MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Northern Region Design and Engineering Services

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DATE: July 9, 2018

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SUBJECT: Kivalina Evacuation & School
Site Access Road
0002384/NFH\WY00162
Abbreviated Design Study Report

Introduction/History

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposes to construct a safe, reliable, all-season evacuation road between the community of Kivalina, Alaska, and Kisimigiuqtuk Hill (K-Hill). The proposed road will provide Kivalina residents a safe and reliable evacuation route in the event of a catastrophic storm or ocean surge, allowing evacuees to temporarily mobilize to safe refuge at an assembly site on K-Hill. This site is also identified by the Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) School District, and has approval from the community as a preferred new location for the community school. If constructed within the vicinity of the project terminus, the school could augment the undeveloped evacuation site by serving as a full-service community emergency shelter with all-season support capabilities. See the attached Location and Vicinity Map.

Project Description

This project will construct a new 7.7 mile long, two-lane gravel road. The road will provide a safe and reliable means of evacuation for the community of Kivalina in the event of a catastrophic storm or ocean surge. The road will begin on the Kivalina barrier island adjacent to the Kivalina Airport, cross the Kivalina Lagoon with a 3,200-foot long causeway and bridge, and continue on the mainland over a series of lowlands and relic channels of the Wulik River to a permanent gravel staging/evacuation pad located on K-Hill. Turnouts will be constructed along the road to accommodate vehicle parking and equipment turnarounds. A gravel pad will also be constructed on the mainland portion of the road adjacent the east end of the causeway to serve as an interim evacuation/staging pad.

The 3,200 foot lagoon crossing will require construction of an earthen causeway protected with armor stone, a single span bridge, and multiple overflow culverts. Conveyance through the armored causeway will be maintained by constructing two large structural plate pipes adjacent the east end of the causeway, and a single span steel girder bridge spanning a narrow, tidally

"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."
influenced channel that parallels Kivalina Barrier Island to the east. Overflow pipes, situated above mean high tide level, will provide conveyance during high water events. See the attached Project Overview Map.

**Design Standards**

Design standards and guidelines which apply to the Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road are contained in the following publications:


A design speed of 45 miles per hour was selected for this road. The terrain allows curvatures to meet this design speed and there are no limiting factors requiring a reduced speed. The project will not require the information from the Design Designation process and will be designed to the approved design criteria. The Design Criteria worksheet is attached.

**Design Exceptions and Design Waivers**

A waiver of the Highway Preconstruction Manual requirement for a Design Designation (HPM 1100.4.1) has been approved. There are no additional design exceptions or waivers for this project. The Design Designation Waiver is attached.

**Design Alternatives**

Multiple design alternatives were considered for various components of the project design, including the causeway, mainland road, and bridge.

**Mainland Road:** Design alternatives considered for the mainland roadway included 2:1 and 3:1 embankment side slopes. Embankment side slopes of 3:1 are traversable for vehicles leaving the traveled way, and therefore enhance driver safety. Shallower side slopes also provide increased thermal stability at the embankment toe and thereby reduce settlement at the roadway shoulders. Embankment side slopes of 2:1 were considered in order to minimize the roadway footprint, embankment fill and associated cost, however 3:1 side slopes are preferred due to the advantages of increased driver safety and embankment stability.

Different roadway embankment thicknesses were also considered. A 6 foot thick embankment would minimize thermal degradation of the underlying permafrost and mitigate the effects of snow drifting, while a thinner, 4’ thick embankment incorporating insulation board in the embankment would maintain thermal stability while minimizing borrow needs. A thicker, 6 foot minimum embankment thickness is preferred over a thinner embankment for its added ability to mitigate the effects of snow drifting.
**Bridge:** Three bridge alternatives were proposed. Option 1 proposed a 188 foot single-span steel girder bridge, Option 2 proposed a 190 foot two-span steel girder bridge, and Option 3 proposed a 190 foot two-span concrete girder bridge. Option 3 would require large equipment to transport and erect the heavy concrete superstructure. Shallow barge draft limitations in Kivalina render Option 3 infeasible or impractical. Options 2 and 3 would both require a center pier and associated in-water supports during construction. During agency scoping and coordination, in-water piers were not favored by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) due to their potential to impact seals both temporarily during construction as well as through the life of the structure. In-water piers would also be subject to scour during storm surge events. The single-span steel girder option proposed in Option 1 would not require a center pier, and was therefore preferred by NMFS. The steel girders, while larger than those proposed in Option 3, can be transported and constructed in shorter, lighter segments utilizing smaller equipment capable of being barged into Kivalina.

**Causeway:** Design alternatives considered for the causeway included 1.5:1, 2:1, and 3:1 side slopes. While a steeper side slope of 1.5:1 would effectively reduce the amount of embankment material, armor stone, and associated costs, the long term stability of the armoring required to protect the causeway from riverine and tidal erosion would be negatively affected. A 3:1 side slope would provide increased armor stone stability and allow for a reduction in overall stone thickness, but would require significantly more embankment and armor stone material. A 2:1 side slope in the causeway is preferred to optimize both cost and longevity concerns.

**Preferred Design Alternative**

**Mainland Road:** The preferred alternative for the mainland road includes 3:1 embankment side slopes, and an average embankment thickness of 6 feet. The 3:1 embankment sideslopes provide enhanced user safety and increased thermal stability, thereby reducing settlement at the roadway shoulders. The average 6 foot thick embankment will effectively minimize thermal degradation of the underlying permafrost and limit the effects of snow drifting.

