN AND THE VALLEY SUN

PUBLISHED AT WASILLA, IN SAID DIVISION THREE AND STATE OF ALASKA

AND THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT, OF WHICH THE ANNEXED IS A TRUE

COPY, WAS PUBLISHED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

NOVEMBER 3, 6, 17, 19 & 20, 2013

AND THAT THE RATE CHARGED THEREIN IS NOT IN EXCESS OF

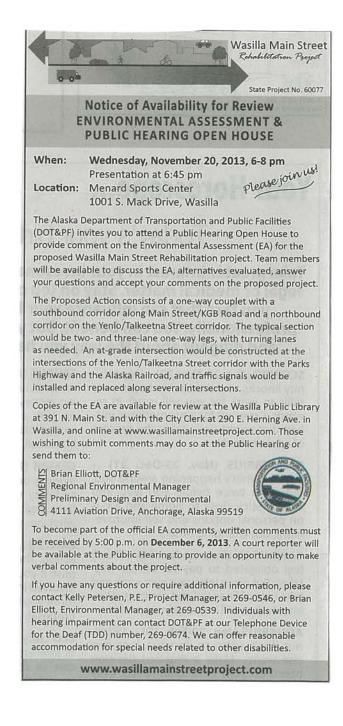
THE RATE CHARGED PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 20th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR STATE OF ALASKA



HDR



From:Meade, ZoeSent:Friday, November 15, 2013 12:16 PMTo:Maxwell, EddieCc:Smith, LindaSubject:RE: PSA for KAYO - Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project

Thank you Eddie, we appreciate the quick response and your willingness to run the ad!

From: Maxwell, Eddie [mailto:eddie@countrylegends1009.com]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:12 PM
To: Meade, Zoe
Subject: RE: PSA for KAYO - Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project

Hi, Zoe!

You bet. Thanks for reaching out.

Best,

Eddie Maxwell Operations Manager Country Legends 100.9 FM/KAYO 5431 E. Mayflower Ln. Unit 3 Wasilla, AK 99654 Office: (907)631-0493 x. 4006 Cell: (907)301-2966 Fax: (907)631-0483 www.countrylegends1009.com

From: Meade, Zoe [mailto:Zoe.Meade@hdrinc.com]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 12:08 PM
To: Maxwell, Eddie
Subject: PSA for KAYO - Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project

Hi Eddie,

My name is Zoe and I work with HDR Alaska Inc., we are handling the public involvement portion of the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project for ADOT&PF. Would you be willing to run a Public Service Announcement for us this weekend or anytime leading up the meeting which will be held next Wednesday November 20, 2013?

The text should read:

Please join the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for an open house and public hearing on the proposed Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with a presentation at 6:45 pm located at Menard Sports Center meeting rooms at 1001 South Mack Drive, Wasilla, Alaska.

The project team will update the public on the project, review the results of the environmental assessment document, and answer questions. Comments on the environmental assessment are requested by Friday December 6th, 2013.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach me at my office. My number is 865-2213.

Thank you,

ZOE MEADE

HDR Alaska, Inc. Environmental Scientist

2525 C Street, #305 | Anchorage, AK 99503 907.865.2213 <u>zoe.meade@hdrinc.com</u>| hdrinc.com

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ary. Its purpose is to ensure fair and equal representation by the public in all projects and programs administered by the	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
y. Its purpose is t	Ala

# PROJECT NAME: Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project DATE: November 20, 2013



### PROJECT CONTACTS:

Project Questions: Kelly Petersen, P.E. DOT&PF Project Manager 907-269-0546 E-Mail: <u>kelly.petersen@alaska.gov</u>

### EA Comments:

Brian Elliott DOT&PF Environmental Manager P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

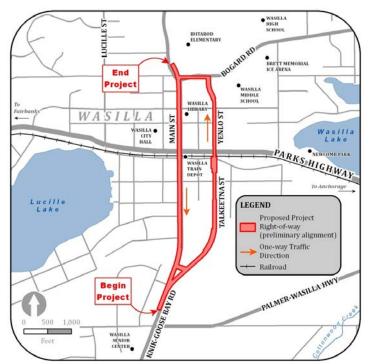
### **Project Description**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation project, following the guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The purpose of the project is to improve mobility within the downtown core of Wasilla, addressing the following needs:

- Poor system connectivity caused by a lack of northsouth corridor capacity
- Intersection configurations that contribute to congestion
- Safety issues, including high intersection crash rates

The Proposed Action consists of a one-way couplet with a southbound corridor along Main Street/KGB Road and a northbound corridor on the Yenlo/Talkeetna Street corridor. The typical section would be two- and three-lane



one-way legs, with turning lanes as needed. An at-grade intersection would be constructed at the intersections of the Yenlo/Talkeetna Street corridor with the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad, and traffic signals would be installed and replaced along several intersections.

Impacts associated with the Proposed Action include acquisition of additional right-of-way, changes to traffic and driveway access, increased traffic noise along the Yenlo/Talkeetna Street corridor, and increased impervious surfaces within the project area. Construction of the Proposed Action would cause temporary effects, including increases in noise levels, minor degradation of air and water quality, traffic delays, and changes in accessibility to businesses.

The Draft EA documents can be viewed online at <u>http://www.wasillamainstreetproject.com</u>. Copies of the EA are available for review at the Wasilla Public Library at 391 N. Main St. and with the Wasilla City Clerk at 290 E. Herning Ave.

### **Next Steps**

Those wishing to submit written comments on the EA may do so at the Public Hearing or mail them to Brian Elliott (see contact information above) by **Friday, December 6**th. A court reporter is available at the Public Hearing to provide an opportunity to make verbal comments about the project.

DOT&PF will prepare a Final EA document, which will address comments and issues raised during the comment period. FHWA will then determine if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) decision can be approved.





