

Appendix E

## **Agency and Public Coordination**

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# Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Phase II

## Draft EA Public Hearing and Open House

### May 18, 2006

ATTENDEES: See attendance list

ATTACHMENTS Presentation graphics, letters to agencies, general mailing, Sign in sheets, meeting photos, written comments

FROM: Eric Cutbirth

DATE: September 5, 2006

A Public Hearing and Open House for the Draft Talkeetna Airport Improvements Environmental Assessment was held May 18, 2006 at Talkeetna Elementary School from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. A presentation was given 7 p.m. A copy of the graphics used during the presentation is attached. Before and after the presentation an open house style format allowed the public to ask questions of team members and review graphics. A court recorder was present to record the presentation, testimony after the presentation and to record public comments at other times during the open house.

### Meeting Notice

A letter notifying agencies of the availability of the *Draft Environmental Assessment* and public hearing were sent. Copies are attached.

Prior to the meeting a newsletter was distributed to approximately 900 stakeholders announcing the availability of the *Draft Environmental Assessment* and the Public Meeting and Open House on it. A copy of the newsletter is attached.

A meeting notice was placed in the Anchorage Daily News published on April 18, 2006 and in the Talkeetna Times Newspaper in the May 1 and 15, 2006 editions.

The availability of the *Draft Environmental Assessment* and public hearing was also posted on the ADOT&PF web site on April 26, 2006.

### Meeting Attendance

Approximately 30 members of the public and agency or organization representatives signed in at the meeting. Copies of the sign in sheets are attached. Additionally, four consultant representatives from CH2M HILL, seven ADOT&PF representatives, one FAA, and one National Park Service representative were in attendance.

## Comments

A meeting transcript, including testimony following the presentation and oral comments recorded during the open house, and copies of the written comments on the *Draft Environmental Assessment* and ADOT&PF responses are provided in Appendix F of the final Environmental Assessment.

\*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.



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**



**PUBLIC MEETING**

**SIGN IN SHEET**

**PROJECT NAME:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements

**DATE**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Check here if you wish to give Public Testimony	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	MAILING ADDRESS and/or *EMAIL	PHONE	*GENDER (M/F)	*RACE (W, AN, N, B, H, A, P, O)
	Debra Prichard	PO Box 11570 Talkeetna	N/A	F	W
	JAMES F. OKONEK	P.O. Box 985	7332176	M	W
	KATIE WRITER	PO Box 39	863-7669	F	W
	Jerry Wortley	Box 8555	733-4007	M	W
	Jesse Roy	royjesse@hotmail.com	802-584-8341	M	W
	DREW HAAG	INFO@ABOVEALASKA.COM	733-4808	M	W

**RACE CATEGORIES: WHITE (W), ALASKA NATIVE (AN), NATIVE AMERICAN (N), BLACK (B), HISPANIC (H), ASIAN (A), PACIFIC ISLANDER (P), and OTHER (O)**

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	Jok Bondurant	73829j@hotmail.com	733-4068		
	<del>Chris / Cheryl Tolleson</del>	<del>P.O. 198 Talkeetna, AK</del>	<del>733-2093</del>		
	DARYL R. MILLER	PO BOX 425	733-9104	M	
	ERWOOD SCAPANSEY	PO BOX 203 TRA 99676	733-1534	M	
	Dallas Hanna	Box 570	733-5338	M	
	Kristie May Renfrew	Talkeetna HC89 Box 8461 AK 99676	733-7923	F	O

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	Ray & Dorothy Mincher	PO Box 458 Talkeetna	733-2783	M/F	W
	Ruth Wood, <sup>Talkeetna</sup> <sub>Council</sub>	PO Box 608	733-6874	F	W
	John Strassenburgh	PO Box 766 Talkeetna	6874		
	DANIEL LEE	Box 73	733-2218	M	W
	Thomas Koff	Box 1101	733-2218	M	W

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	Amanda Stavel KTNA	news@ktna.org	907 733- 1700	F	
	Kathleen E Fleming	PoB 248 TKA	733 7827		
	London Wilson	PoBox 219 TKA	733 4709		
	Miriam Valentine	P.O. Box 77, TKA	733- 2462	F	W
	Pam Robinson	P.O. Box 606 TKA	733-2754	F	W
	Mandy G. Hattley	P.O. Box 490 TKA	733-1766	F	W

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	DAVID KREUTER	P.O. Box 234 TALKEETNA AK 99676	733-9112	M	W
	BILL POST	PO Box 271 Talkeetna 99676	733-2218	M	W
	CHAD VALENTINE	P.O. Box 77 TALKEETNA 99676	733-2462	M	W
	VINCENT SANFORD	99676-0986	733-3882	M	W
✓	Jim Kellard	PO BOX 101 TALKEETNA		M	C

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**DATE**

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

Check here if you wish to give Public Testimony	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	MAILING ADDRESS and *EMAIL	PHONE	*GENDER (M/F)	*RACE (W, AN, N, B, H, A, P, O)
✓	Tom Waite	Box 330 Talkeetna	733-2384	M	W

RACE CATEGORIES: WHITE (W), ALASKA NATIVE (AN), NATIVE AMERICAN (N), BLACK (B), HISPANIC (H), ASIAN (A), PACIFIC ISLANDER (P), and OTHER (O)



# Talkeetna Airport Improvements

## Public Hearing

May 18, 2006

State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public  
Facilities (DOT&PF)

Project No. 54660

Federal Project No. 3-02-0287-0409



## Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- To review the description of the proposed action and the purpose & need for the proposed Talkeetna Airport Improvement project
- To explain future conditions under the No Action and Proposed Action
- To request your comments on the Environmental Assessment



# PROJECT HISTORY



## Master Plan

- Prepared in 2001
- Recommended safety enhancements and efficiency improvements to TKA

## Environmental Assessment (EA)

- Draft EA prepared in 2000 by DOT&PF, but not finalized due to the need for additional studies
- Scoping for new EA held in August 2004



# PROJECT HISTORY



## Additional Studies

- Hydrologic study conducted to identify floodplain boundaries
- Evaluated various alternative locations for heliport
- Results of these studies presented at a public meeting in February 2003



# PROJECT HISTORY



## Purpose of the Project

- To satisfy current and forecasted demand for airport facilities, enhance safety, and to improve efficiency of airport operations



# PROJECT HISTORY



## Relationship to Master Plan

- The 2001 TKA Master Plan looked at improvements to meet projected airport demand through 2015
- This project or Proposed Action will encompass improvements through 2008
- Additional planned future improvements are described and assessed for cumulative impacts



# THE NEPA PROCESS



- Project History
- ***NEPA Process***
- Proposed Action
- Environmental Effects
- Project Timeline





# THE NEPA PROCESS



**The EA is being conducted in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements**

- **CEQ guidelines**
- **FAA Orders 1050.1E and 5050.4A**



# THE NEPA PROCESS



Key Decision Factor:  
Future conditions  
under No Action and  
Proposed Action  
alternatives