**Bridge:** Option 1 is the preferred bridge option and consist of an approximately 188-feet long by 27-feet wide, single-span bridge with steel girders and precast concrete deck members and driving surface. The steel girders can be transported and erected in smaller, lighter segments and with smaller equipment capable of being barged into Kivalina. See attached Preliminary Bridge Plan.

**Causeway:** The causeway will have two 10 foot lanes with 2 foot shoulders, 3 percent cross-slopes, and 2:1 side-slopes. A 2:1 side slope in the causeway was selected to optimize both cost and longevity concerns.

**3R Analysis**

N/A

**Traffic Analysis**

N/A
**Horizontal/Vertical Alignment**

The grades and all the horizontal and vertical curves for the entire project will meet AASHTO design standards for a design speed of 45 mph. The maximum grade on this project will be 7 percent, and the minimum radius of curvature will be 380 feet. See the attached project Design Criteria Worksheet.

**Typical Section(s)**

The following typical sections are used in this project (See attached Typical Section Sheets):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPICAL</th>
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</table>

**Mainland Road Section – Typical A**

The Mainland Road typical is the primary typical section used for this project. The mainland road will be constructed to 24 feet wide, consisting of two 10 foot lanes and 2 foot shoulders with a 3% crown along the alignment centerline. Embankment side slopes will be 3:1. Average embankment thickness will be 6 feet, consisting of 6” of Aggregate Surface Course, 2 feet of Selected Material, Type A, underlain by a variable thickness of Selected Material, Type B (Modified). The roadway embankment fill will be underlain by geotextile, separation fabric placed on top of the natural vegetative mat. The natural vegetative mat is to remain undisturbed to the extent practicable. It may be necessary to place fill during frozen conditions, given the terrain is mostly underlain by permafrost and thaw unstable material.
Causeway Section – Typical C
The Causeway typical will be used in constructing the lagoon crossing. The causeway will be constructed to 24 feet wide, consisting of two 10 foot lanes and 2 foot shoulders with a 3% crown along the alignment. Embankment side slopes will be 2:1. The causeway embankment will typically be 19 feet thick, and be constructed to a minimum elevation of 17.6 feet to prevent overtopping in the event of a 100 year recurrence ocean surge.

Embarkment material will consist of 6 inches of aggregate surface course, 2 feet of Selected Material, Type A, underlain by a variable thickness of selected material, Type B (Modified). Surface course will be extended to the outside edge of armor stone to maximize the clear zone. Approximately 3 feet of armor stone will be placed along the side slopes to prevent erosion to the embankment. Geotextile fabric will be placed above the existing lagoon bottom to improve embankment stability and reduce settlement in the underlying unconsolidated lagoon silts. Causeway embankment may need to be constructed over the course of multiple seasons to achieve adequate embankment height and compaction as the underlying lagoon silts are allowed to settle.

Causeway-Mainland Transition Section – Typical D & E
Portions of the road will be subject to flooding during high water events off the Wulik River in the spring and fall, as well as during ocean surges typically occurring in late fall. The transitional portion of the road will therefore be constructed to prevent overtopping during high water events and will also require rock armoring between 1-3 feet thick. The Causeway-Mainland Transition Sections will be constructed the same as the Causeway typical, except the settlement is anticipated to be less than in the causeway section.

Causeway-Mainland Transition 1 (Typical D) will be constructed to an elevation of 17.6 foot with 3 feet thick armoring.

Due to reduced wave height and subsequent reduction in wave energy and erosion, Causeway-Mainland Transition 2 (Typical E) will be constructed to an elevation of 16.6 feet with 1 foot thick armoring.

Staging Pad Section – Typical G
The Staging Pad Section will be constructed the same as the Causeway typical, except the dimensions will be approximately 260' wide by 500' long with a 2% crown along the alignment. This typical will be built on the mainland, across Kivalina Lagoon adjacent the east end of the Causeway. The purpose of this pad is to provide a construction staging area and intermediary community evacuation staging area. The pad will be subject to flooding during storm surges, and will therefore be armored with approximately 3 feet thick armor stone, and will be constructed to a minimum elevation of 17.6 feet to prevent overtopping in the event of a 100 year recurrence ocean surge.

Roadway Turnout Section – Typical F
The Roadway Turnout Section will be constructed the same as the Mainland Road typical, except it will include a 25 foot wide by 100 foot long turnout section with 50 foot tapers on one side of the roadway. Turnouts will be placed periodically along the mainland portion of the road, at a frequency of approximately one per mile. The purpose of this typical is to allow space for vehicle turnaround, recreational vehicle ramps, passing of slow vehicles, and temporary parking.
Terminus Pad Section – Typical H
The Terminus Pad Section will be 260’ wide and 600’ long with a 3% cross slope. Embankment side slopes will be 3:1. Average embankment thickness will vary between 4.5 and 10 feet, consisting of 6” of Aggregate Surface Course, 2 feet of Selected Material, Type A, underlain by a variable thickness of Selected Material, Type B. The embankment fill will be underlain by geotextile, separation fabric placed on top of the natural vegetative mat. The natural vegetative mat is to remain undisturbed to the extent practicable. It may be necessary to place fill during frozen conditions, given the terrain is mostly underlain by permafrost and thaw unstable material.

This typical will be constructed at the project terminus on K-Hill. The purpose of this typical is to provide a construction staging area and community evacuation pad. The pad is dimensioned to support a helipad, modular buildings for evacuees, and other temporary evacuation and emergency support infrastructure.