Federal Highway Administration	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities	Consultant Team
Al Fletcher	Kelly Petersen, P.E., Project Manager	Murph O'Brien, HDR Manager
	Environmental • Brian Elliott Engineering: • Alvin Talbert Right of Way • Al Burton	Environmental • Linda Smith, HDR Public Involvement • Zoe Meade, HDR Preliminary Engineering • Calex Gonzalez, P.E., HDR
		Traffic Analysis - Kinney Engineerin • Randy Kinney, P.E. • Jeanne Bowie, P.E. • Ron Martindale

### Wasilla Main Stree

### **Meeting Purpose**

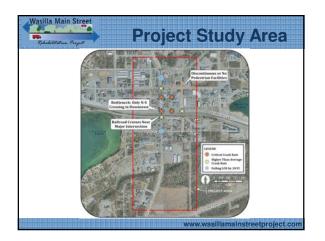
- House Keeping Items
- Project purpose and need
- Project history and current status
- Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and its findings
- Next Steps
- Answer questions

### Project Purpose & Need

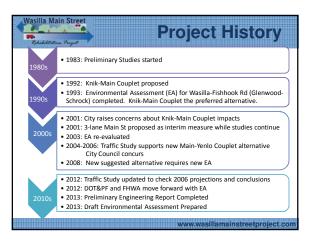
Improving local mobility for people and freight

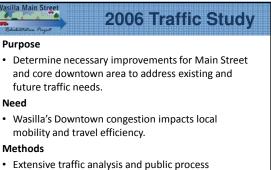
- Improve system connectivity
- Reduce Congestion reduce intersection delay
- Enhance Safety reduce crash rates, minimize railroad/roadway conflicts,

w.wasillamainstreetpro









Extensive trainclanarysis and public proces
 Examined wide range of alternatives

P.....

2012 Traffic Study

www.wasillamainstreetproject.or

### Findings of the 2012 study update:

• Reevaluated all the alternatives using:

Updated traffic volumes and turning-motions
 Extended traffic forecasts to 2035 (design year)

- Included most recent crash rates (1999-2009)

Confirmed 2006 Traffic Study conclusions

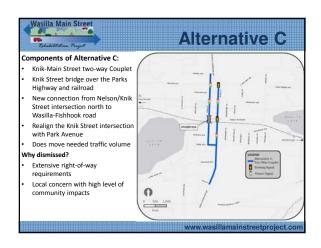
The next 6 slides explain the results of the 2006 and 2012 Traffic Studies.



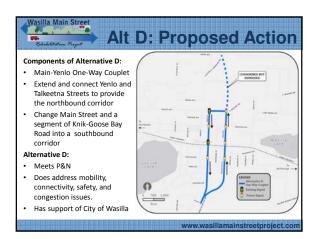


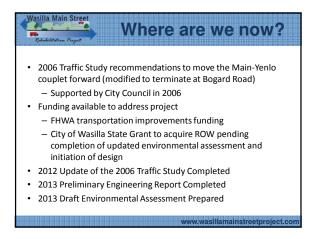


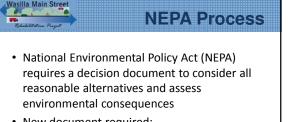
# Public Hearing Open House Presentation Slides



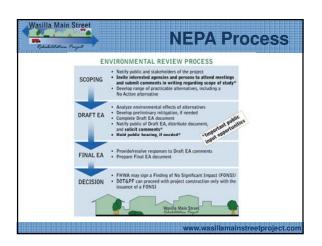




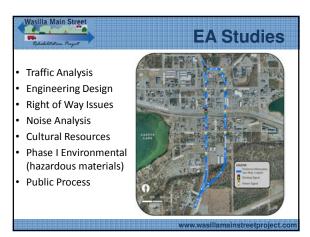




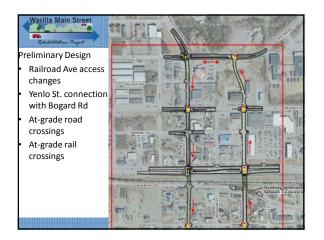
- New document required:
  - Long time period since last evaluation
  - 1993 EA and 2003 Re-evaluation did not consider the Main-Yenlo Couplet

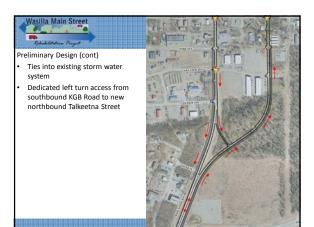


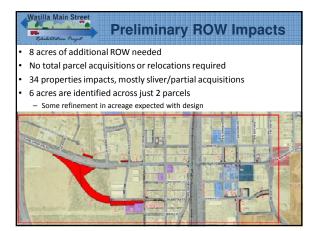
# Public Hearing Open House Presentation Slides



# Traffic Analysis – Only Proposed Action meets LOS and traffic capacity needs Cultural Resources – No historic properties affected Phase I Environmental (hazardous materials) – Low risk of encountering contaminated soils associated with nearby gas stations and industrial uses.



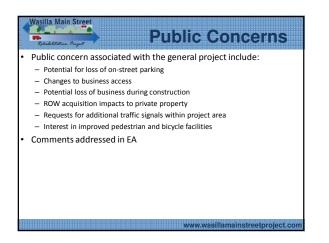


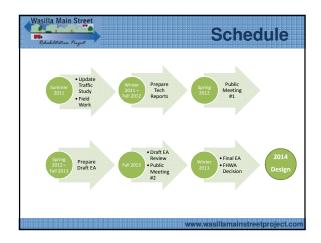


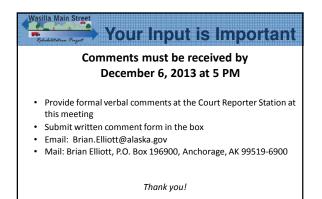


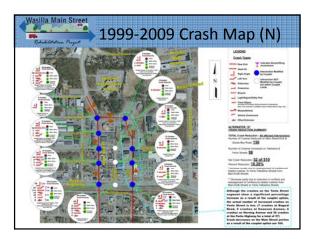
### Noise Impacts

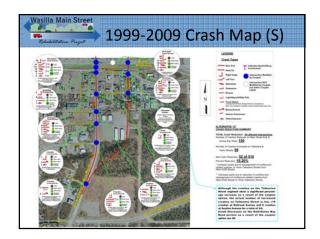
- Nine properties predicted to be impacted by 2035
  - 6 properties exceed established criteria (4 residential, 1 church, 1 commercial)
  - 3 properties increase by more than 15 dBA
  - (1 commercial, 2 undeveloped)
- Barriers were considered per DOT&PF Noise Policy
  - Could not reduce noise by at least 7 dBA or cost below \$32K per benefitted residence
- None considered reasonable