← We are here in the  
process



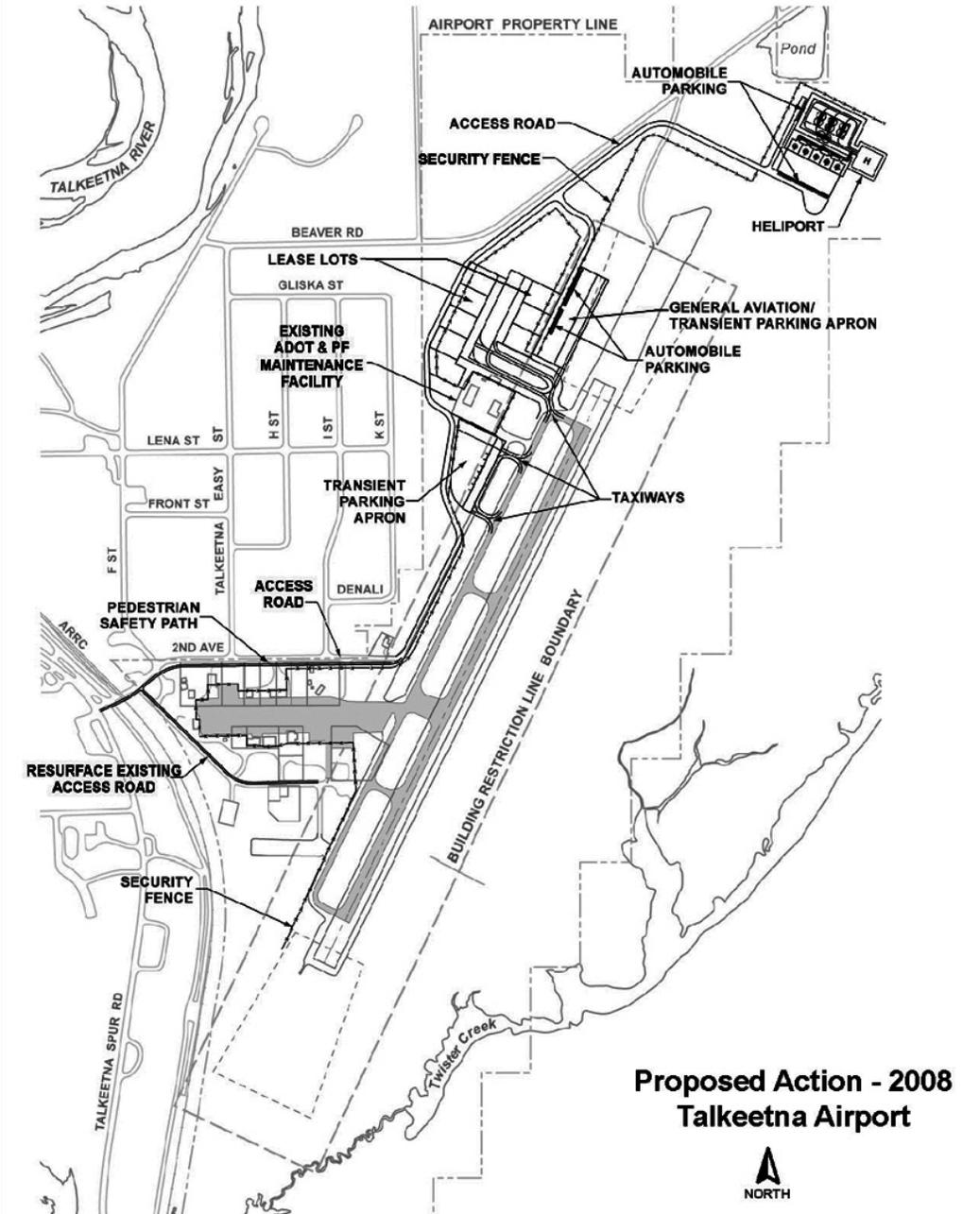
# PROPOSED ACTION



- Project History
- NEPA Process
- ***Proposed Action***
- Environmental Effects
- Project Timeline

# Talkeetna Airport Improvements

## What is proposed?

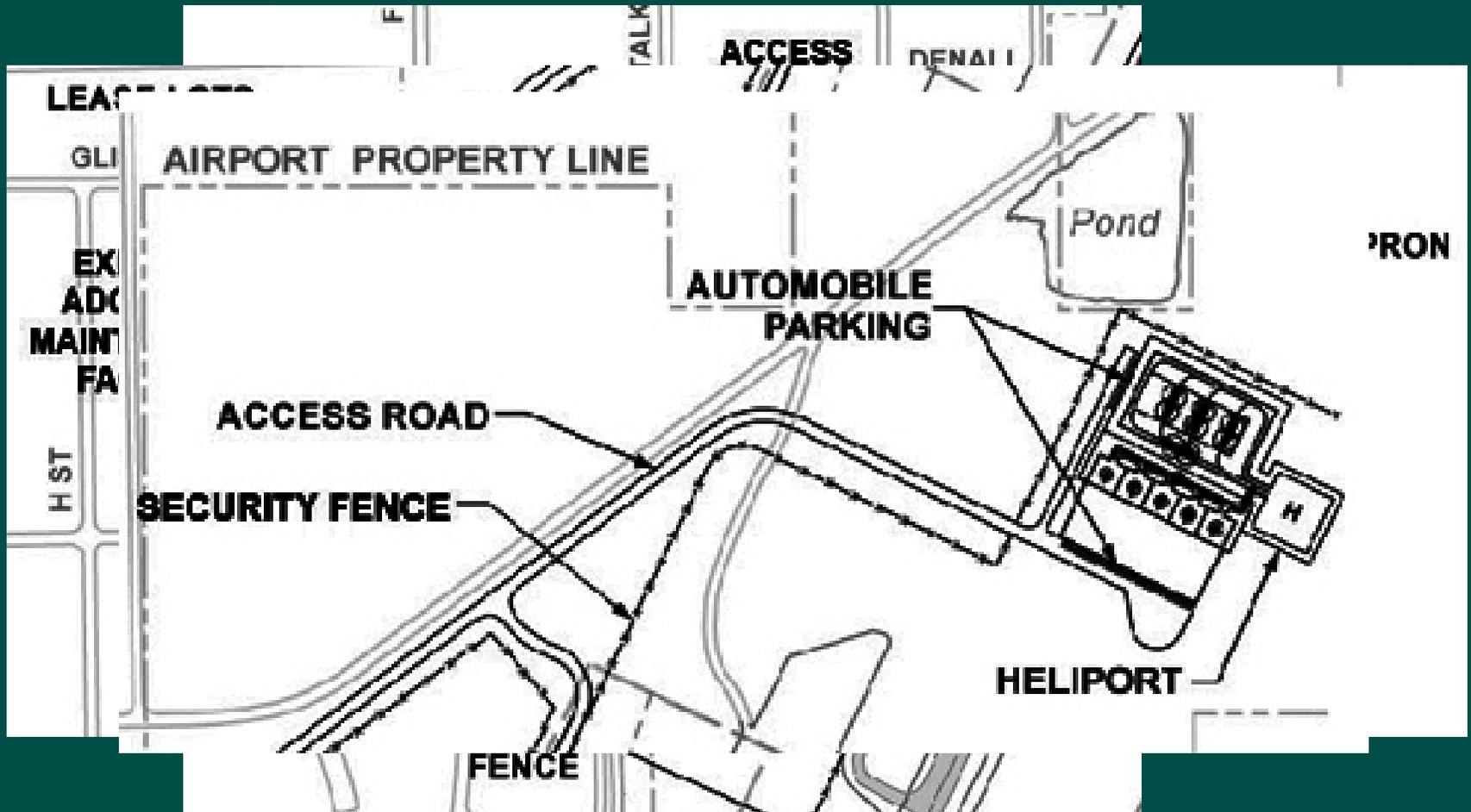




# PROPOSED ACTION



## What is proposed?





# Environmental Effects



- Project History
- NEPA Process
- Proposed Action
- ***Environmental Effects***
- Project Timeline