Pavement Design
N/A

Preliminary Bridge Layout
A new bridge will be constructed over the existing 110 foot wide lagoon channel, located within Kivalina Lagoon approximately 160 feet east of the barrier island. The bridge will be approximately 184-feet long by 27-feet wide, single-span, with steel girders, precast deck members and a precast concrete driving surface. The bridge deck will be constructed to an average elevation of 25.5 feet, or as necessary to keep the bottom of the girders above the 100 year recurrence ocean surge. Attached are the preliminary bridge plans.

Right-of-Way Requirements
Land interest sufficient for a dedicated 300-foot public ROW will be conveyed by NANA to a government entity currently identified as the City of Kivalina. An easement will need to be acquired from the State of Alaska DNR for tidelands associated with the lagoon crossing. An easement for non-aeronautical use will be required from FAA for those portions of the road lying within airport property.

The majority of the proposed ROW for the project lies outside of the community of Kivalina in an area designated as a Subsistence Conservation District by the Northwest Arctic Borough. These lands will need to be permitted as Conditional Use under Title 9 of the NAB Code and will require rezoning by the NAB Planning Commission (Title 9, Article VIII, Section 9.28.220) prior to construction.

Maintenance Considerations
Maintenance and management responsibility of the Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road will be with a local entity, currently identified as the Northwest Arctic Borough. DOT&PF will retain maintenance of the Kivalina Lagoon Bridge. This project will add approximately 16 lane miles of new road. Potential maintenance concerns will include:
Snow removal: The road will be constructed to an average height of 6 feet to alleviate the effects of snow drifting.

Differential settlement from seasonal thaw of foundation soils: The road will be constructed of sufficient height to minimize thawing of the underlying permafrost and maintain structural integrity of the road embankment.

Dust control: calcium chloride or similar will be applied once the road is constructed. Additional dust suppression may be needed in the future.

Material Sources

No known developed private/commercial material sources are available in the project vicinity.

Four proposed material sources, described below, were investigated and evaluated. The proposed material sources are expected to meet or exceed the material demands of the project. See the attached Project Overview Map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Site Name</th>
<th>Estimated Quantity of Material (CY)</th>
<th>Area (Acre)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Wulik River Relic Channel Source 1</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Source consists of two separate sites located within wetlands associated with relic channels of the Wulik River. Material consists of gravel and sand suitable for use in the roadway embankment and possibly as crushable material for roadway surfacing. Spur road would be required to access this source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wulik River Relic Channel Source 2</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Source consists of wetlands associated with relic channels of the Wulik River. Material consists of gravel and sand suitable for use in the roadway embankment and possibly as crushable material for roadway surfacing. Spur road would be required to access this source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wulik River Source 1</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Source consists of vegetated gravel bars above ordinary highwater, in the floodplain and wetlands outside of the floodplain. Material consists of well-graded alluvial gravels suitable for use in the roadway embankment and roadway surfacing. 1,500 foot spur road would be required to access this source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-Hill Site</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Source consists of predominately limestone material located on the southeast side of K-Hill. Area will support materials extraction, staging, and a construction camp. Selected material suitable for use in the roadway embankment, crushable material for use as roadway surfacing, and rock for potential use as armor stone.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Utility Relocation & Coordination

There are existing underground power and telephone lines that run from Kivalina out to the snow removal equipment building (SREB) that may be impacted by the proposed road. DOT&PF will coordinate with the regional power and telephone companies to relocate these utilities if they deem it necessary.

Access Control Features

N/A

Pedestrian/Bicycle (ADA) Provisions

No separate facilities will be included for bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Pedestrians and bicycles will share the road with vehicular traffic.

Safety Improvements

The road will provide Kivalina residents a safe and reliable evacuation route in the event of a catastrophic storm or ocean surge, allowing evacuees to temporarily mobilize to safe refuge at an assembly site on K-Hill.

Intelligent Transportation System Features

N/A

Drainage

The project area lies primarily within the Wulik River drainage. The Wulik River drainage area consists of approximately 903 square miles and stretches nearly 65 miles inland reaching into the western edge of the Brooks Range. It generally drains from northeast to southwest into Kivalina Lagoon. Because the roadway bisects the Wulik River floodplain, multiple culverts will be required to convey water through the roadway embankment during highwater events, into adjacent remnant channels, wetlands, and lakes.

Kivalina lagoon is approximately 3,200’ wide and 3’ deep within the project area, and will require construction of an earthen causeway protected with armor stone, a single span bridge, and multiple overflow culverts to span it. Conveyance through the armored causeway will be maintained by constructing two large structural plate pipes adjacent the east end of the causeway, and a single span steel girder bridge spanning a narrow, tidally influenced channel that parallels Kivalina Barrier Island to the east. The bridge will be constructed to allow for marine mammal and fish passage. Overflow pipes, situated above mean high tide level, will provide additional relief during high water events.

Multiple culverts will be placed at locations along the mainland roadway to accommodate cross drainage, with larger culverts placed along identified permanent and intermittent water crossings. General design parameters for the mainland culverts will include:

- Culverts shall be embedded 0%-20% of their diameter to convey groundwater and promote fish passage,
- Culverts 6 ft. or smaller shall be corrugated metal pipe,
- Culverts within the tidal and storm surge range shall be aluminum,
- Culverts over 6 ft. should be structural plate pipe,
- A Minimum 12 gage culvert material thickness is recommended due to icing.

See hydrology summary table below.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Pipe No.</th>
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<th>100 Year Q₁₀₀</th>
<th>Anticipated Additional Backwater (ft.)</th>
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* - Local Drainage basin 50-year flow is greater than Wulik River 50-year event overflow
** - Local Drainage basin 100-year and 50-year flow is greater than Wulik River 100-year and 50-year event overflow.