# Couplet could be in place by 2017

### Posted: Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:26 pm

WASILLA — More than three decades of frustration with traffic congestion through downtown may finally be nearing a solution.

State engineers and planners are winding down the environmental assessment phase of a plan that would upgrade roads and reroute downtown traffic through a pair of one-way north-south streets, known as a couplet. If all goes well, the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project (aka Wasilla couplet) could begin construction by 2016 and be completed by 2017, said Kelly Petersen, project manager for the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

"We haven't got into phasing plans at this point, but I don't think it would be really any more than a year of construction for this project," she said.

Because 90 percent of the estimated \$23 million project is federal money, the state has to jump through more hoops to satisfy requirements for using that funding, Petersen said. That's what brought the project team to Wasilla Wednesday evening to take public comments on the federally required environmental assessment (EA) of the plan. In that draft document, the state and city really only have two viable options to consider.

One is called the "do nothing" option, which would leave downtown traffic flow as-is. Doing nothing is not recommended, according to the document.

"Congestion and delay would persist, ultimately reaching unacceptable levels," the draft EA says.

Option two is the couplet, which would make Main Street/Knik-Goose Bay Road one-way southbound from Bogard Road to about Enter Place. Conversely, a new intersection would be built at Yenlo/Talkeena streets, which would be a one-way, northbound roadway for that same stretch. That creates a loop and a much-needed north-south alternative to a badly overloaded Main Street, Petersen said.

During the initial planning phase, one of the public concerns Petersen said she's heard the most is about the railroad crossings at KGB and Talkeetna Street. After talking with Alaska Railroad Corp., she said the railroad is firmly behind the couplet.

"They've supported this and they like that we're going for one-way streets," she said. "Right now, they can't get the arms (at the crossings) that come down and completely stop traffic," she said. "But if we have two one-way roads, they can completely stop traffic from crossing. They can have the arms that come down and completely prevent anyone from getting trapped on the tracks." Aside from traffic flow, one of the most noticeable changes in the plan is the addition of seven new traffic lights at intersections along Main/KGB and Yenlo/Talkeetna streets. Because the idea is to funnel more cars more efficiently through the downtown area, the timing of those lights is important, Petersen said.

"Timing is going to be crucial there," she said, adding that the couplet plan also allows Wasilla to achieve something its wanted for a long time — to be more pedestrian friendly.

"We're putting pedestrian sidewalks on both sides, some sections we'll have a separated pathway for bikes," she said. "We're really planning to have pedestrian continuity throughout the whole downtown area. It will be more of the traditional downtown core feel."

### Safety first

One of the main reasons Wasilla needs a better traffic flow through its downtown area is safety, according to the draft environmental assessment. A study from 1999 to 2008 shows that five of seven intersections affected by the couplet project are above what the state considers the "critical limit" for accidents.

DOT information presented at Wednesday's public meeting shows that area experienced 510 accidents during that time period. Estimates with the couplet in place over that same time period would reduce accidents overall by 10.2 percent. That estimate includes a decrease of about 150 accidents on Main Street, which has the highest level of accidents in the downtown area. It also factors in an expected increase by creating a new intersection at Yenlo/Talkeetna and the Parks Highway.

Wasilla's own comprehensive plan adopted in 2011 identifies the intersection of Main Street and the Parks Highway as a "critical bottleneck."

### What's next?

Although the end is in sight, there are still plenty of federal hoops to jump through before getting there, Petersen said. For now, public comment on the draft environmental assessment continues through Dec. 6. After that, planners will move on to completing the environmental impact portion of the approval process.

"We'll gather all the comments and we'll respond to all the comments and see which comments can be accommodated in our design," she said. "The next step is to prepare a finding of 'no significant impact.""

From there, it's time for more funding to do final design work, then for construction.

"We're only funded through the environmental document," she said. "We're not allowed to do any further design until we get that approval." Although the project hasn't been fully funded, Petersen said she's confident when the time comes, there will be money to build the couplet.

"The political wind is that this project is a priority," she said.

Another hurdle is securing the rights of way needed for the Yenlo/Talkeetna streets upgrades, the draft EA says. It's estimated the project would need to acquire about 8 acres of right of way to accommodate the improvements. Those would mostly come from bits and pieces of land from an estimated 34 properties in the area, many less than .1 acre.

Contact Greg Johnson at 352-2269 or greg.johnson@frontiersman.com.

