

# STATE OF ALASKA

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

### NORTHERN REGION PRECONSTRUCTION

July 27, 2007

Re: Third Street Widening  
Project MGL-M-670(1)/62541  
**Environmental Re-Evaluation Checklist**

Mr. Tim Haugh  
Environmental/Right-of-Way Program Manager  
Federal Highway Administration  
P. O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802-1648

Dear Mr. Forsling:

Enclosed for your review and signature is the Environmental Re-Evaluation Checklist and two original signature pages for the Third Street Widening project. The conclusions and commitments made in the original Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed by FHWA on September 7, 2005 remain valid.

After your review and signature, please return one original signature page for inclusion in our document.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Campbell, Environmental Coordinator, at (907) 451-2238.

Sincerely,



David T. Bloom, P.E.  
Preconstruction Engineer

MR/dt

cc: Janet Brown, P.E., PD&E Chief, DOT&PF, Northern Region  
Melissa Riordan, Environmental Impact Analyst, DOT&PF, Northern Region  
Tim Woster, P.E., Engineering Manager, DOT&PF, Northern Region



State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
Statewide Design & Engineering Services

**ENVIRONMENTAL RE-EVALUATION CHECKLIST**

Project Name: **3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening**  
Project Number (State/Federal): 62541/MGL-M-670(1)  
Date: **7/27/2007**

Document Type and Approval Date: EA 6/14/05; FONSI 9/7/05  
Re-Evaluation Number: 1  
Date of Last Re-Evaluation: N/A

*The purpose of this re-evaluation is to ensure the conclusions of the original environmental document or subsequent re-evaluation remain valid.*

**I. Proposed Action**

N/A      YES      NO

- |  |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Have changes occurred in the project scope since approval of the original environmental document or subsequent environmental re-evaluation?           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Has there been a change in the project design parameters since the original environmental document or subsequent environmental document was approved? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 3. Describe changes:   |                          |                                     |                                     |

Listed below are the design changes since the original environmental document was approved (Figure 1).

- New utility easement to provide water and sanitary sewer to properties located on the south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Forty Mile Avenue and the Steese Expressway.
- Two new public transit bus turnouts near the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Eagle Avenue
- New utility duct along Eagle Avenue, north of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
- Storm Drain and outfall relocation from the west to the east side of the Steese Expressway at the Chena River.
- Relocate a signal pole at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Hamilton Avenue.

**II. Purpose and Need**

N/A      YES      NO

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. Has there been a change in the project purpose and need from that described in the approved environmental document or subsequent environmental document? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Describe changes.  |                          |                          |                                     |
- The purpose and need has not changed.

**III. Environmental Consequences**

N/A      YES      NO

*Identify (yes or no) if there have been any changes in project impacts from those identified in the original environmental document or subsequent re-evaluations. For each "yes," describe the magnitude of the change and potential for significant impact.*

- |   |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Has there been a change in the affected environment within or adjacent to the project area that could affect any of the impact categories (i.e. new legislation, transportation infrastructure, or protected resources)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

**III. Environmental Consequences**N/A    YES    NO

Identify (yes or no) if there have been any changes in project impacts from those identified in the original environmental document or subsequent re-evaluations. For each "yes," describe the magnitude of the change and potential for significant impact.

**2. Describe changes.**

These design changes result in a 9,527 square foot (0.22 acre) increase in right of way acquisition and permanent easement areas.

**A. Right-of-Way Impacts**N/A    YES    NO**1. Have the right-of-way requirements changed?**☐    ☒    ☐**2. Have the project's effects on minorities or disadvantaged persons or those disproportionately affected changed? (E.O. 12898)**☐    ☐    ☒**3. Describe changes.**

Total additional right of way required is 4,294 square feet, and 5,233 square feet of permanent maintenance easements, details are as follows (Figure 1):