The project area is undeveloped, and there are no known contaminant sources that would cause water quality degradation. There are no impaired water bodies in the project area. There is no municipal storm water system in the project area, and there would be no mix of discharges from a permitted industrial facility.

**Soil Conditions**

Kivalina is located in coastal northwestern Alaska, north of the Arctic Circle and adjacent to Brooks Range. Situated on a small barrier island between the Kivalina Lagoon and the Chukchi Sea. Kivalina’s climate is transitional between maritime to continental.

The road will cross the Kivalina Lagoon and then traverse northeast through relatively flat, wet tundra to the base of K-Hill. The majority of the project is underlain by permafrost. Subsurface conditions under the roadbed will consist primarily of fine grained and organic deposits, undifferentiated alluvium deposits and outwash deposits.
The following is a generalized soil profile of the area from the geotechnical report by Golder Associates in 2015:

- Fine grained and organic deposits composed of peat, organic silt, and mineral silt.
- Undifferentiated Alluvium deposits composed of sorted and layered sand, gravelly sand and sandy gravel with some silt layers mixed throughout.
- Outwash deposits of interbedded gravel and sand with low fine content
- Massive ice up to 3.5 feet thick is present in some areas

Subsurface conditions in the lagoon generally consist of three different sedimentary horizons:

- Lagoonal deposits, consisting of organic-rich silts and minor sand lenses ranging from 3 to 17 feet thick and thickening toward the mainland.
- Nearshore marine deposits, consisting of silty sands and sandy silts that have been reworked by grounding sea ice, ranging in thickness up to 46 feet.
- Outwash deposits, consisting of dense to very dense well-graded gravel and well-graded sand with silt and gravel. These deposits generally range in thickness from 3.5 to 12.5 feet

Permafrost is present within the underlying silty sands at approximate depths ranging from 11 to 31 feet below ground surface.

**Erosion and Sediment Control**

A project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Hazardous Material Control Plan (HMCP) will be implemented to protect streams and wetlands, and minimize the introduction of sediment and runoff to adjacent waterbodies.

The project area has an average annual precipitation of 13 inches with a 2-year 24-hour precipitation of 0.935 inches. Average freezing temperatures extend from September until May.

Roadway embankments will be permanently stabilized to prevent sediment transport to adjacent habitat. Those portions of the roadway subject to erosion due to highwater events off the Wulik River will be armored with rock. All other areas will be seeded. Causeway embankment slopes will be armored with rock to prevent erosion due to current and wave action.

The Primary BMP for boundary control will utilize a vegetative buffer along the embankment toe. Erosion and sediment concerns may be mitigated by conducting portions of material extraction and embankment construction during winter months.

Dust control will be addressed by applying calcium chloride or similar to surfacing material.

**Environmental Commitments**

The following environmental commitments were detailed in the approved Environmental Assessment (EA). The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and EA Signature Page is attached. The full EA is available at the project website: [http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/KivalinaEvacRd/](http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/KivalinaEvacRd/).
• Individual material source reclamation plans would be developed, in consultation with appropriate agencies, local government, and landowners. Potential reclamation options may include flooding for creation of wetland and waterfowl/fish habitat, which may support increased subsistence use at these locations.
• Prior to construction, the contractor would develop a best management practices (BMP) based Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials Control Plan to address contaminant spill response, storage, management, and handling of hazardous materials, including fuel and lubricants. If leaks or spills occur, contaminated material and soils would be contained and disposed of properly.
• The construction contractor would be required to stop work and notify the DOT&PF Project Engineer if suspected contaminated soil or water is encountered. DOT&PF would notify the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in compliance with 18 AAC 75.300. Any contamination encountered would be handled and disposed of in an ADEC-approved manner.
• Measures to minimize releases of sediment to water bodies would be implemented during construction as part of compliance with the Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Construction General Permit (CGP). Compliance with the CGP includes preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation and monitoring of erosion and sediment control BMPs.
• Construction of a bridge or causeway in tidal waters falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Office of Bridge Programs (33C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter J, Part 115) and all necessary USCG authorizations would be obtained prior to construction.
• Construction materials would be stockpiled within existing fills and/or developed staging areas to minimize construction disturbance and avoid impacting additional wetland acreage.
• Setbacks from surface waters would be maintained for refueling and vehicle maintenance activities to reduce the likelihood of hazardous substances entering waterbodies from accidental spills or releases.
• Construction of all crossing structures would adhere to appropriate BMPs for in-water works to minimize potential effects to fish or fish habitats from sediment mobilization and transport, and accidental contaminant spills. During in-water construction activities, monitoring may be required onsite to implement site specific BMPs.
• In-water work associated with the lagoon crossing would be scheduled to reduce impacts to fish.
• Pile driving would be conducted through constructed embankment, to limit impacts to salmon juveniles and adults (NMFS, 2017a).
• During construction occurring concurrent with critical timing windows, appropriate measures would be implemented (e.g., construction of a diversion channel) to maintain fish migration and passage.
• DOT&PF will coordinate with ADF&G to mitigate impacts to fish during water withdrawal activity and ice harvest that may be needed for construction of ice roads.
• Coordination with ADF&G and NMFS would be conducted during design to develop an adequately sized material source at the selected location, maintain adequate setbacks from the river, and avoid adverse impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).
• Temporary disturbance, reclaimed land, and other areas of ground disturbance would be revegetated with regionally appropriate seed mix that minimizes introduction of noxious weeds where practicable.
Where possible, vegetation clearing, site preparation, and construction activities would adhere to the recommended periods to avoid vegetation clearing from June 1–July 31 for Northern Alaska.