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES/FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding: The Draft Environmental Assessment for Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project Taken November 20, 2013 Volume I - Pages 1 - 6, inclusive Taken at Menard Sports Center 1001 South Mack Drive Wasilla, AK 99654

Reported by: Valerie Martinez, RPR

Arctic Court Reporters, LLC (907) 227-6841

1	I N D E X
2	PUBLIC COMMENTS: PAGE
3	Jim Faiks
4	Archie Giddings3
5	James Martin4
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1	COMMENTS
2	JIM FAIKS: My name is Jim Faiks, F-a-i-k-s.
3	I live in Big Lake. 521152 is my post office box in Big
4	Lake, 99652. My phone number, 907-892-8482. And I'd
5	just like to say I'm very much in favor of the proposed
6	Main Street couplet and would really like to encourage
7	it to be completed as soon as possible, as I think it
8	will be very beneficial to the community.
9	ARCHIE GIDDINGS: My name is Archie Giddings,
10	A-r-c-h-i-e G-i-d-d-i-n-g-s. I'm the public works
11	director for the City of Wasilla. 290 East Herning
12	Avenue, Wasilla, 99654.
13	I've been involved with this project since I
14	was city engineer in the year 2000. We thought we had a
15	great milestone in 2006 when the city council approved,
16	by resolution, the Main Street couplet project as their
17	preferred alternative for the city. And due to funding
18	constraints, DOT wasn't able to push the project
19	forward, or it would have been built by now.
20	So we're glad to see that it's back on DOT's
21	project list and this environmental document is moving
22	forward. We've tried to keep all of our councils
23	educated over the years so we have a consistent message,
24	and we still do, including our mayor, are all fully
25	behind the preferred alternative. So we're happy to see

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it moving forward.

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JAMES MARTIN: My name is Dr. James Martin, M-a-r-t-i-n, and I'm located at 400 North Main Street, which is the northwest side of Swanson and Main Street. 4

We have a health care business that employs 12 5 employees. We have patients that go through the 6 7 facility approximately -- average is 50 a day. Our 8 biggest concern is our parking in front of the building. 9 We require ten parking spaces. The people aren't 10 there very -- patients aren't there very long, but 11 they're about ten an hour throughout the day or more. 12 There's two doctors that work in the facility.

Our biggest concern is access to the property, 13 14 so coming southbound on the one-way on Main Street, that there's access into the parking and that there's access 15 from Swanson, both east and west, into the parking area 16 17 in front of the building.

Currently we're utilizing 54 feet of parking 18 in front of the building, and that takes it -- our 19 20 property line is within that margin, but I don't know if with the corner cutouts, curb cutouts for the stoplights 21 and signal lights, and -- I don't know how much that's 22 23 going to take as far as parking. It could take one or 24 two spaces from that, and so my biggest concern is that 25 if there are -- I don't know what the easement is for

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1	the roadway, but if it could be, you know, considered
2	since 90 percent of the businesses are on the west side
3	of the street and most all of the buildings on the other
4	side are either city or federal buildings post
5	office, library, museum, fire station that if it
6	could be aligned or shifted towards the east versus the
7	west, that that would be of considerable benefit to all
8	of the businesses along the roadway.
9	The other comment I'd like to make is that there
10	aren't any barriers or curb barriers that don't allow
11	access turning lanes into the businesses on the east
12	side of Main Street. And that's it. Thank you.
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	I, VALERIE MARTINEZ, RPR, and Notary Public in
3	and for the State of Alaska do hereby certify:
4	That the proceedings were taken before me at the
5	place herein set forth; that the proceedings were
6	reported stenographically by me and later transcribed
7	under my direction by computer transcription; that the
8	foregoing is a true record of the proceedings taken at
9	that time; and that I am not a party to nor have I any
10	interest in the outcome of the action herein contained.
11	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
12	my hand and affixed my seal this 21st day of November,
13	2013.
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15	
16	VALERIE MARTINEZ, Registered Professional Reporter
17	Notary Public for Alaska
18	
19	My Commission Expires: June 22, 2014
20	Ty commission Exprices ounce 22, 2011
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23	
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Arctic Court Reporters, LLC (907) 227-6841

From:	OBrien, Murph
Sent:	Wednesday, November 20, 2013 8:42 AM
То:	Smith, Linda
Subject:	FW: Main Street Couplet
Attachments:	Scan_20131120_084828.pdf

### A couple of small comments.

From: Archie Giddings [mailto:agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us] Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 8:40 AM To: OBrien, Murph Subject: Main Street Couplet

See minor addition to list of commercial streets on page 3; Park Avenue & Centaur Avenue.

Note the Mayor is attending the Alaska Municipal League Conference in Anchorage this week-not likely to be attending your meeting AND we have a library building committee meeting tonight. I should be able to stop by after the library meeting around 7pm.

thanks

### 1.2.1. Existing Roadways

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) functional classification for the Main Street/KGB Road segments between Bogard Road and the Palmer Wasilla Highway is Urban Principal Arterial. Consistent with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Functional Classification Guidelines for principal arterials, Main Street/KGB Road is a high traffic volume corridor carrying the major portion of trips with downtown Wasilla as a destination, and providing significant intra-area travel between the core business district and the outlying residential areas. The corridor connects to the Parks Highway (Urban Interstate), the Palmer-Wasilla Highway (Urban Principal Arterial), and Bogard Road (Urban Minor Arterial). Most other roads in the project area are two-way, two-lane roads functionally classified by DOT&PF as Local Roads, except for Railroad Avenue, which was reclassified as an Urban Collector in 2011. The City of Wasilla classifies Swanson and Susitna Avenues as Major Collector Roads. Their function is to provide for intra-city movement, access to arterial roads, and moving traffic to and from residential areas. Herning Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Boundary Street and Lakeview Street are classified by the city as Commercial Roads. Their function is to provide access to, and movement through, the business and commercial areas.

# Park Avence Centaur Ave.

### 1.2.2. Existing ARRC Facilities

ARRC facilities in the project area include the mainline track connecting Anchorage to Fairbanks and an at-grade crossing located on KGB Road. Within the project area, the ARRC track alignment runs parallel to the Parks Highway alignment. The center of the tracks is located approximately 100 feet south of the outer edge of the Parks Highway travel lanes. As shown in the photo below, the crossing at KGB Road includes overhead flashing lights, automatic gates, warning signs, and a separate pedestrian crossing.



KGB Road @ ARRC crossing - facing north towards Parks Highway



# **Comment Form**

Your input is important to this project. Please provide your comments below and submit at the meeting or mail to the address preprinted on the back of this page. Attach extra pages as needed. You can also email your comments (see information below). Comments must be received by 5 p.m. December 6, 2013.