- New utility easement to provide water and sanitary sewer to properties located on the south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Forty Mile Avenue and the Steese Expressway - requires 650 square feet of additional right of way. This easement will be acquired from an area that is currently used for parking and for a building that will be removed by the project. The area will remain available for parking once construction is complete.
- Two new public transit bus turnouts near the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Eagle Avenue - requires 423 square feet of additional right of way for the bus turnout. This will reduce the available parking in this mall by approximately 2 parking spaces. Adequate parking will remain for the use of the businesses.
- New utility duct along Eagle Avenue, north of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street - requires 1,354 square feet of additional right of way. This acquisition will be from an area that is currently used for parking, and will reduce the parking area by 1 space.
- Storm Drain and outfall relocation from the west to the east side, of the Steese Expressway at the Chena River - requires 1867 square feet of additional right of way, and 4583 square feet of permanent easement for maintenance purposes. The easement area will be from an area that is currently used for parking. This area will remain available for parking once construction is complete. The right of way acquisition area will be from an area that is currently undeveloped.
- Relocate a signal pole behind an existing retaining wall at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Hamilton Avenue - requires an additional 650 square foot right of way. This acquisition will be from an area that is currently used for parking and interior traffic flow. The area will remain available for that purpose once construction is complete.

**B. Social Impacts**N/A    YES    NO**1. Would there be any changes in the neighborhoods or community cohesion for the various social groups as a result of the proposed action?**☐    ☒    ☐**2. Are there any changes in travel patterns and accessibility (such as vehicular, commuter, bicycle, or pedestrian)?**☐    ☒    ☐**3. Are there any changes to the impacts on school districts, recreation areas, churches, businesses, police and fire protection, etc.? Include the direct impacts and the indirect impacts that may result from the displacement of households and businesses.**☐    ☐    ☒

**B. Social Impacts**

N/A YES NO

4. Are there any changes to the effects of the project on the elderly, handicapped, nondrivers, transit-dependent, minority and ethnic groups, or the economically disadvantaged?

☐ ☒ ☐

5. Describe changes.

Potential for positive social impacts resulting from the addition of 2 public bus stops.

**C. Economic Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Are there any changes in the economic impacts of the action on the regional and/or local economy, such as the effects of the project on development, tax revenues and public expenditures, employment opportunities, accessibility, and retail sales?
2. Are there any changes in the potential impacts of the proposed action on established businesses or business districts, or changes in any opportunities to minimize or reduce such impacts by the public and/or private sectors?
3. Describe changes.

☐ ☐ ☒
☐ ☐ ☒

There are no changes to economic impacts.

**D. Local Land Use and Transportation Plan**

N/A YES NO

1. Have there been changes in the local land use or transportation plan?
2. If yes, is the project consistent with the changes to the local transportation land use plan?
3. Would project changes induce adverse secondary and cumulative effects?
4. Describe changes.

☐ ☐ ☒
☐ ☐ ☒
☐ ☐ ☒

There are no changes to the local land use and transportation plan.

**E. Cultural Resources Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Are there changes in the project's effect on cultural resources?
2. Has there been a change in the status of National Register-listed eligible, or potentially eligible, sites in the project area?
3. Describe changes.

☐ ☐ ☒
☐ ☐ ☒

Proposed changes located outside the original area of potential effect (APE):

- 1) Water/sewer easement
- 2) Signal pole
- 3) Storm drain outfall

These changes were reviewed, and FHWA found the previous determination of no historic properties affected still remains valid. See attached Reevaluation of Finding of No Historic Properties Affected, and coordination with SHPO.

**F. Wetlands Impacts**

N/A YES NO

(If yes, resource coordination required)

1. Are there changes in project scope or design that affect the wetland impacts? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Acres (original/proposed): \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fill quantities (original/proposed): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dredge quantities (original/proposed): \_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe any changes from the original environmental document and subsequent environmental re-evaluations.

There are no changes to wetlands impacts.

**G. Fish and Wildlife Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Are there changes in the effects on fish and wildlife resources? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Do project changes require consultation with NMFS per Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) regulations? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Has there been a change in the effects on wildlife resources? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Does the project affect bald eagles or golden eagles? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Describe changes.