# Environmental Effects



## Future effect of Proposed Action compared to No Action in terms of:

- Noise and Air Quality
- Compatible Land Use
- Social Impacts/Induced Socioeconomic Impacts
- Transportation
- Subsistence
- Historical, Archeological and Cultural Resources
- Coastal Zone Management
- Water Quality, Water Supply and Wastewater
- Floodplains and Wetlands
- Biotic Communities, Threatened and Endangered Species
- Light Emissions
- Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials
- Wild & Scenic Rivers and Farmlands
- Construction Impacts
- Mitigation Measures and Required Permits



# Environmental Effects



- **Noise**
- **Wetlands**
- **Floodplains**
- **Light Emissions and Visual Impacts**
- **Construction**
- **Environmental Permits**



# Environmental Effects



- **Noise**

- **Proposed Action** - Heliport further from residential areas under Proposed Action, two residential properties within the 65 DNL
- **No Action** - Two residential properties within the 65 DNL

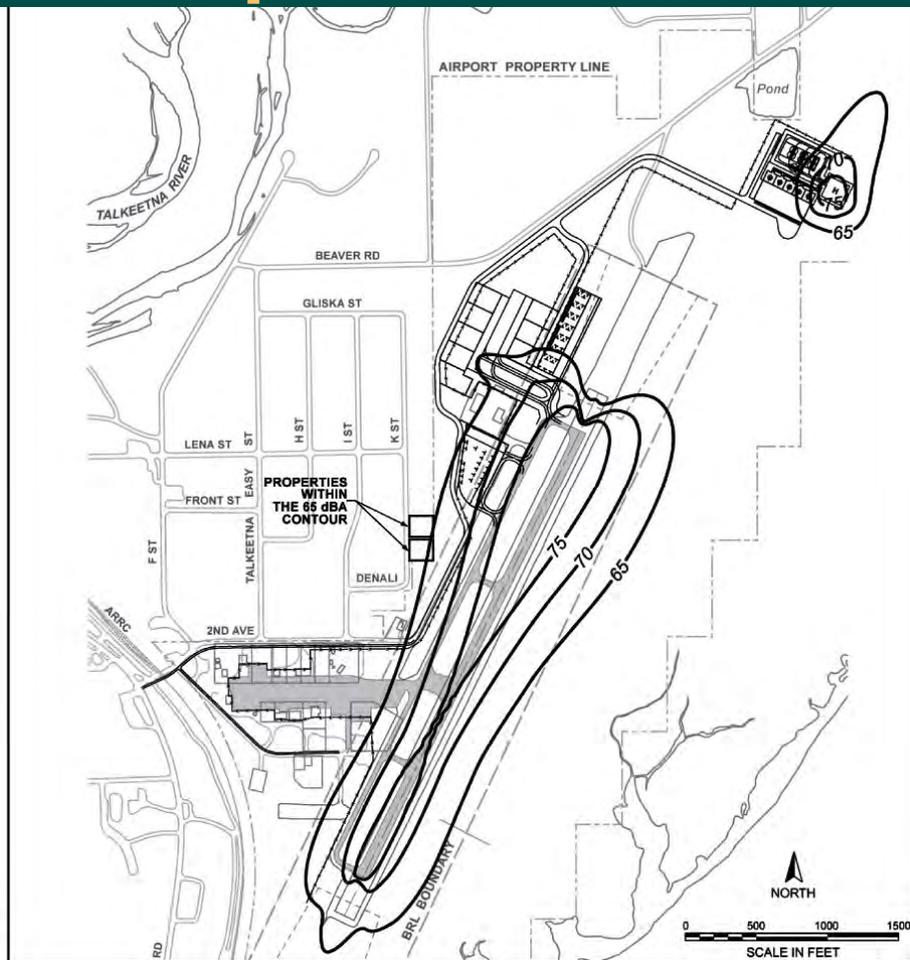
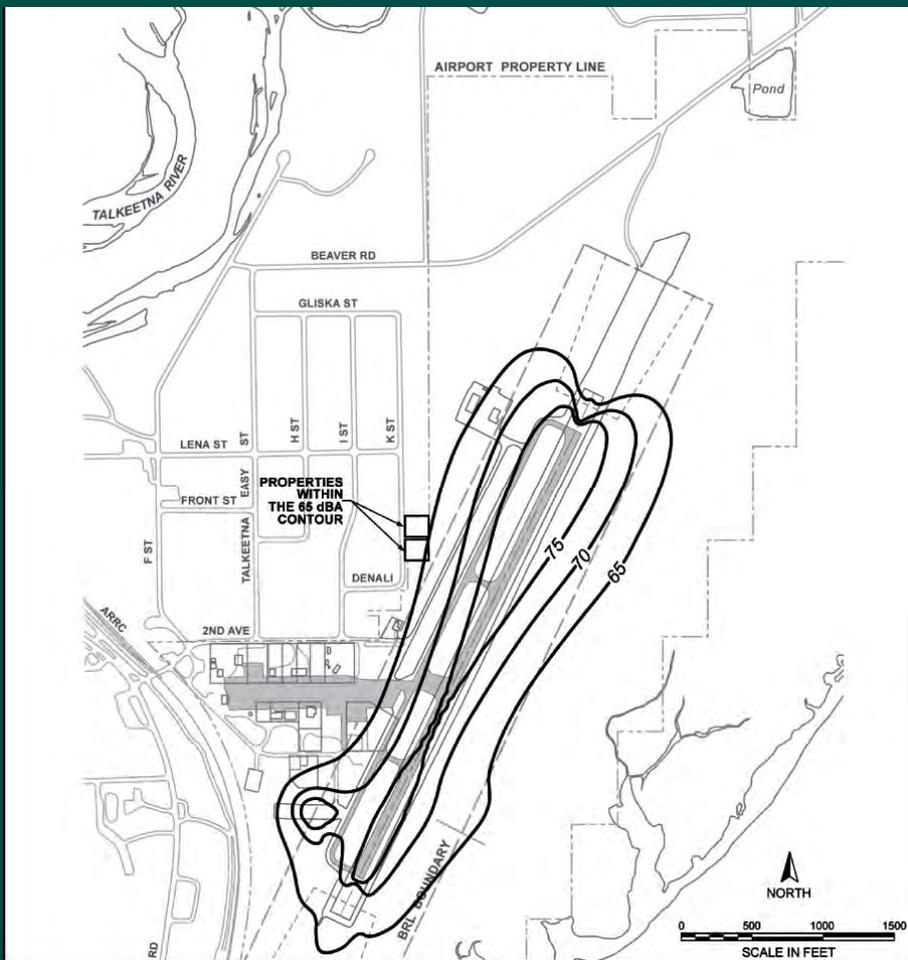


# Noise Contours



## No Action

## Proposed Action





# Environmental Effects



- **Wetlands**
  - **Proposed Action** – Unavoidable fill in 0.48 acre of wetland. No impact to Twister Creek.
  - **No Action** – No impact to wetlands or to Twister Creek