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### **Comments (Please Print)**

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### COMMENTS REQUESTED BY 5 P.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013

Contact: Brian Elliott, DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager Email: <u>brian.elliott@alaska.gov</u> • Mail: P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

From:	OBrien, Murph
Sent:	Thursday, December 12, 2013 10:26 AM
То:	lockitup97@gmail.com
Cc:	Petersen, Kelly; Talbert, Alvin H (DOT); Smith, Linda
Subject:	Wasilla Main Street Couplet Comment

Hello Billy,

Both Calex Gonzalez and I enjoyed speaking with you at the November 20, 2012 Wasilla Main Street meeting and appreciate your support of the project. Both of the issues you raised will be addressed during the design phase of the project which we hope will be underway in early 2014. Calex will be leading the design effort and will meet with you both to discuss access requirements to your ministorage business and the drainage issues, access and potential availability of fill for your low areas at your home.

Let's stay in touch. My office is located in Palmer and I may be reached at 907-644-2138 if you have any questions.

Thank you. Murph O'Brien

**M. Murph O'Brien** Senior Transportation Professional 907-644-2138



# **Comment Form**

Your input is important to this project. Please provide your comments below and submit at the meeting or mail to the address preprinted on the back of this page. Attach extra pages as needed. You can also email your comments (see information below). Comments must be received by 5 p.m. December 6, 2013.

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### **Comments (Please Print)**

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### COMMENTS REQUESTED BY 5 P.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013

Contact: Brian Elliott, DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager Email: <u>brian.elliott@alaska.gov</u> • Mail: P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900



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Your input is important to this project. Please provide your comments below and submit at the meeting or mail to the address preprinted on the back of this page. Attach extra pages as needed. You can also email your comments (see information below). Comments must be received by 5 p.m. December 6, 2013.

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### **Comments (Please Print)**

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### COMMENTS REQUESTED BY 5 P.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2013

Contact: Brian Elliott, DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager Email: <u>brian.elliott@alaska.gov</u> • Mail: P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

From:	OBrien, Murph
Sent:	Tuesday, December 03, 2013 3:11 PM
То:	jcmartin@mtaonline.net; danddmartin@gmail.com
Cc:	Petersen, Kelly; Smith, Linda
Subject:	Wasilla Main Street Couplet Project

Hello David and Cindi,

Thank you for your comments about the proposed improvements to Main Street in Wasilla. I enjoyed speaking with you at the November 20, 2013 Public Open House. I understand your concerns about possible access and right-of-way impacts to your property located on the northwest corner of Swanson and Main Street. There may be impacts to your property. Preliminarily, it appears that a sliver of right of way may be needed to improve the curve radius of the northwest corner of the Swanson and Main intersection. However, there is no raised median currently proposed on Swanson's western approach to Main Street. The lanes are proposed to be striped. Your customers should have driveway access eastbound and westbound on Swanson as well as southbound on Main Street. Both of these issues will be revisited once we enter into detailed design.

As I remember our conversation, some of your parking may be located in the existing Main Street right- of-way. If this is true, then there may be an impact to your parking if the project needs to use all or part of the unused right-of-way for project improvements. This is a detail that again will be determined as we enter into design.

The DOT and HDR will work with you and other adjacent property owners during design to try avoid or mitigate impacts to the extent possible. Please keep in mind that the project improvements will increase safety and improve traffic flow throughout the area by eliminating many of the traffic delays experienced today. This project should improve access to your business. Without this project, the Main Street area would see a continued deterioration of traffic movement leading to gridlock.

We will be in contact as we move into the design phase of this project which should begin in early 2014. Thank you again for attending the meeting and providing us with your comments. Please contact me anytime to discuss this project.

I hope you have a great holiday season.

Thanks,

Murph

**M. Murph O'Brien** Senior Transportation Professional HDR Alaska, Inc. 742 S. Alaska Street Suite 1 Palmer, Alaska 99645 907-644-2138

From:	OBrien, Murph
Sent:	Monday, December 02, 2013 3:02 PM
То:	Petersen, Kelly
Cc:	Talbert, Alvin H (DOT); Smith, Linda; Gonzalez, Calex
Subject:	Wasilla Main Street EA: Colleen Cottle Contact

Kelly,

I spoke to Colleen Cottle for 30 minutes today concerning the Wasilla Main Street project. Mrs. Cottle is a Teeland a long time Wasilla family. She has held various local including the City of Wasilla Planning Commission and has been a Wasilla City Council person. She is very supportive of this project. She recognizes the need to improve traffic in and about Wasilla especially along Main Street and KGB road. She is very pleased that the project will install a traffic signal at KGB and Lake Shore Avenue. She was disappointed that she did not receive a direct notification of the project meeting but understood that other public notices were issued and that she missed paper and radio advertisements. Her question dealt specifically with a parcel that she owns in the project area.

Mrs. Cottle owns a 40' wide by 190' long undeveloped property on the southwest corner of Main Street and Herning Avenue. She asked about potential right of way impacts and access. I responded that access would most likely be from Herning Avenue and not from Main Street due to close proximity of her 40' of Main Street frontage to the Main Street/Herning intersection. I told her that there is a proposed sliver take to her property to accommodate the curve radius at the Main Street/Herning intersection. She was concerned that she may not be left with a usable parcel. I explained that we would be working with her during the design phase to determine the extent of the right of way impact to her property. A fair market value would be established and a sale negotiated. If it were determine that the right-of-way take would not leave her a useable remainder, then her entire lot would be acquired at fair market value.

She was satisfied with this answer and asked to be kept informed. I told her that I would be happy to meet with her to discuss the project and her property to give her an overview. She was happy to her that I would continue to be involved throughout the design project. I told her that she could contact me any time with questions.

She again emphasized her support of the project and thanked me for spending time with her.