The outfall for the storm drain is located above OHW. There are no changes to fish and wildlife impacts.

**H. Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Has there been a change in status of listed T&E species directly or indirectly affected by the project? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Describe changes.

There are no changes to T&amp;E impacts.

**I. Water Body Involvement**

N/A YES NO

1. Have there been any changes in the project's effects on water bodies? *If yes, complete 2-4 and describe in 5.* ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Does the project affect a navigable water body (as listed by USCG)? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Does the project affect navigable waters of the U.S. (as defined by the Corps)? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Does the project affect a Catalogued Anadromous Fish Stream (41.14.870)? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Describe changes.

There are no changes to water body involvement impacts.

**J. Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)**

N/A YES NO

1. Are there changes that affect the standards of the ACMP? ☒ ☐ ☐
2. Are there changes to a local coastal management district that affect the consistency finding? ☒ ☐ ☐
3. If yes to #2, is the project consistent with local coastal management policies? ☒ ☐ ☐
4. Describe changes.

Project is not within a coastal management area

**K. Hazardous Waste**

N/A YES NO

1. Have there been any changes in the status of known or potentially contaminated sites along the corridor? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. If buildings or residences are relocated, have they been evaluated for hazardous waste, such as asbestos? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Describe changes.

There are no changes to hazardous waste impacts.

**L. Air Quality Conformity**

N/A YES NO

1. Does the project as proposed affect a nonattainment area, which will require a revised conformity determination? ☒ ☐ ☐
2. Describe changes.

Proposed design changes will not affect air quality.

**M. Floodplains Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Have there been changes in the project effects on a regulatory floodway? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Does the project remain consistent with local flood protection standards and E.O. 11988? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Have there been changes in the status of local flood hazard ordinances? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Describe changes.

There are no changes to floodplains impacts.

**N. Noise Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Has there been a change in noise sensitive receivers/land uses adjacent to the proposed project? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Has there been a substantial change in vertical or horizontal alignment? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Has the number of through lanes or the project itself created a noise impact? ☐ ☐ ☒
4. Has a noise analysis demonstrated potential noise impacts? ☐ ☐ ☒
5. Are there feasible and reasonable measures that can reduce impacts? ☒ ☐ ☐
6. Do changes in the project require a local noise permit? ☐ ☐ ☒
7. Describe changes.

There are no changes to noise impacts.

**O. Water Quality Impacts**

N/A YES NO

1. Does the project now involve a public or private drinking water source? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Would project changes affect the potential discharge of storm water into Waters of the U.S.? ☐ ☐ ☒
3. Does the project affect a designated impaired water body? (If yes, complete "a".) ☐ ☒ ☐

**O. Water Quality Impacts**

N/A YES NO

- a. List names and locations.

Chena River within Section 11, Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Fairbanks Meridian, USGS Quad map D-2.

4. Will the project now involve a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) NPDES permit, or will runoff be mixed with discharges from an NPDES permitted industrial facility? ☐ ☐ ☒

5. Describe changes.

There are no changes to water quality impacts. Project requirements for compliance with EPA MS4 permit #AKS-053406, issued to the Cities of Fairbanks and North Pole, the University of Alaska – Fairbanks, and the DOT&PF Northern Region, are unchanged.

**P. Permits and Authorizations**

N/A YES NO

1. Are there any changes in the status of the following permits and authorizations?

- a. Corps, Section 404/10
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- b. Coast Guard, Section 9
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- c. Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Title 41
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- d. Flood Hazard
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- e. ADEC 401
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- f. ADEC Storm Water Plan
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- g. DNR, ACMP
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

- h. Other.
- If yes, list.*
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

2. Describe changes.

There are no changes in the status of the permits and authorizations required.

**IV. Construction Impacts**

N/A YES NO

*Have the following potential construction effects changed:*

1. Construction timing commitments?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

2. Temporary degradation of water quality?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

3. Temporary stream diversion?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

4. Temporary degradation of air quality?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

5. Temporary delays and detours of traffic?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

6. Temporary impacts on businesses?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

7. Other construction impacts, including noise?
- ☐
- ☐
- ☒

8. Describe changes.

There are no changes in construction impacts.