Project specific Barges and Small Boats:
- If project specific barges are required, operators would be required to follow the best practices and safety regulations required of barge operators which regularly service the communities.
- Barges that may provide some incremental project support but are not strictly under project control will be encouraged to avoid designated (73 FR 19000) North Pacific right whale critical habitat or maintain vigilant watch while under way in order to avoid vessel strikes to individuals of the Critically Endangered population frequenting the Bering Sea.
- If project specific barges are required, during vessel transit, the project will follow 50 CFR 224.103 regulations and NMFS marine mammal viewing guidelines.
- Small project-specific boats will move at less than 10 knots (18.52 km/h) when in the Kivalina Lagoon to reduce noise impacts and for safe vessel maneuverability to avoid obstacles and marine mammals in the water.
- If project specific barges are required and practicable vessel operation requires purposely approaching within 1.6 km (1 mi) of observed whales, except in emergency situations, the vessel operator will take reasonable precautions to avoid potential interaction with the whales.
- Reducing vessel speed to less than 5 knots (9.26 km/h) within 300 yards (274 m) of pinnipeds.
- If project specific barges are required, they will avoid transiting through identified (73 FR 19000) North Pacific right whale critical habitat. Protected Species Observers (PSOs) are not required if barges do not enter designated North Pacific right whale critical habitat.
- If project specific barges are required to transit through North Pacific right whale critical habitat, the following will be implemented:
  - Vessels will not make way in excess of 10 knots (18.52 km/h) while travelling within the boundaries of designated North Pacific right whale critical habitat.
  - Dedicated PSOs will be on board all motorized vessels travelling through designated North Pacific right whale critical habitat. PSOs are not required if barges transit around North Pacific right whale critical habitat. PSOs will maintain a constant watch for all marine mammals from the bridge or other similar vantage point. PSOs will maintain direct contact with the vessel pilot, advising the pilot/operator of the position of all observed marine mammals as soon as they are observed.
  - The vessel pilot/operator will maneuver vessels to the extent practicable to:
    - Remain further than 874 yds (800 m) from North Pacific right whales,
    - Remain further than 100 yds from other marine mammal species, and
    - Avoid approaching any species of whale head-on.
  - Vessels will adjust speed and heading as needed to avoid disturbance of all marine mammals, provided vessel speed and heading adjustments are consistent with maintaining vessel safety.
• If material is being placed in Kivalina Lagoon in summer during ice-free conditions, a qualified PSO will monitor for marine mammal presence and implement a 50 m (164 ft) exclusion zone around the material placement site to avoid physical harm, direct, and indirect takes by construction equipment. If material is being placed in the winter, a PSO is only needed if there are areas of naturally occurring open water within 50 m (164 ft) of construction activities. If there is no naturally occurring open water within 50 m (164 ft) of construction activities, no PSO is required and no exclusion zone is necessary.

• If an observed marine mammal is likely to approach within 50 m (164 ft) of the fill placement site, fill placement will stop until the marine mammal is farther than 50 m (164 ft) from the fill placement site, or is not seen for 15 minutes. The PSO will continuously scan the activity-specific monitoring zone for the presence of species for 30 min before any fill placement activities take place.
  o If any species are present within the exclusion zone, fill placement activities will not begin until such animal(s) has left the exclusion zone or no species have been observed in the exclusion zone for 15 min (for pinnipeds) or 30 min (for cetaceans).
  o If any species enter, or appear likely to enter, the exclusion zone during fill placement, all inwater activities will cease immediately. Fill placement activities may resume when the animal(s) has been observed leaving the area on its own accord. If the animal(s) is not observed leaving the area, fill placement activities may begin 15 min (for pinnipeds) or 30 min (for cetaceans) after the animal is last observed in the area.

• A polar bear interaction plan would be developed as required by USFWS.

• Vehicles traveling the project road would be required to stop when they are within sight of migrating caribou either approaching or actively crossing the road. Vehicles would not be permitted to proceed until all caribou have crossed the road. Road closures may last anywhere from 30 minutes to multiple days depending on the number of caribou and speed of travel (USEPA 2009; Teck 2013).

• A bear-human conflict management plan would be developed to reduce potential mortality risk of bears during construction activities. Such a plan would include, among other considerations, measures to manage waste disposal and reduce bear attractants at camps or temporary works sites.

• An Archaeological Monitoring Procedures and Inadvertent Discovery Plan has been developed in consultation between DOT&PF, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), National Park Service (NPS), and local consulting parties to be implemented during the continued planning and execution of the project, including ground-disturbing work associated with construction and material source development.

• A professional archaeologist would monitor vegetation removal and stripping of fine-grained sediments possibly capping buried gravel deposits within Relic Channel Source 1, and north of the exposed gravel bar within the Wulik River Source 1 area.

**Work Zone Traffic Control**

This project will be a new road with no existing traffic. Where project BOP ties into existing community roads, the contractor shall be required to submit for approval a traffic maintenance plan detailing traffic control features during construction. Special traffic control requirements will be addressed in the plans and special provisions, including traffic control and construction activity potentially affecting safe airport operation. The road will remain closed to public traffic.
through the duration of construction. Access to the community landfill and airport will not be obstructed during construction.

**Value Engineering**

A Value Engineering Study was considered for this project. Project costs are anticipated to exceed $40 million, but a value engineering study was determined to not be necessary for the following reasons:

- The project is not on the National Highway System.
- The project location is remote, thus mobilization costs of personnel, equipment, and materials account for a large portion of project costs
- The project will utilize the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) method of procurement and incorporate value engineering principles through project development into the project design.

FHWA concurrence has been documented in the project files.