# Environmental Effects

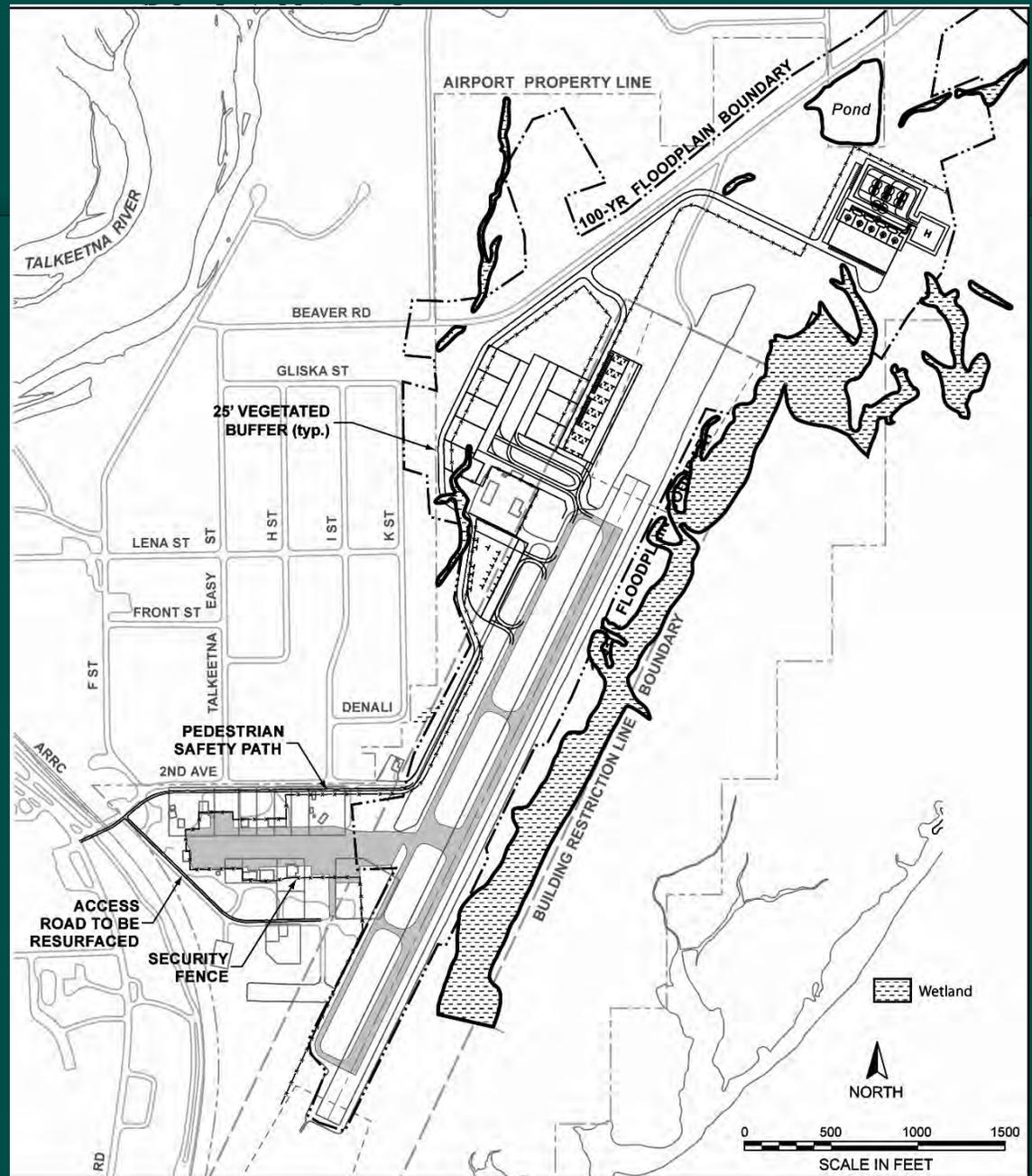


- **Floodplains**

- **Proposed Action** – Safety path, security fencing, access road resurfacing in floodplain. Fence gates will be opened when flood is predicted. Continued flood hazard risk to existing facilities
- **No Action** – No new construction in floodplain; continued flood hazard risk

# Environmental Effects

## Wetlands, Floodplain, Vegetated Buffer





# Environmental Effects



- **Light emissions and visual impacts**
  - **Proposed Action** – Increased lighting effect will be minimized with 25' vegetative buffer
  - **No Action** – No change in lighting



# Environmental Effects



- **Construction**

- **Noise** – Minimized by limiting construction to daytime hours and use of muffled equipment
- **Waste and stormwater management** – Minimized through BMPs
  - *Install sediment fences*
  - *Provide check dams for drainage*
  - *Utilize settling ponds where necessary*
- **Traffic and circulation** – Minimized by designating haul routes
- **Emissions & dust** – Minimized through BMPs
  - *Restrict speed of construction vehicles*
  - *Minimize area of disturbance*
  - *Control dust with water spraying*
  - *Use emission control devices*



# Environmental Effects



- **Environmental Permits**
  - Wetlands
  - Floodplains
  - Coastal Zone Management
  - Construction Stormwater





# PROJECT TIMELINE



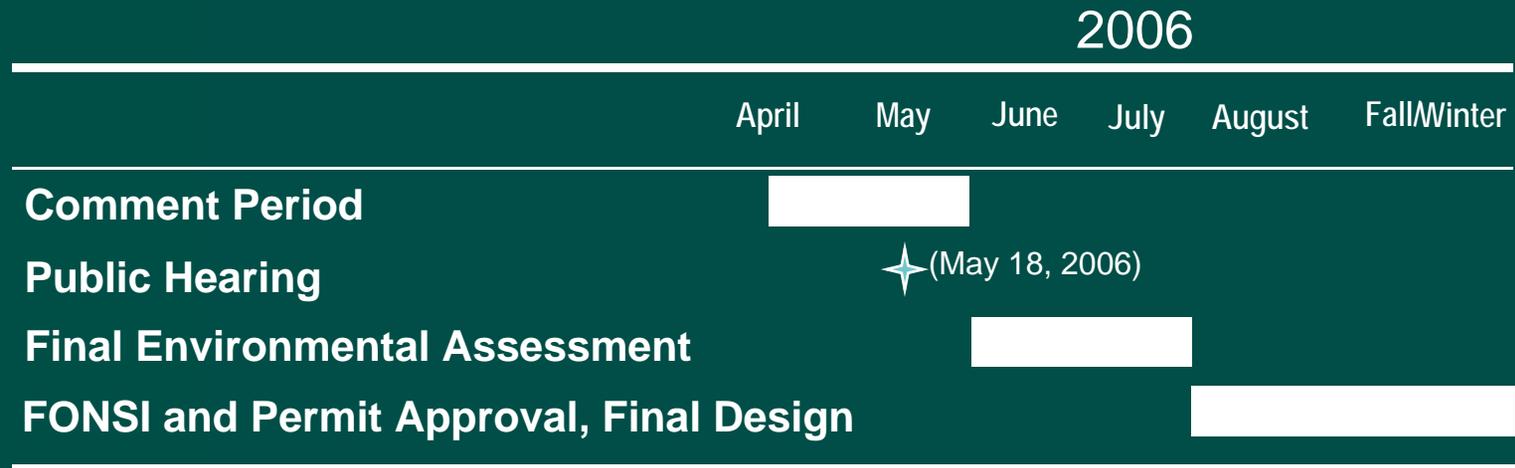
- Project History
- NEPA Process
- Proposed Action
- Environmental Effects
- ***Project Timeline***



# PROJECT TIMELINE



## NEXT STEPS



Construction will be programmed when final design is nearing completion



# PLEASE COMMENT



- You may give verbal comments today
- You may submit comments in writing today
- You may mail comments to DOT&PF
- You may e-mail comments to DOT&PF ([don\\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:don_baxter@dot.state.ak.us))
- Comments must be received by May 30, 2006, to become part of the official record











# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL*

*FRANK MURKOWSKI,  
GOVERNOR*

*4111 AVIATION DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196900  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542*

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Steve Hanson  
DOT&PF Talkeetna Maintenance  
P.O. Box 610  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Dear Mr Hanson:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

The draft EA describes the alternatives considered and evaluates the probable economic, social, and environmental effects of the proposed action and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such local planning as has been carried out by the community of Talkeetna.