**V. Section 4(f)/6(f)**

- |  | <u>N/A</u>                          | <u>YES</u>               | <u>NO</u>                |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Has there been a change in status of Section 4(f) properties affected by the proposed action? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Would the project "use" property from Section 4(f) properties?                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Has there been a change in status in Section 6(f) properties affected by the proposed action? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is the use of 6(f) property a conversion of use per Section 6(f) of the LWCFA?                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*If yes to any of the above, attach appropriate Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) documentation.*



**VI. Comments and Coordination Conducted for the Re-Evaluation**

N/A YES NO

1. Has public/agency coordination occurred since the environmental document was approved or since the last re-evaluation? ☐ ☒ ☐
2. Describe comments and coordination efforts taken for this project since approval of the environmental document or re-evaluation. Discuss pertinent issues raised by the public and government agencies. Attach applicable correspondence and responses.

Attached is correspondence w/ :

- 1) Fairbanks North Star Borough Transit regarding details for the bus turnouts
- 2) Golden Heart Utilities regarding proposed Utility design details.

**VII. Changes in Environmental Commitments or Mitigation Measures**

N/A YES NO

1. Have there been any changes in the environmental commitments or mitigation? ☐ ☐ ☒
2. Describe changes.

There are no changes in environmental commitments or mitigation measures.

**VIII. Environmental Re-Evaluation**

N/A YES NO

1. The conclusions and commitments of the original environmental document approval or subsequent re-evaluation remain valid. *If no, go to #2.* ☐ ☒ ☐
2. The changes in the project scope, environmental consequences, or public controversy require a new, supplemental environmental document or EIS. *No. 2 requires prior consultation with the FHWA area liaison and environmental specialist.* ☐ ☐ ☐

Prepared by: M. R. Raden  
Environmental Analyst or Team Leader

Date: 7-27-07

Approved by: [Signature]  
Regional Environmental Coordinator

Date: 7-27-07

Approved by: [Signature]  
FHWA Area Liaison

Date: 7.31.07

Copy: Design Manager





**3rd STREET WIDENING  
FIGURE 1  
DESIGN CHANGES AND  
ROW ACQUISITIONS**

JULY 2007



## Riordan, Melissa C (DOT)

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**From:** Ludwig, Stefanie L (DNR)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 27, 2007 10:05 AM  
**To:** Riordan, Melissa C (DOT)  
**Subject:** RE: 3rd Street Widening reevaluation

Melissa,  
I have reviewed the documentation handed out in the meeting and concur on behalf of SHPO, that no historic properties are affected by this project.  
Stefanie

---

**From:** Riordan, Melissa C (DOT)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 26, 2007 2:14 PM  
**To:** Ludwig, Stefanie L (DNR)  
**Cc:** Tim Haugh; Mulcahy, Laurie A (DOT); Woster, Timothy J (DOT); Riordan, Melissa C (DOT)  
**Subject:** 3rd Street Widening reevaluation

Hello Stefanie,

Attached is telephone log of our meeting yesterday regarding Reevaluation of Finding of No Historic Properties Affected for 3rd Street Widening project. Please read and respond by email to document our coordination with you for the reevaluation of this project.

Thank you very much for meeting w/ us yesterday. Take care, Melissa

<< File: Telephone Log SHPO 7-25-07.doc >>



NAME/SECTION: Melissa Riordan/Environmental

**TELEPHONE/CONFERENCE DATA**

Date: July 25, 2007

Time: 1 pm

Project Name/Number: 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening

People Involved	Representing
<u>Stefanie Ludwig,</u>	<u>DNRSHPO</u>
<u>Laurie Mulcahy</u>	<u>ADOT&amp;PF</u>
<u>Tim Woster</u>	<u>ADOT&amp;PF</u>
<u>Melissa Riordan</u>	<u>ADOT&amp;PF</u>

TOPIC: Revaluation of the Finding of No Historic Properties Affected

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Figures, photos and written description of expanded area of potential affect were reviewed by all parties.
- SHPO asked when the existing storm drain to be abandoned was constructed? Tim Woster said it was built when the Steese expressway was constructed in the 1970's.
- Teleconference concluded w/ SHPO concurrence that these were not major design changes and that no historic properties affected still remain valid.
- It was agreed that teleconference and email response from SHPO was sufficient documentation for reevaluation of no historic properties affected.