**Cost Estimate**

See attached Preliminary Construction Quantities. The estimated costs for this project are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>$3,400,000</td>
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<td>Utilities</td>
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<td>Right of Way</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction (Includes 15% Engineering)</td>
<td>$48,109,000</td>
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</table>

**Total Cost of Project** $51,709,000

Approved: [Signature]  
Sarah E. Schacher, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer  
[Date]  

Attachments:  
- Project Overview Map  
- Design Criteria Worksheet  
- Preliminary Bridge Plans  
- Design Designation Waiver  
- Typical Section Sheets  
- FONSI, EA Signature Page  
- Plan and Profile Sheets  
- Preliminary Construction Quantities

cc:  
- Shelley Dykema, Project Control Chief (*Approval Sheet only*)  
- Barbara L. Tanner, P.E., LPA/Contracts Chief (*original*)
cc by e-mail: Daniel Adamczak, P.E., Regional M&O Engineer
Penny Adler, Northern Region Chief, Aviation Leasing
Ryan F. Anderson, P.E., Regional Director
Albert M.L. Beck, P.E., Design Group Chief
Matthew Billings, P.E., Assistant GeoTechnical Engineer
Judy Chapman, Acting Director of Program Development
Jeff Currey, P.E., Regional Materials Engineer
Ken Fisher, P.E., Chief Engineer
Frank Ganley, P.E., Regional Construction Engineer
Gail Gardner, P.E., Regional Utilities Engineer
Pam Golden, P.E., Regional Traffic & Safety Engineer
Barry Hooper, P.E., PD&E Chief
Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., Engineering Manager
Rashaud Joseph, Title VI Specialist, ADA Officer
Steve McGroarty, P.E., Regional Geotechnical Engineer
Brett Nelson, Regional Environmental Manager
Jason Sakalaskas, P.E., M&O Chief
Sarah E. Schacher, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer
Calvin Schaeffer, Western District Superintendent
Cora Shook, Negotiations Supervisor
Jeff Stutzke, P.E., Regional Hydraulics Engineer
Martin D. Shurr, PLS, Right of Way Chief
Kahlil Wilson, Materials Site Coordinator
**ALASKA DOT&PF PRECONSTRUCTION MANUAL**  
Chapter 11 - Design  
PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA

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<th>Project Name:</th>
<th>Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road</th>
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<td>[ ] New Construction/Reconstruction</td>
<td>[ ] 3R</td>
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<td>Bridge Structural Capacity:</td>
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<td>Misc. Criteria:</td>
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**Proposed - Designer/Consultant:**  
**Date:** 04/17/2018

**Endorsed - Engineering Manager:**  
**Date:** 04/18/2019

**Approved - Preconstruction Engineer:**  
**Date:** 04/19/2019

Shaded criteria are commonly referred to as the FWHA 13 controlling criteria. For NHS routes only, these criteria must meet the minimums established in the Green Book (AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets). For all other routes, these criteria must meet the minimums established in the Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual. Otherwise a Design Exception must be approved.

*Design Criteria marked with a "#" do not meet minimums and must have a Design Exception(s) and/or Design Waiver(s) approved. See the Design Study Report for Design Exception/Design Waiver approval(s) and approved design criteria values.*
**Bridge Basis of Estimate**

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<th>Item No.</th>
<th>REV</th>
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**Preliminary Plan**

**State of Alaska**

**Department of Transportation and Public Facilities**

**Bridge Section**

**Kivalina Causeway**

**Site Plan**

**South Access Route**

**Design Data**

- **Located**
- **Fence**
- **Materials**
- **Strength**
- **Resistance**

**Abbreviations**

- E = Engineering
- F = Factored
- Ps = Prestressed
- S = Stress
- W = Water
- WBS = Work Breakdown Structure
- WI = Water Intake
- X = X-Section
- Y = Y-Section

**Project Title**

**Scale**

**Engineer**

**Drawing Date**

**Scale**

**Summary**

- **General Notes**
- **Design**
- **Membrane**
- **Footing**
- **Pile**
- **Stakeout**
- **Material**
- **Reseatch**
- **Code**
- **Construction**

---

**Pile Data Table**

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---

**Acknowledgments**

- **State**
- **Engineer**
- **Project Manager**
- **Consultant**
MEMORANDUM

TO: Sarah E. Schacher, P.E.
    Preconstruction Engineer
    Northern Region

THRU: Albert M.L. Beck, P.E.
       Project Delivery Lead
       Northern Region

FROM: Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.
       Engineering Manager
       Northern Region

DATE: April 17, 2018

FILE NO: 

PHONE NO: (907) 451-2322

FAX NO: (907) 451-5126

SUBJECT: Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road
          0002384/NFHWY00162
          Design Designation Waiver

A waiver of the Highway Preconstruction Manual requirement for a Design Designation (HPM 1100.4.1) is requested.

The purpose of this project is to construct a new road from Kivalina to Kisimigiuqtuq Hill (K-Hill).

The project design will not require the information from the Design Designation process and will be designed to the approved design criteria.