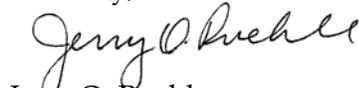
Copies of the draft EA are available for public review in the Talkeetna and Wasilla public libraries, in Anchorage at the Loussac Library and DOT&PF office at 4111 Aviation Avenue and at: [www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml)

A Public Hearing on the proposed project is scheduled for **May 18, 2006**, from 6 to 9 PM (presentation at 7 PM) at **Talkeetna Elementary School**, 13798 E. Veteran's Way, Talkeetna, AK.

Written comments will be accepted at the address above until **May 30, 2006**.

To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Steve Francel  
U.S. Geological Service  
4230 University Drive Suite 201  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Dear Mr. Francel;

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry O. Ruele".

Jerry O. Ruele  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

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(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Tom Brooks  
Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)  
PO Box 107500  
Anchorage, AK 99510-7500

Dear Mr. Brooks:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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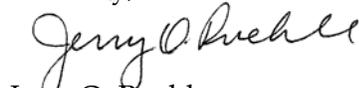
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Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

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(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542*

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Dave Carlton  
FEMA Region 10  
130 228th St SW  
Bothel, WA 98021

Dear Mr. Carlton:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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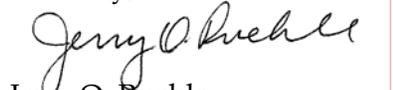
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry O. Ruehle". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

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(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Murph O'Brien  
Mat-Su Borough  
350 E. Dahlia Ave.  
Palmer, AK 99645-6488

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

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To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL*

**FRANK MURKOWSKI,  
GOVERNOR**

**4111 AVIATION DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196900  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Mike Bethe  
Alaska DNR, Mat-Su Area Office  
1800 Glenn Parks Highway, Suite 12  
Palmer, AK 99645-6736

Dear Mr. Bethe:

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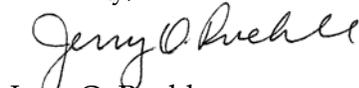
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

**Re: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. John Duffy  
Mat-Su Borough Planning Department  
350 E. Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, AK 99645-6488

Dear Mr. Duffy:

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Jerry O. Ruehle  
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cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Mark Eberlein  
Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region 10  
130 228th St SW  
Bothel, WA 98021

Dear Mr. Eberlein:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Greg Gooddale  
Mat-Su Borough Public Works  
350 E. Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, AK 99645-6488

Dear Mr. Gooddale:

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Jerry O. Ruehle  
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Don Shiesl  
Mat-Su Borough--Public Works Director  
350 E. Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, AK 99645-6488

Dear Mr. Shiesl:

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**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Jeanne Hanson  
NOAA Fisheries  
222 W 7th Avenue, #43  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7577

Dear Ms. Hanson:

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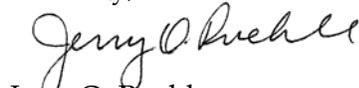
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Mary Hanson  
Bureau of Land Management  
6881 Abbott Loop Road  
Anchorage, AK 95507-2599

Dear Ms. Hanson:

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Regional Environmental Coordinator

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Chuck Braun  
Mat-Su Borough  
350 E. Dahlia Ave.  
Palmer, AK 99646-6488

Dear Mr. Braun:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Barbara Hotchkins  
Alaska Railroad Corporation  
P.O.Box 107500  
Anchorage, AK 99510-7500

Dear Ms. Hotchkins:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. William Ashton  
Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Ashton;

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GOVERNOR**

**4111 AVIATION DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196900  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Ken Hudson  
Mat-Su Borough Coastal Program  
350 E. Dalia Ave.  
Palmer, AK 99645-6488

Dear Mr. Hudson:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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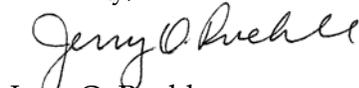
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Written comments will be accepted at the address above until **May 30, 2006**.

To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Steve Duncan  
U.S. EPA, Alaska Operations Office  
222 W. Seventh Ave, Box 19  
Anchorage, AK 99513-7588

Dear Mr. Duncan:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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Regional Environmental Coordinator

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

**Re: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Bill Keller  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch  
P.O. Box 6898  
Elmendorf, AK 99506-6898

Dear Mr. Keller:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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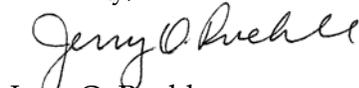
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Jerry O. Ruehle  
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Skip Joy  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-6898

Dear Mr. Joy:

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Regional Environmental Coordinator

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Harlan Legare  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-6898

Dear Mr. Legare:

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Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Librarian  
Talkeetna Public Library  
P.O. Box 786  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Dear Talkeetna Public Library:

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**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Postmaster  
Talkeetna Post Office  
none  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Dear Postmaster:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. John Lovett  
Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division  
222 West 7th Ave., #14  
Anchorage, AK 99513

Dear Mr. Lovett:

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**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Dept. of Natural Resources  
550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

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Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
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Librarian  
Wasilla Public Library  
391 N. Main St.  
Wasilla, AK 99654

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

**Re: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Kirk McGee  
Vice President, Land Office/Real Estate, Cook Inlet Region, Inc.  
P.O. Box 93330  
Anchorage, AK 99509-3330

Dear Mr. McGee:

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Sincerely,

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Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL*

**FRANK MURKOWSKI,  
GOVERNOR**

**4111 AVIATION DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196900  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Christy Miller  
Alaska Dept. of Community and Economic Development  
333 W 4th Avenue, Suite 319  
Anchorage, AK 99508-4302

Dear Ms. Miller:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Daryl Miller  
National Park Service, Talkeetna Ranger Station  
P.O. Box 588  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Dear Mr. Miller:

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**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Librarian  
Anchorage Lousacc Library  
3600 Denali St.  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6093

Dear Librarian:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Christine Ballard  
Alaska DNR, Office of Management and Permitting  
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1050  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Ballard:

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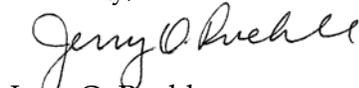
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**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Dorothy Cook  
President, Village of Eklutna  
26339 Eklutna Village Road  
Chugiak, AK 99567

Dear Ms. Cook:

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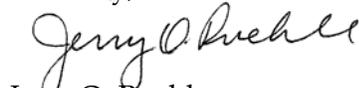
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**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Shirley Gammon  
National Resource Conservation Service  
949 E 36th Avenue, Suite 400  
Anchorage, AK 99508-4302

Dear Ms. Gammon:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Ann Rappoport  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
605 West Fourth Avenue, Room G-61  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Rappoport:

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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Paul Anderson  
National Park Service,  
Denali National Park P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

Dear Mr. Anderson.:

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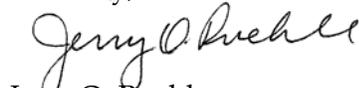
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April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Carol Theodore  
President, Knik Tribe  
PO Box 871565  
Wasilla, AK 99687

Dear Ms. Theodore:

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Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
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Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
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Mr. Mike Sullivan  
Alaska DNR, Mining, Land, and Water  
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 900C  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

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**Re: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
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Mr. Mike Tranel  
National Park Service  
240 W. 5th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Tranel:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

The draft EA describes the alternatives considered and evaluates the probable economic, social, and environmental effects of the proposed action and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such local planning as has been carried out by the community of Talkeetna.

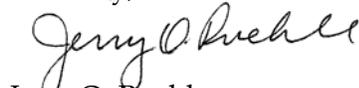
Copies of the draft EA are available for public review in the Talkeetna and Wasilla public libraries, in Anchorage at the Loussac Library and DOT&PF office at 4111 Aviation Avenue and at: [www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml)

A Public Hearing on the proposed project is scheduled for **May 18, 2006**, from 6 to 9 PM (presentation at 7 PM) at **Talkeetna Elementary School**, 13798 E. Veteran's Way, Talkeetna, AK.