Copies To: Tim Haugh, FHWA  
Laurie Mulchy, ADOT&PF  
Stefanie Ludwig, DNR/SHPO  
Tim Woster, ADOT&PF

3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening Project  
MGL-M-0760(1)/62541  
Reevaluation of the Finding of No Historic Properties Affected  
July 23, 2007

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is reevaluating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) approved by the FHWA on September 7, 2005, which is currently being reevaluated now that the project is being designed.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening project received State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence on a finding of No Historic Properties Affected on November 1, 2004. The previous finding was based on research and survey investigations conducted by Northern Land Use Research, Inc. (NLUR) which evaluated all properties adjacent to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Old Steese Highway and Hamilton Avenue, and the Steese Highway between College and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Figure 1). The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the preliminary project design was identified as ROW limits for the North and South alternative (Figure 2). This APE is smaller than the area assessed by NLUR. NLUR evaluated the entire property lot even if the APE crossed only a part of the property. Based on NLUR's Historic Resources Evaluation Final report, FHWA found no historic properties affected on September 22, 2004.

This is to document for the project files that DOT&PF research and evaluation, developed in consultation with FHWA and discussed below, continues to support the previous finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Widening project.

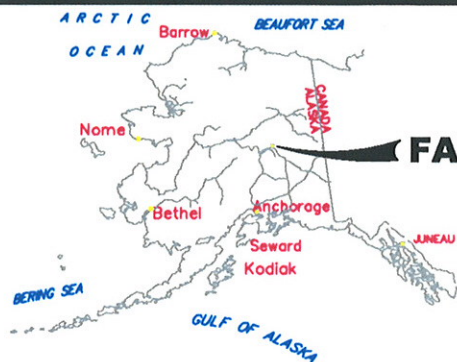
Three minor changes in the design have expanded the original APE (Figure 2). Two of the three changes are outside the original APE, but within the area evaluated by NLUR. These changes include:

- water/sewer easement representing an additional 5-foot wide sliver area located on the south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Forty Mile Avenue and the Steese Expressway; and
- a shift in the location of a light signal pole at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Hamilton.

The third change recommends capping the existing storm drain outfall at the Chena River and constructing a new storm drain and outfall below the Steese Expressway Bridge. The location of the storm drain and outfall are outside of the previously evaluated area and APE.

The expanded APE for this proposed action is shown at the bottom of Figure 2 on the right side of the Steese Expressway. The area of affect for relocating the storm drain is extends 100' east of the Steese Highway centerline on the north end, and 130' east from centerline at the Castle Place Condominium parking lot to the outfall of the storm drain next to the Steese Expressway Bridge. See attached photographs of this area. This area includes the existing Steese Expressway embankment, the graded and gravel surfaced parking lot of the Castle Place Condominium, an existing bicycle pathway embankment along the Chena River, and the Chena Riverbank. The Castle Place Condominium is a 35-year old structure that was built in 1972. The riverbank in the area of the proposed storm drain outfall location was extensively disturbed during the construction of the Steese Expressway Bridge and highway road embankment, as it was developed to serve as the construction staging pad. The site has subsequently been recontoured and riprap armoring has been placed below the existing surface vegetation.

Based on this information, FHWA finds that the previous determination of no historic properties affected still remains valid.