Approved:

Sarah E. Schacher, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer

Date: 4/19/2018

cc by e-mail: Judy Chapman, Planning Chief

"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."
NOTES:
1. OVERFLOW PIPES TO BE PLACED WITHIN THE EMBANKMENT OVER THE LENGTH OF THE CAUSEWAY.
2. TOP OF CAUSEWAY ELEVATION VARIES FROM 17.5 TO 20.5 AT BRIDGE APPROACHES.
3. APPLY CALCAREOUS CALCIUM TO SURFACE OF ERODIBLE SURFACE COURSE GRADE E-1.
NOTE:
1. APPLY CALKUM CEMENT TO SURFACE OF AGGREGATE SURFACE COURSE, GRADING E-1.
The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

Purpose and Need

Purpose

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) proposes to construct a safe, reliable, all-season evacuation road between the community of Kivalina, Alaska, and Kisimigiuqtuq Hill (K-Hill). The Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road project would provide Kivalina residents a safe and reliable evacuation route in the event of a catastrophic storm or ocean surge, allowing evacuees to temporarily mobilize to safe refuge at an assembly site on K-Hill. This site is also identified by the Northwest Arctic Borough (NAB) School District, and approved by the community, as a preferred new location for the community school. While school construction is remote and speculative, if constructed within the vicinity of the project terminus, the school could augment the undeveloped evacuation site by serving as a full-service community emergency shelter with all-season support capabilities.

Need

Recent climate data has indicated that arctic sea ice is forming later in the season, increasing fall and winter storm duration and intensity along the Northwest Arctic coast (Simmonds and Keay 2009; Screen et al. 2013). Consequently, residents of Kivalina face significant and increasing risks to life, health, and safety by storm systems predicted to further intensify over time (Brubaker et al. 2010). The need for a concerted effort to mitigate these risks became more evident during an evacuation event in October 2007, when debris-laden storm waves overtopped the barrier island. The event resulted in the need for

---

1 An action or impact occurring at some distance or time in the future that depends on assumptions or events that are contingent, conjectural, or problematic [Eccleston, 2000]
helicopters to carry evacuees off the island, and illustrated that Kivalina currently has no safe method of evacuation in the event of a catastrophic storm surge. In the face of this increased threat, Kivalina needs a safe and reliable means of evacuation.

**Requested Federal Action**

The DOT&PF is requesting the following federal action from the Federal Highway Administration (FWHA): (1) participation in funding the proposed project.

As part of the FHWA Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program (23 U.S. Code [USC] 327), commonly known as the NEPA Assignment Program, the DOT&PF has assumed the FHWA’s responsibilities for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and for the environmental review, consultation, or other actions as required by Federal environmental laws on FHWA-funded projects under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FHWA executed on November 3, 2017.

**Selected Alternative**

The DOT&PF selected causeway construction across the Kivalina Lagoon; evacuation road construction connecting the Kivalina Lagoon causeway to the K-Hill evacuation site; and development of up to four material source alternatives to supply the project. The selected causeway and evacuation road alternative is the Southern Route with Lagoon Crossing D. The selected material source alternatives are the K-Hill Site, Wulik River Source 1, Relic Channel Source 1, and Relic Channel Source 2 with the K-Hill site and Relic Channel sources given highest priority, and the Wulik River Source used last, if needed, once the other sites have been exhausted of the needed material. The Southern Route is 7.7 miles long and would begin adjacent to the Kivalina Airport, immediately cross the lagoon with a 3,020-foot long causeway, and follow lowlands and relic channels of the Wulik River to a permanent 5-acre gravel staging pad on K-Hill configured to not preclude later development of a community evacuation site. The selected alternative also includes construction of a second permanent pad near the inland side of the lagoon crossing used for contractor staging. The DOT&PF has selected the Southern Route with Lagoon Crossing D based on its ability to best meet the project’s purpose while minimizing environmental impacts and addressing the concerns of the public and agencies.

**Reasonable Alternatives**

For over a decade, Kivalina and the NAB have evaluated the feasibility of numerous road routes, lagoon crossing options, and material source locations that could provide for evacuation road construction as well
as other infrastructure or general material needs. DOT&PF has been working with the community, local and regional government stakeholders, and state and federal agencies to refine evacuation road alternatives to be evaluated under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA).

Under the No-Action Alternative, an evacuation road would not be constructed from Kivalina to K-Hill. Residents would continue to be exposed to environmental threats with no safe way to evacuate during storm events with the potential to detrimentally impact the community over time. As a consequence, there would remain severe risk to life, health, and safety of residents during a storm surge event. This does not meet the purpose and need of the project.

**Road Route Alternatives:** Three preliminary route options (Northern, Southern, and Combined Route A) were independently proposed by Kivalina and the NAB within the Study Area (Community Proposed Alternatives). These community initiated route concepts were refined and a fourth route was developed (Combined Route B) based on feedback received during public and agency scoping efforts in the fall of 2016. Route alternatives were evaluated for feasibility based on purpose and need; engineering considerations; wetland, fish, and wildlife impacts; number and type of water crossing structures; proximity to material sources; and cost. After evaluation (detailed in Section 3 of the attached Final Environmental Assessment (EA)), the Southern Route and Combined Route B were determined feasible and carried forward for further evaluation.

**Lagoon Crossing Alternatives:** Four lagoon crossing alternatives (Solid Causeway, Solid Causeway with Culverts, Solid Causeway with Culverts and Bridge, and Full Span Bridge) were considered and developed in collaboration with the community of Kivalina, agency stakeholders, and other local and regional stakeholders. After evaluation, only the Lagoon Crossing D (Solid Causeway with Culverts and Bridge) was determined feasible and carried forward for further evaluation (detailed in Section 3 of the Final EA).