Call me if you have any questions.

Thanks Murph

**M. Murph O'Brien** Senior Transportation Professional 907-644-2138



State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Central Region Design & Construction Preliminary Design & Environmental

# Telephone Conversation Record

Project WASHLA MAIN St. (60077)	Date & Time 11.19.13 @ 12:30 pm.
Contact Mr. MARK SANTORD	Phone No. 969 · 971 · 3206
Agency STAKE HOUSER - PROP OWNER	Fax No.
Call taken by George Just	Route to AWIN ALBERT
Discussion: Me GALITORO OWNIS A P	ARCEL OF LAND NEAR THE SOUTHERN END OF THE
	- THE PROPAGED PROJECT 15 CONSTRUCTED.
	Y WILL HAVE LITTLE VILLE FOR HIS PLANS IF
THE PROPERTY IS BI-SECTED.	
	CONTACT FROM THE D.O.T. ABOUT THIS PROJECT
	16 Hing OF & PUBLIC HEARING OPEN House
	FROM 6-8 pm. MR. SANTORO 15 AWARE OF
	TTED & COMMENT ABOUT HIS PROPERTY BEING
BI-SECTED, BUT GOT WA RESPANS	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
T_ ASSURED MR. SANTORS	THAT THE PROJECT TEAM DID RECEIVE HIS
	NOTITY THE PROJECT MANDAGER, KELLY PETERSEN,
OF OUR CONVERSATION. I SA	
BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON	
, 	ALVIN ALBERT



State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Central Region Design & Construction Preliminary Design & Environmental

### **Telephone Conversation Record**

Project WASILLA MAINE St. (60077) Date & Time 1.20.13 0 11:00 Am Contact Mr. MARK SANTORO Phone No. 971.3206 Agency PROPERT OWNER - STAKEHOLDER Fax No. RETURNED BI Calltaken by: Awin Achens on 11.19.13 KELLY FETERSEN, AL BUETON, BRIAN ELLIOTT, AUVIN Route to ALBERT 1545 CONFEDENCE IN RESPONSE TO ME SANTORO'S COMMENT AND 11.19.13 PHONE GANGERSATION Discussion : IN THE 11.19.13 PHONE CONVERSATION ME SANTORD SAID HE HOD NO GNITACT FROM P.O.T. OR HOR ABOUT THIS PROJECT EXCEPT FOR AN EMAIL NOTIFYING HIM OF THE RIBUC HEARING OPEN HOUSE MEETING ON 11.20.13. KELLY REITERATED THAT THE PROJECT TEAM DID RECEIVE HIS COMMENT ABOUT HIS PROPERTY BEING BI-SECTED AND VERIFIED HIS MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 4489 SAN DIMAS, CA 91773. MR. SANTORS AGREED THAT 15 HIS MAILING ADDRESS ME. SANTORO'S CONCERN IN HIS COMMENT IS HIS PROPERTY WILL HAVE LITTLE VALUE IF IT IS BI-SECTED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT. AL BURTON MENTIONED THAT AT THIS TIME THE PROPOSED PEOJECT IS CONCEPTUAL AND WAS NOT DEVELOPED WITH THE BENEFIT OF DETAILED SURVEY, UTILITY, OR RIGHT OF WAY PATA. THE DETAILED DESIGN WILL BE DONE IN THE FINAL DESIGN PHASE SO THE ROAD ALIGNMENT AND AMOUNT OF IMPACT 15 SUBJECT TO CHANGE. AL ALSO EXPLAINED THE D.O.T. R.O.W. APPRALSAL AND ACQUISITION PROCESS SO ME. SONTORO WOULD HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT IF / WHEN THE PROPOSED PROJECT MOVES TO THE NEXT PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT. MR. SANTORO HE WOULD SEND ANOTHER COMMENT LETTER TO THE PROJECT TEAM BY THE DEC. G, 2013 DEODLINE.

November 21, 2013

Kelly Peterson, P.E. Project Manager 4111 Aviation Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99519 Mark D. Santoro P.O. Box 4489 San Dimas, Calif. 91773

**Regarding Wasilla Main Street Project** 

Kelly,

As per our discussion by phone on November 20, 2013

My property is on Knikgoosebay Road in Downtown Wasilla, approximately 14 arce parcel with the tax acct #217N01W10C012.

I feel that the proposed project will have a detrimental effect on my property.

First off, the several diagrams show different outcomes in regards to the proposed roadway. I understand that during our discussion nothing definite has been finalized as to the exact proportions of the road and the remaining parcels. Also pointing out that on page 30, #30 of the EA and Figures of The Environmental Documents, which is the Anticipated Row Acquisition, shows that my property being 12.82 acres with 3.63 acres of ROW acquisition, which represents 28.3% of the overall property. But in fact the property is 14 acres.

My main concern is also the new road and the relation to the remaining property, since the new road will be at current road level, and the remaining parcels at elevated levels, as well as access to the new road.

Thereby, this acquisition is by far and away the largest piece acquired in size and affects the property the most.

I only have been informed of this project through an email with no written correspondence or any other notifications by mail.

Please respond to my concerns, because this matter is of major importance to me.

Sincerely,

Mark D. Santoro



### Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES Preliminary Design & Environmental

> PO Box 196900 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900 Phone: 907.269.0542 Toll Free: 800.770.5263 TDD: 907.269.0473 TTY: 800.770.8973 Fax: 907.243.6927

December 4, 2013

Mr. Mark Santoro P.O. Box 4489 San Dimas, CA 91773-4489

Subject: Wasilla Main Street Project

Dear Mr. Santoro :

Thank you for your November 21, 2013 letter regarding the Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project, State Project No. 60077.

The project team is currently working through the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, which is a decision making process. The Draft EA, which is currently available on our website, describes the project purpose and needs, alternatives to the proposed action (including the no-action alternative), identifies potential impacts of the proposed action, and documents the coordination among the team, resource agencies, the City, the public, and other stakeholders. The preliminary design depicted in the Draft EA allows us to determine a conservative estimate of impacts.