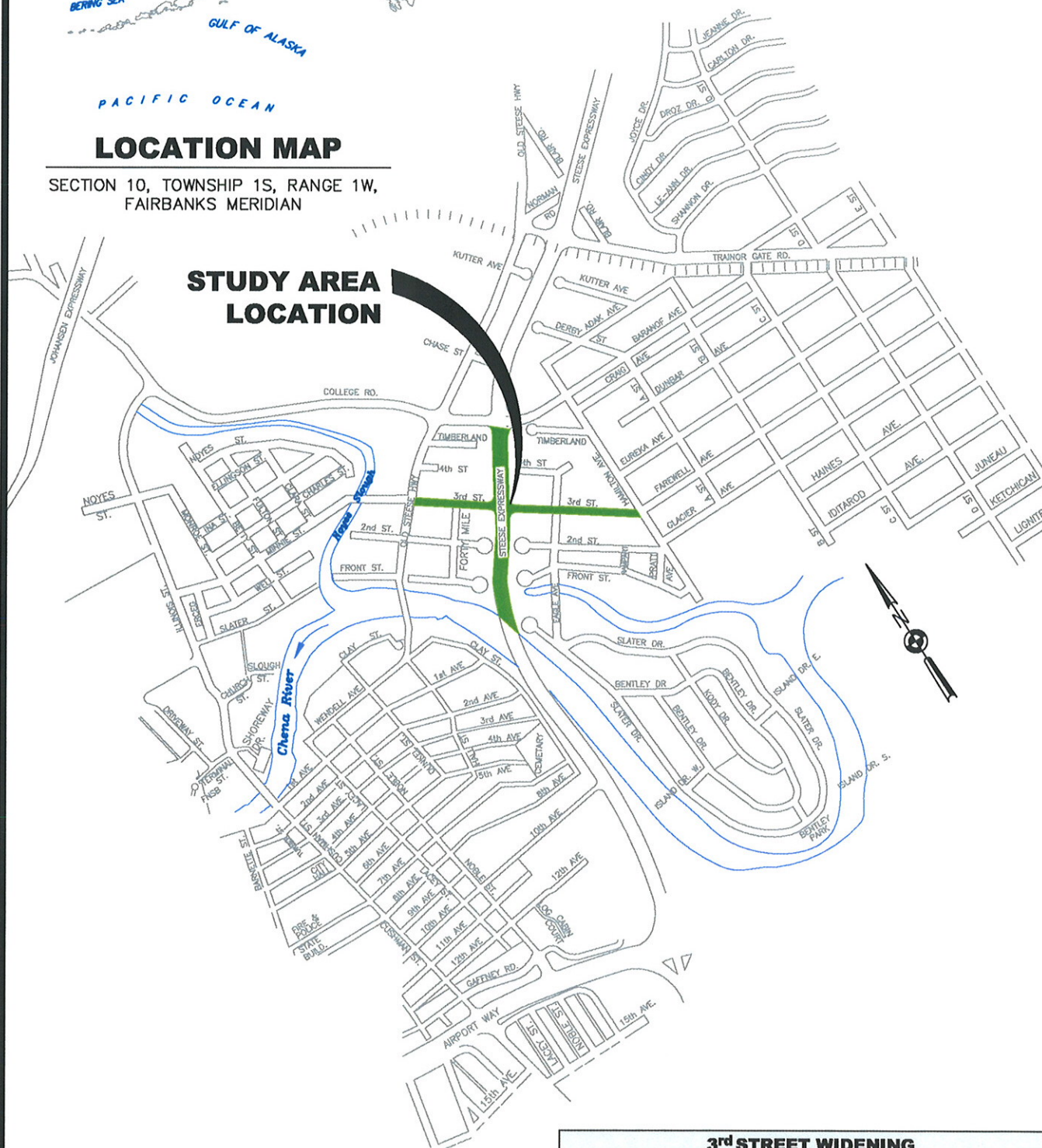
## FAIRBANKS

PACIFIC OCEAN

### LOCATION MAP

SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 1S, RANGE 1W,  
FAIRBANKS MERIDIAN