Written comments will be accepted at the address above until **May 30, 2006**.

To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL*

**FRANK MURKOWSKI,  
GOVERNOR**

**4111 AVIATION DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196900  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

**Re: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Mr. Bob Norton  
DOT&PF Leasing  
P.O. Box 196900  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Mr. Norton:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry O. Ruele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Jerry O. Ruele  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL*

**FRANK MURKOWSKI,  
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**4111 AVIATION DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 196900  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-6900  
(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542**

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Ruth Wood  
Talkeetna Community Council  
P.O. Box 608  
Talkeetna, AK 99676

Dear Ms. Wood:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

**Enclosures:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements, Draft Environmental Assessment

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL

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(FAX) 243-6927 – TDD 269-0473  
(907) 269-0528 or (907) 269-0542*

April 20, 2006

Talkeetna Airport Improvements  
State Project No. 54660

Re: **Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental  
Assessment and Public Hearing**

Ms. Susan Dickenson  
Mat-Su Borough  
350 E. Dahlia Ave.  
Palmer AK 99645-6488

Dear Ms. Dickenson:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The project is located in Township 26 North, Range 4 West, Sections 19 and 30 of the Seward Meridian. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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A Public Hearing on the proposed project is scheduled for **May 18, 2006**, from 6 to 9 PM (presentation at 7 PM) at **Talkeetna Elementary School**, 13798 E. Veteran's Way, Talkeetna, AK.

Written comments will be accepted at the address above until **May 30, 2006**.

To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at don\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry O. Ruehle". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

cc: Don Baxter, P.E. ADOT&PF  
John Lovett, P.E. FAA Project Manager  
Eric Cutbirth, P.E. CH2M HILL



# Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Public Hearing—Talkeetna Airport Improvements



## Project Purpose

The purpose of the Talkeetna Airport Improvements project is to enhance safety, to satisfy current and forecast demand for airport facilities, and to improve the efficiency of airport operations.

The Proposed Action consists of projects prioritized by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) to meet current and forecast demand through 2008. Other projects recommended for implementation by 2015 in the revised Master Plan are assessed for cumulative impact but are not considered part of the Proposed Action. Any future need to implement these projects would be the subject of separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), permitting, and other approval processes.

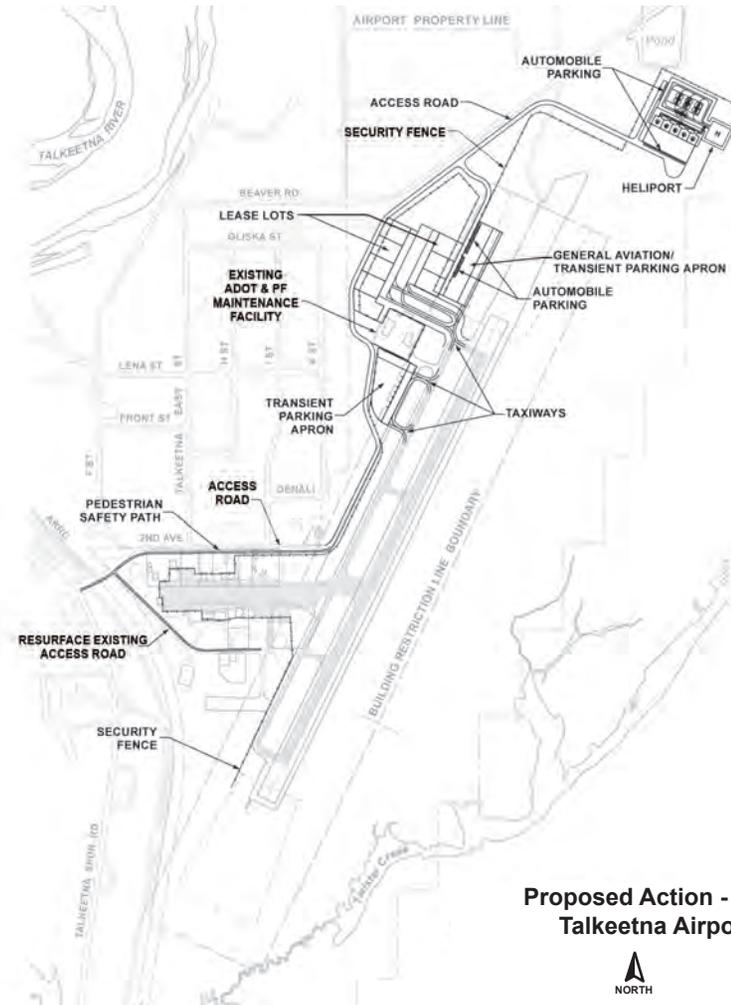
## What is the Proposed Action?

The following improvements comprise the Proposed Action, as illustrated in the figure (right):

- Construct new apron with eight additional lease lots for use by commercial and general aviation (GA) tenants of the airport to satisfy existing and forecast demand for lease lots.

- Construct new GA and transient aircraft parking aprons to satisfy existing and forecast demand for aircraft parking.
- Construct automobile parking spaces to satisfy existing and forecast demand for automobile parking.
- Relocate the existing helicopter parking area and establish a designated heliport in compliance with FAA design standards to separate fixed wing and rotary aircraft, thus enhancing airport safety.
- Install security fence around western perimeter portions of the airport to minimize trespass incursions by pedestrians and domestic animals and to segregate aircraft operational areas from public areas to enhance public and airport safety.
- Provide an access road from Second Avenue to the new lease lots, GA apron, and new heliport. Pave the existing access road to the existing apron and lease lots to improve maintenance and operations, decrease dust, and improve drainage.
- Provide a pedestrian safety path to improve public and airport safety.

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to disclose any environmental effects that would result from the Proposed Action. Key environmental issues associated with elements of the Proposed Action include floodplains, wetlands, and temporary disruption from construction activity and noise. Section 5, of the Draft EA Environmental Consequences, describes the effects of the project and mitigation proposed to compensate for any impacts.



Proposed Action - 2008  
Talkeetna Airport



# Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Public Hearing

## Talkeetna Airport Improvements

Project Number: 54660

### Public Hearing

May 18, 2006, from 6 to 9 PM  
(Open House format with presentation at 7 PM,  
opportunity for formal testimony to follow)

Talkeetna Elementary School,  
13798 E. Veteran's Way

Written comments on the Draft EA will be accepted at the address below until 4 PM, May 30, 2006. These comments will be considered by the FAA before they sign a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**Jerry O. Ruehle, Regional Environmental Coordinator,  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,  
P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, AK 99519-6900.**

The Draft EA describes the alternatives considered and evaluates the probable economic, social, and environmental effects of the Proposed Action and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such local planning as has been carried out by the community of Talkeetna.

Copies of the Draft EA are available for public review in the Talkeetna and Wasilla public libraries, in Anchorage at the Loussac Library and ADOT&PF office at 4111 Aviation Avenue and at: [www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml).

To obtain a copy of the Draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, ADOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at [don\\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:don_baxter@dot.state.ak.us).

Individuals with a hearing impairment can contact ADOT&PF at the Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) number, 269-0473. We are also able to offer, upon request, reasonable accommodations for special needs related to disabilities.