The proposed action is a one-way couplet using the Main Street-Knik Goose Bay Road corridor for southbound traffic and the Yenlo-Talkeetna corridor for northbound traffic. This one-way couplet was identified as the alternative recommended for design in the 2006 Wasilla Main Street Traffic Study. The Traffic Study was updated in 2012 as part of the current EA effort, which confirmed this one-way couplet is the only alternative that provides an acceptable level of service for traffic through the design year 2035. Both of these traffic reports are available on our project website: www.wasillamainstreetproject.com/Documents.html

Thank you for pointing out the discrepancy in our Draft EA regarding your lot size. The correct acreage and calculations will be included in the Final EA. Your comment letter will become part of the permanent record for the EA.

Should the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approve the Final EA document and issue a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action, the team will work to refine the design. As this project moves forward into the design phase, the State of Alaska and City of Wasilla will work with all affected property owners to adequately address any property impacts. As we discussed in our phone conversation on November 20, 2013, all right-of-way acquisitions will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act), as amended in 1987.

I understand you are concerned that the proposed road may leave your remaining property at an elevated level. Our preliminary engineering design proposed a roadway profile that will minimize cuts and fills. It will not be an engineering challenge to provide driveway access to the remaining parcels. The State does not want to preclude any development plans you may have for your property. We will work with you to identify access points to your property that are of mutual benefit to both our potential road project and your planned site development.

I am disappointed to learn that our project outreach efforts did not reach you. Our main vehicle for public communication is our website <u>www.wasillamainstreetproject.com</u> which was launched in March 2012 and is linked to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Central Region Project homepage. A postcard was mailed in April 2012 to our entire project mailing list which includes 2,844 names. I verified that your current mailing address is included on our list. The remainder of our public outreach has been focused locally, with publications in local papers, announcements on local radio stations, and presentations to local community organizations, as fully documented in the Draft EA.

I hope that I have addressed your concerns. Please contact me at 907-269-0546 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kelly Petersen, P.E. Project Manager Preliminary Design & Environmental Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

cc.: Eric DeSentis P.E., Chief Preliminary Design & Environmental, State of Alaska Archie Giddings P.E., City of Wasilla Murph O'Brien, HDR Alaska

J. B. Friderici
P.O. Box 1205
Willow, Alaska 99688
907-495-5033
Nov 30, 2013

Brian Elliot Environmental Manager DOT P.O. Box 1969000 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

### Re: Wasilla Main Street Project, comments

Dear Sir:

This letter is to submit comments on the proposed Wasilla Main Street Project. I am opposed to the proposed project as designed. This is why.

I live in Willow but regularly drive thru Wasilla since we shop in Wasilla. Most of our destinations in Wasilla are east of the Main Street and Parks Highway intersection. We also have to drive thru Wasilla to go to the Anchorage airport or anywhere else in Anchorage. When I first drove thru the Main Street and Parks Highway intersection, it was called Teelands' Corner and had a flashing yellow light on the Parks Highway route.

Although there have been considerable changes over the years, DOT has yet to improve the intersection in function beyond Teelands' Corner days. Traffic lights make traffic flow slower with more intersection collisions. The Parks Highway's biggest problem is the continuing installation of traffic lights rather than changing the roadway to improve traffic flow.¹ The lack of smooth traffic flow thru Wasilla illustrates the error of too many traffic lights.

Notwithstanding my opinion, I recognize DOT is likely to

¹The new light at Stanley Road is an example. Las Vegas uses dedicated U turn pockets to avoid left turns at intersections. If Stanley Road had been made no left turn at the Parks Highway and a dedicated U turn pocket added on the Parks Highway west of the intersection, the light could have been avoided and traffic would flow better than the present situation.

Brian Elliot ltr Nov 30, 2013 Page 2

build the project and add more traffic lights. If so, you need to do much better than the proposed design.

The southbound Parks Highway (actually eastbound at the Knik-Goose Bay Road intersection), backs up with traffic turning right onto Knik-Goose Bay Road. Traffic now drives on the shoulder to make a right turn (illegal under Alaska law since one cannot drive on the shoulder) and sometimes side-swipes vehicles going straight. This problem can be fixed making the present shoulder into a dedicated right turn lane with a guardrail to separate traffic from the railroad tracks.

The road space is too short between the railroad tracks and the Parks Highway. I frequently see a vehicle either sitting squarely on the tracks or having the rear end in the path of any train. This area should be marked by paint and signed "No stopping or standing." This would avoid accidents such as the pickup last year which got hit in the rear by a train.

To further improve the area, the intersection of Knik-Goose Bay Road and E. Railroad Avenue should be blocked on both sides with guard rail or a substantial median. All the businesses on E. Railroad Avenue have other access. This would allow traffic to better prepare to cross the Parks Highway. To aid traffic flow, a left turn pocket could be added at E. Susitna Avenue.

The southbound Parks Highway is a disaster with turning traffic going to Carrs. The center turn lane backs up because there are multiple access points to Carrs. Traffic turns left from Carrs to go south on the Parks Highway but waits in the center left turn lane. Although such is illegal under Alaska law since one cannot go right from a center turn lane, I have never seen law enforcement write anyone a ticket.

The solution is to duplicate the southbound Parks Highway access to Fred Meyers. There a dedicated left turn pocket with a long traffic lane for waiting traffic to stack in limits access to a single point. A raised median prevents traffic from turning left onto the Parks Highway from Fred Meyers.

The fix would be to add a single dedicated left turn pocket to access Carrs's parking lot on the east side. A raised median before and after the turn pocket would prevent anyone from going left from Carrs onto the Parks Highway. If traffic wanted to go south on the Parks Highway, it could exit east from Carrs' Brian Elliot ltr Nov 30, 2013 Page 3

parking lot, go to Crusey Street, and then get onto the Parks Highway. Eliminating left turns from Carrs parking lot would reduce collisions on the Parks Highway.