### STUDY AREA LOCATION

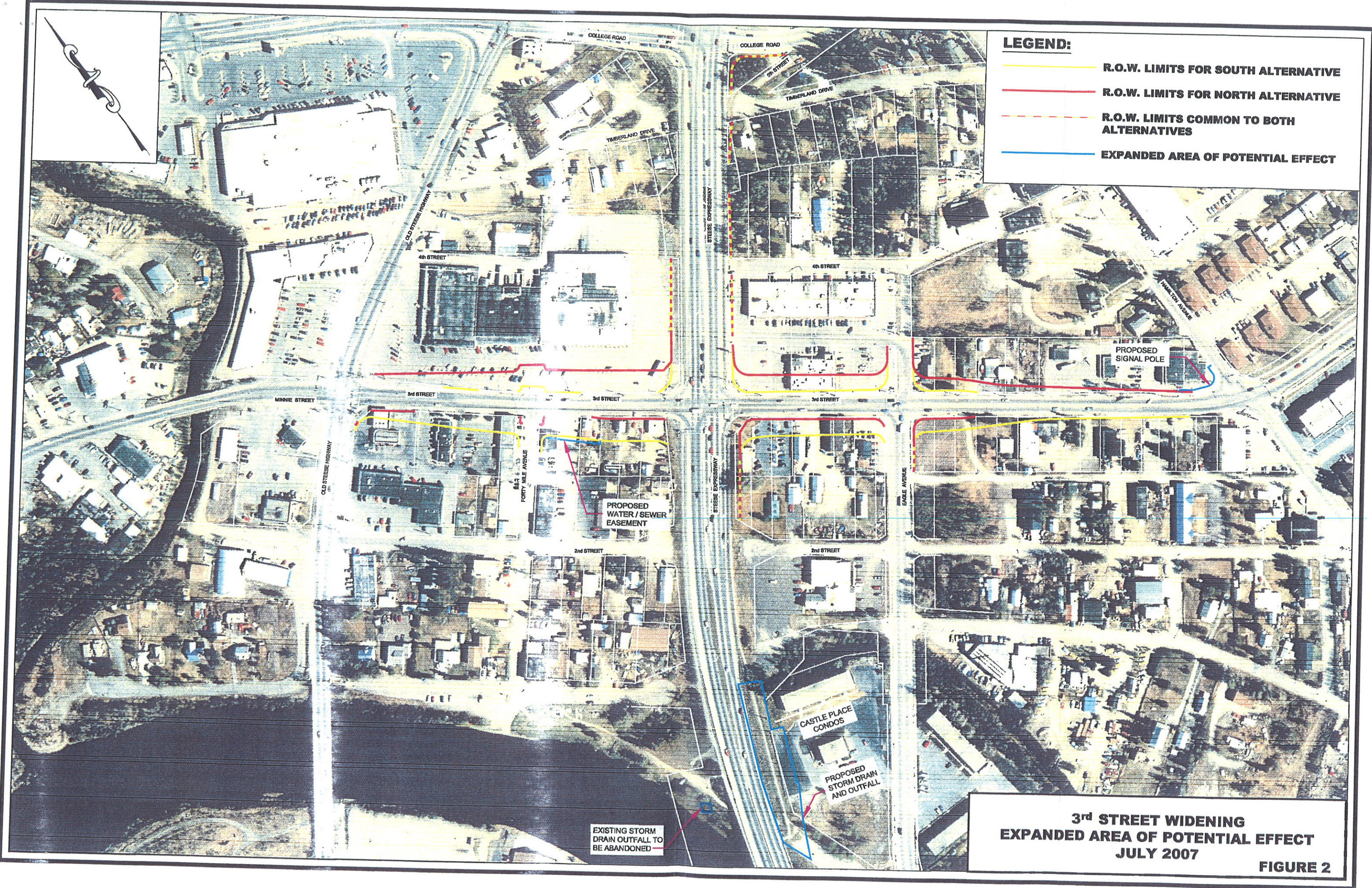


### 3<sup>rd</sup> STREET WIDENING VICINITY MAP

JULY 2007

FIGURE 1





**3rd STREET WIDENING  
EXPANDED AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT  
JULY 2007**

**FIGURE 2**