**CH2MHILL**  
301 W. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Suite 601  
Anchorage, AK 99503

**Boxholder  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676**



## Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing

### Talkeetna Airport Improvements

State Project No. 54660/Federal Project No. 3-02-0287-0409

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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**A Public Hearing** on the proposed project is scheduled for **May 18, 2006, from 6 to 9 PM (presentation at 7 PM) at Talkeetna Elementary School, 13798 E. Veteran's Way, Talkeetna, AK.**

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Jerry O. Ruele  
Regional Environmental Coordinator  
Preliminary Design and Environmental  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

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Anchorage Daily News

definition of... they lack... they are... they say... place could... else Claims... ve the gov-... ed — more... went to the... ld receive... along with

cracks, the FAA formally alerted U.S. air carriers that fly 737s made before 1998 to inspect for possible fatigue cracks around such parts. Cracks in these areas, the FAA said, "could result in reduced structural integrity of the frames, possible loss of a cargo door, possible rapid decompression of the fuselage."

Prewitt's job at Wichita was to purchase parts for 737s and other jets from Ducommun and other suppliers. She said she saw that some pieces were coming in with inaccurate measurements beyond the margin of error.

In the summer of 2000, she visited one assembly line where the aluminum ribs, known as

arfil." She said the chord problem reinforced worries that others had raised for a year about other Ducommun parts. She had examined reports of problems with "bear straps," large pieces of reinforcing sheet metal bonded to the skin around an airliner's doorways. Prewitt said the pieces, which have four jutting corners something like a bear-skin rug, were coming in short in one corner. That forced workers to drill holes for rivets closer to the edge of the piece than specified.

The whistle-blowers said they learned that some managers knew of the problem but encouraged workers to make the

trouidiesnooter.



### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing

### Talkeetna Airport Improvements

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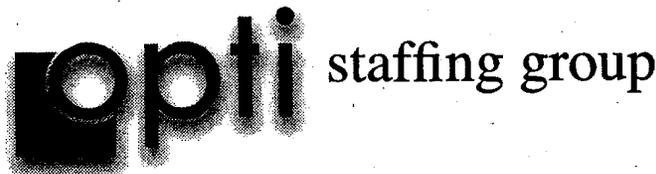
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### Talkeetna Airport Improvements

State Project No. 54660/Federal Project No. 3-02-0287-0409

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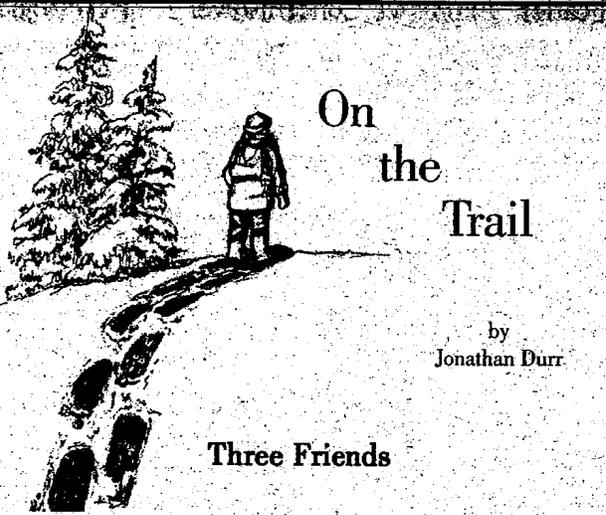
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Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
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Talkeetna  
Times



# On the Trail

by  
Jonathan Durr

## Three Friends

"Hey Billy," Thomas said. "The hole is full of jacks and even a few kings." He was referring to jack salmon—juvenile king salmon—which for reasons unknown to science have returned early to their place of birth and ultimately their place of death. An immature king or jack is still a nice fish, however, weighing several pounds at least. King salmon are, of course, the mighty Chinook which can weigh as much as 80-pounds.

"Great—let's go," replied Billy. "I'll call Cody and we'll leave about 10 tomorrow morning."  
"I'll be there," he answered.

They met at the corner coffee shop in the small town at the appointed time. They then loaded their 4-wheelers and headed for "the hole," 12 trail miles away. It was a beautiful day and they were anxious to catch fish.

As he climbed on his ATV he sensed it was going to be a good day. There simply hadn't been enough good days in recent years, he thought; at least not since their other buddy, Rick, died.

A little more than an hour later they were on the bluff overlooking the creek. Looking down from their vantage point several hundred feet above the creek, they observed several kings holding the current at midstream. They also got glimpses of small dark forms darting in and out of the shadows of the rocks. There would be jacks and maybe a rainbow or two.

Today they grinned and headed down the trail to the creek. He rigged up and cast the green pixie into the cold clear water. Let it drift, take up slack, slow retrieve. He

reeling the trout expertly. Keeping his mind on the water, he felt the fish's head under a variety of special rigs punctuated by half a dozen beautiful jumps. Several minutes later he landed the bright fish, fresh from the ocean adventure. "Here for the fish," he said as he held up the four pound fish. "Right on," grinned Cody as he wetted his line.

The fishing was just as they imagined it would be. After several hours they had a nice catch of jacks and Dolly's on the bank.

"I'm going to walk upstream and see if I can find some rainbows," he said as he shouldered his day-pack and picked up his rod. He walked to where the creek made a sharp turn, forming an elbow with a lot of rocks. He had had good luck there before with rainbows. He changed tackle, going to a #2 Mepps. He short-cast into the current where it flowed between several large rocks. In the clear water he was able to follow the Mepps as he retrieved. Suddenly he saw a flash as a large rainbow darted out from where it was lying in ambush. It made a fast pass at the Mepps. He was a little slow setting the hook and the trout returned to its ambush site. "I'll try that again," he thought, and tossed the Mepps, which hit the water at almost the exact same spot as before. He drug the Mepps past the "ambush" rock. The trout attacked again, but this time he was ready. The rainbow leaped, spraying water which sparkled in the sun in brilliant contrast against the dark spruce on the opposite shore. Soon he landed a beautiful 18" bow. He worked the rocks for another 40 minutes and connected twice more: 16" and 17" respectively.

He gathered up his catch and gear then walked downstream to join his buddies. As he caught up with them he saw Billy landing a fine 40 pound king. The icing on the cake to a great day of fishing.

They sat on the bank for half an hour, watching the fish and the sea gulls and the eagles. They talked of easy things and laughed. This was not a day to worry about Billy's drinking or Cody's cancer. The doctor said it was in remission.

Eventually, they cleaned their fish and shouldered their packs. Midway up the bluff he stopped and looked back. This was one of those days he didn't want to end. Twenty years ago it seemed that he and they had hundreds of days like this in the bank. Back then they had all seemed invincible. Time had changed all that. Some friends had fallen on hard times; others had died. He felt emotions coming to the surface. Emotions he didn't want on a good day. "Hey brother—you all right?" Cody yelled.

He wiped his eyes and cleared his throat. "Yeah—just adjusting my pack," he replied.

They took their time heading back, stopping several times. Billy drank beer and told stories. They laughed as Billy recounted old events, often exaggerating the facts for comic-effect. It was good to laugh as they had done more often when they were younger. Not that they were old now—just that things had changed.

It was late in the afternoon when they got back to town and went their separate ways. It had been a good day.

This story is inspired by and dedicated to the memory of my blood brother, David "Pecos" Humphreys.

We'll fish together again, amigo. Somewhere farther up the trail.

*Jonathan Durr lives in a cabin by a lake north of Talkeetna.*

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Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing

Talkeetna Airport Improvements

State Project No. 240002, Federal Project No. 3-02-0287-0409

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aircraft, two new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated helicopter security landing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

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[www.dot.state.ak.us/stndpdp/projectinfo/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stndpdp/projectinfo/index.shtml)

A Public Hearing on the proposed project is scheduled for **May 16, 2006, from 6 to 9 PM (presentation at 7 PM)** at Talkeetna Elementary School, 13798 E. Veteran's Way, Talkeetna, AK.