The proposed Yenlo Street route ignores Carrs' parking lot. Much traffic flows in and out of Carrs via the extension of Herning Avenue at Yenlo Street. Herning Avenue actually ends at Yenlo Street, but traffic acts as if Herning continues into Carrs' parking lot. This area is a problem and adding more traffic via Yenlo Street is a terrible idea. Rather than reducing accidents, what is proposed will increase accidents.

The use of Yenlo Street will adversely affect businesses. It will add traffic next to the strip mall on the west side of Carrs' parking lot. Some vehicle will crash into the back of a business. Further north traffic will run up against Chimo Guns' parking lot which is already close to the road. Again, rather than reducing accidents this change will increase accidents.

The south end of the project separates into single direction traffic lanes north of the intersection of Knik-Goose Bay Road and the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. That intersection is already a problem. To improve traffic, bring the extension of Talkeetna Street east of the present parking lot and connect it to the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. That would allow making the intersection of Knik-Goose Bay Road and Palmer-Wasilla Highway no left turn if east-bound on Knik-Goose Bay Road. This would speed up traffic by reducing the traffic light cycle at the intersection.

The real solution is a bypass around downtown Wasilla. This could be done by improving the Palmer-Wasilla Highway between the Parks Highway and Knik-Goose Bay Road. From there the route should go west of Lake Lucille to connect to the road by the Wasilla airport. The planned improvement of the Parks Highway could include an intersection at Museum Drive to bring the traffic back onto the Parks Highway. If such a by-pass were built, Knik-Goose Bay Road could be closed at the railroad tracks which would really improve safety. The way to accomplish this improvement is to choose the "no build" option and save the money for a by-pass project.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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Respectfully yours, J. B. Friderici

(jimltr\wasillamain1.ltr)





### Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES Preliminary Design & Environmental

> PO Box 196900 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900 Phone: 907.269.0542 Toll Free: 800.770.5263 TDD: 907.269.0473 TTY: 800.770.8973 Fax: 907.243.6927

December 19, 2013

Mr. J.B. Friderici P.O. Box 1205 Willow, AK 99688

Subject: Wasilla Main Street Couplet Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Friderici :

Thank you for your recent comments concerning the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT)'s proposed Wasilla Main Street Couplet. You bring up several important points some of which will be addressed by this project. As you are aware, Wasilla and the Matanuska Susitna Borough have grown significantly in the last 50 years with a current borough population approaching 100,000 people. This growth is projected to approach 400,000 people in the next 50 years. Several significant transportation improvements are needed to address this growth including the Parks Highway Alternative Corridor and the Knik Arm Crossing. The purpose of these improvements is to move traffic from Anchorage to Fairbanks and beyond. Both of these projects are in their development stages and both are needed.

Complementary to these projects is the need to improve traffic north and south of the Parks Highway as it traverses east to west from the Glenn Highway to Big Lake. The recent improvements to Trunk Road and the Seward Meridian Parkway are examples of projects that improve this north/south traffic flow. The proposed Wasilla Main Street Couplet will improve north/south traffic flow in downtown Wasilla. It does add a new traffic signal on the Parks Highway at Yenlo but it should also reduce rail conflicts and the current queuing that occurs at the Parks Highway/Main Street intersection.

The current Wasilla Main Street Project represents the preliminary engineering and environmental phase. Sufficient engineering has been completed to be able to assess the social and environmental impacts of the project. Detailed design is the next phase. More refinements to the design will occur in the coming months if the environmental assessment is approved by the Federal Highway Administration.

Included in the project now are the following improvements:

- 1. An eastbound dedicated right turn lane from the Parks Highway onto KGB.
- 2. Rail arms that will block the southbound KGB lanes and the northbound Talkeetna lanes completely preventing vehicles from accessing the tracks when trains are passing. (Please note that the Alaska Railroad Corporation has acquired the old Kenai Supply Building about 1 mile east of the current Wasilla train station. The Kenai Supply

location will become the new Wasilla station eliminating the current traffic conflicts caused by passenger trains stopping during the summer tourist operations.)

- 3. The current proposal eliminates left turns into and out of Carrs at its western driveway access. It proposes an eastbound left turn pocket accessing Carrs at its eastern driveway access. We will evaluate the need for additional medians and access limitations during the design phase.
- 4. Our proposal formalizes the intersection of Herning/Carrs and Yenlo. It becomes a 3 way intersection as opposed to its current 4 way intersection reducing the number of conflicts.
- 5. Railroad Avenue will become right turn in/left turn out only since KGB will be one way southbound. It will become a cul-de-sac prior to Talkeetna with no access to Talkeetna.

You mentioned bringing Talkeetna south to the Palmer Wasilla Extension as opposed to having it branch off of KGB north of the Palmer Wasilla Highway Extension. Your recommendation would require all KGB traffic to turn east onto the Palmer Wasilla Extension with northbound traffic then turning north at a new signal onto Talkeetna. Our analysis shows that separating KGB's northbound and eastbound traffic at the KGB/Palmer Wasilla Highway Intersection is more efficient than routing all traffic east onto the Palmer Wasilla Extension.

Again I want to thank you for your comments. Your letter will become part of the project record and will be reviewed by the design engineers once the design phase is initiated. The project will be developed in close coordination with our Traffic and Safety Section here at DOT in accordance with nationally recognized standards. We will have an ongoing public involvement program throughout the design phase.

Please contact me if you have additional questions at 907-269-0546.

Sincerely,

Kelly Petersen, P.E. Project Manager Preliminary Design & Environmental Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

cc.: Eric DeSentis P.E., Chief Preliminary Design & Environmental, State of Alaska Brian Elliott, Central Region Environmental Manager, State of Alaska Murph O'Brien, HDR Alaska