Written comments will be accepted at the address below until **May 30, 2006**.

John D. Rushe  
Regional Environmental Coordinator  
Premier Division of Environmental  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 106500 Anchorage, AK 99519-0500

To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 257-6500 or by e-mail at [don\\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:don_baxter@dot.state.ak.us)

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## "Y" Council Hears Proposed Bylaws Changes

By Sarah J. Birdsall

It was back to regular business for the "Y" Community Council at their April 6 meeting, held at the Upper Susitna Senior Center. Board members in attendance were Jack Ince, Jim Skinner, Michael Jordan, Kandy Moore, Scott Holcomb, Rosemary Hanrath and Steve Heinrich; Skinner acted as chair in the place of Heinrich, who was absent for the first portion of the meeting.

The current council has been ordered to remain in place by a Palmer Superior Court judge until a lawsuit which was filed by board member Skinner against board members Moore, Ince, Holcomb, Heinrich and former board member Tom Kluberton claiming improper action in the council's Feb 3 board member election is settled. A court date has been set for October.

Included in the business addressed at the April 6 meeting was a report from bylaws committee co-chairs Holly Stinson and Mary McCrum. The two updated the council on the results of a series of meetings the committee held over the last month. In addition to Stinson and McCrum, the bylaws committee is comprised of Denise Chapel, Jack Ince, Kandy Moore, Virgil Norton, Cari Sayre and Troy Smiley with assistance from Michael Jordan and Rosemary Hanrath.

A central purpose of the current bylaws committee has been to address election related issues. Proposed new changes developed by the committee include expanding the time-frame for certifying the election from seven to 14 days and removing the option of deciding ties by holding a runoff election and keeping the language that election ties would be decided by a coin toss. "Most importantly, we added language on how to contest an election, and that's a whole new section to the bylaws," Stinson

said. A draft of a new addendum to define "corrupt election practices" was also being worked on.

Other suggested bylaws amendments developed by the committee include restating membership eligibility in simpler language; adding the concept of voluntary dues to help offset operating expenses; and clarifying special meetings called by petition.

"We also looked at the concept of having bulletin boards for the 'Y' Community Council, since we don't have a post office," Stinson said, adding that the committee discussed having one bulletin board in the southern end of the council's boundaries and one in the northern end. "It would be locked so we could post council business," she said.

Stinson said copies of the proposed bylaws changes would be placed in both the Talkeetna and Willow public libraries, and that copies would be emailed to individuals by request.

Stinson requested the council hold a special meeting one hour prior to the May 4 regular meeting to discuss the proposed bylaws changes and to take comment from the public. The council made and passed a motion to that effect. After reviewing the bylaws, the council will decide when to put the proposed changes before the community for a vote.

Also on April 6, the council appointed two board alternates to serve until the pending lawsuit is settled and a new board seated. "We need to have somebody here—it's just a tentative thing," said council chair Steve Heinrich. A motion was made to appoint Tami Hamler, who won an alternate seat in the Feb. 3 election, and Robert Ambrose, who tied with Scott Randall for an alternate position also in the Feb. 3 election. The motion passed.

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*~Holly Stinson*



### Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing

#### Talkeetna Airport Improvements

State Project No. 54660/Federal Project No. 3-02-0287-0409

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for improvements at the Talkeetna Airport. The proposed project would include construction of a new apron with eight lease lots for aviation support uses, new general aviation and transient aircraft parking aprons, automobile parking, a designated heliport, security fencing, an access road from Second Avenue, improvement of the existing access road, and a new path for pedestrian safety. These improvements will be programmed for construction after approval of the environmental document.

The draft EA describes the alternatives considered and evaluates the probable economic, social, and environmental effects of the proposed action and its consistency with the goals and objectives of such local planning as has been carried out by the community of Talkeetna. Copies of the draft EA are available for public review in the Talkeetna and Wasilla public libraries, in Anchorage at the Loussac Library and DOT&PF office at 4111 Aviation Avenue and at:

[www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/index.shtml)

**A Public Hearing on the proposed project is scheduled for May 18, 2006, from 6 to 9 PM (presentation at 7 PM) at Talkeetna Elementary School, 13798 E. Veteran's Way, Talkeetna, AK.**

Written comments will be accepted at the address below until **May 30, 2006.**

Jerry O. Ruehle  
Regional Environmental Coordinator  
Preliminary Design and Environmental  
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

To obtain a copy of the draft EA or for additional information contact Don Baxter, DOT&PF Project Manager at (907) 269-0610 or by e-mail at [don\\_baxter@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:don_baxter@dot.state.ak.us).

Individuals with a hearing impairment can contact DOT&PF at the Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) number, 269-0473. We are also able to offer, upon request, reasonable accommodations for special needs related to disabilities.

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**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**



**PUBLIC MEETING**

**SIGN IN SHEET**

**PROJECT NAME:** Talkeetna Airport Improvements

**DATE**

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Check here if you wish to give Public Testimony	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	MAILING ADDRESS and/or *EMAIL	PHONE	*GENDER (M/F)	*RACE (W, AN, N, B, H, A, P, O)
	Debra Prichard	PO Box 11570 Talkeetna	n/a	F	W
	JAMES F. OKONEK	P.O. Box 985	7332176	M	W
	KATIE WRITER	PO Box 39	863-7669	F	W
	Jerry Wortley	Box 8555	733-4007	M	W
	Jesse Roy	royjesse@hotmail.com	802-881-8341	M	W
	DREW HAAG	INFO@ABOVEALASKA.COM	733-4808	M	W

RACE CATEGORIES: WHITE (W), ALASKA NATIVE (AN), NATIVE AMERICAN (N), BLACK (B), HISPANIC (H), ASIAN (A), PACIFIC ISLANDER (P), and OTHER (O)

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	Jok Bondurant	73829j@hotmail.com	733-4068		
	<del>Chad / Amy / Tolleson</del>	<del>P.O. 198 Talkeetna, AK</del>	<del>733-2003</del>		
	DARYL R. MILLER	PO Box 425	733-9104	m	
	ERWOOD SCHEPANSKY	PO Box 203 TRA 99676	733-1534	w	
	Dallas Hanna	Box 570	733-538	m	
	Kristie May Renfrew	Talkeetna AC89 Box 8461 AK 99676	733-7923	F	O

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	Tracy Dorothy Minckler	PO Box 458 Talkeetna	733-2783	M/F	W
	Ruth Wood, <sup>Talkeetna</sup> <sub>Council</sub>	PO Box 608	733-6874	F	W
	John Strassenburgh	PO Box 766 Talkeetna	6874		
	DAVID LEE	Box 77	733-2248	M	W
	Thomas Koff	Box 1101	733-2218	M	W

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	Amanda Stassel KTNA	news@ktna.org	907 733- 1700	F	
	Kathleen E Fleming	PoB 248 TKA	733 7827		
	Loudon Wilson	PoBox 219 TKA	733 4709		
	Miriam Valentine	P.O. Box 77, TKA	733- 2462	F	W
	Pam Robinson	P.O. Box 606 TKA	733-2754	F	W
	Mandy G. Hatley	P.O. Box 490 TKA	733-1764	F	W

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	DAVID KREUTER	P.O. Box 234 TALKEETNA AK 99676	733-9112	M	W
	BILL POST	PO Box 271 Talkeetna 99676	733-2218	M	W
	CHAD VALENTINE	P.O. Box 77 TALKEETNA 99676	733-2462	M	W
	VINCENT SANFORD	99676-0986	733-3882	M	W
✓	Jim Kellard	PO BOX 101 TALKEETNA		M	C

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✓	Tom Waite	Box 330 Talkeetna	733-2384	M	W