**Material Source Location Alternatives:** Four general areas known to contain potentially viable sources of various project materials were evaluated in past studies. Several material source locations within these areas were evaluated for feasibility based on proximity to potential routes, quantity and quality of material, access constraints, and potential impacts to protected resources (Golder Associates 2013). After evaluation, four potential sources within these areas have been determined feasible and are carried forward for further evaluation (K-Hill, Wulik River Channel Source 1, Wulik Relic Chanel Source 1 and 2).
Coordination

DOT&PF initiated public involvement and agency coordination for the Kivalina Evacuation and School Site Access Road Project in fall 2016. DOT&PF held multiple public and working group meetings in Kivalina, Noatak, and Kotzebue during November 2016, July 2017, and August 2017. Letters and emails were sent to Federal, State and local agencies, City of Kivalina, NAB and surrounding Villages, Native Village of Kivalina, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations, and other interested parties beginning on November 10, 2016. Individual agency scoping meetings were held with interested agencies beginning on December 19, 2016.

On December 5, 2017, DOT&PF held public meetings in Kivalina, Noatak, and Kotzebue to announce Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) availability and request comments. In addition, DOT&PF held several individual agency meetings from December 11-19, 2017 to gather comments. Prior to the meetings, notices and Draft EA copies were provided to the City of Kivalina, NAB, and surrounding Villages, Native Village of Kivalina, ANCSA Corporations, and other interested parties announcing Draft EA availability and comments request. Letters and comments received during the comment period are included in Appendix D and E.

Impact Assessment

The selected alternative (the Southern Route with Lagoon Crossing D) is 1.2 miles shorter than Combined Route B, providing a more efficient route to the evacuation site in an emergency. The selected alternative therefore requires less right-of-way from NANA compared to the Combined Route B (280 acres compared to 324 acres, respectively).

Project impacts include a loss of uplands and Section 404/10 waters and wetlands, which provide fish, migratory bird, and wildlife habitat.

The selected alternative would impact 147.3 acres of wetland for the construction of the Southern Route with Lagoon Crossing D, compared to 171.3 acres for the construction of the Combined Route B with Lagoon Crossing D. Both alternatives would impact a total of 1.3 acres of uplands for the construction of the evacuation route, and a total of 233.6 acres of wetland and 20.1 acres of upland for material source development. There is no practicable alternative to building on wetlands due to their prevalence in the area.

The selected alternative includes constructing a causeway across Kivalina Lagoon, with a bridge and multiple culverts. This has the potential to impact marine mammal and fish movement, reduce
navigability, and alter floodplains or hydraulic regimes. The bridge and culverts will be designed to accommodate fish and marine mammal movement, and the bridge will also allow personal boats sized to support subsistence activities to access both sides of the lagoon.

With the exception of the lagoon crossing, no other portions of the proposed route alternatives would cross anadromous and/or Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) waterbodies. The selected alternative, the Southern Route, would require a total of nine water crossings: two fish passage crossings, four non-fish passage crossings, three enhanced design crossings. This is less than the 12 water crossings that would be required for the Combined Route B, which includes three fish passage crossings (one of which is a crossing of the Wulik River relic channel), six non-fish passage crossings, and three enhanced design crossings. The crossing types are described in Section 4.8.2.2 of the attached Final EA.

The polar bear, spectacled eider and Steller’s eider are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) jurisdiction. These species are recorded infrequently as they migrate through the region. The selected alternative would impact less of the Closed Low Scrub habitat identified by USFWS as important bird habitat compared to the Combined Route B with Lagoon Crossing D alternative (2.3 acres compared to 6.3 acres respectively). Impacts are expected to not be significant as there is alternative preferred habitat available.

Marine mammals typically seen in Kivalina Lagoon include spotted seals, bearded seals, ringed seals, and polar bears. Bearded seals and ringed seals are listed as threatened under the ESA and are under National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction. These seals may be present in the Kivalina Lagoon, and could be disturbed by underwater noise associated with construction activities, primarily pile driving, in the lagoon. Compared to the alternatives presented in the 2017 Draft EA, DOT&PF avoided underwater noise impacts resulting from in-water pile driving by committing to pile driving through the constructed embankment.

If project specific barges are required, other listed species may be encountered along the vessel routes. These species include Western DPS Steller sea lions, North Pacific right whales, Western North Pacific and Mexico DPS humpback whales, fin whales, sperm whales and bowhead whales. Mitigation measures (Section 4.12.3 of the Final EA) would limit potential residual adverse effects of the project on marine mammal species exposed to underwater noise.

The evacuation route may cause impacts to wildlife and marine mammals due to vehicle noise and creating a visual barrier along the corridor. These are expected to not be significant due to the low number
of vehicles anticipated to use the route as compared to roads in other similar locations, as well as accommodation for fish and marine mammal passage incorporated into the design.

The project will cross lands in the Cape Krusenstern National Historic Landmark (CKNHL), a historic property. The project may disturb unknown cultural, historical, and archeological resources in the CKNHL. Cultural resource surveys have been conducted, and no eligible resources have been recorded in the project’s Area of Potential Effect (APE). Two AHRS-reported sites are on the periphery of the APE. No ground disturbing activities are planned for the portions of the APE containing these two sites. If a resource is inadvertently discovered during construction, measures will be taken to mitigate potential impacts. As a result of consultation under 23 CFR 800.5 (Section 106), DOT&PF has determined that no historic properties will be adversely affected from the proposed project. The National Park Service (NPS) agreed with and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with this finding (Appendix F).

As a historic property, the CKNHL is also protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. Based on the SHPO’s concurrence with a finding that no historic properties will be adversely affected from the proposed project, the DOT&PF has approved a Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Finding (Section 5 and Appendix K of the attached Final EA).

Temporary construction impacts will predominantly occur due to material source development and material placement into wetlands and waters. These activities will potentially discharge sediment to adjacent waterways, and impact fish habitat, including EFH. These impacts are expected to not be significant with proper implementation of construction best management practices and compliance with permit requirements.

Construction noise associated with material placement, and material source development have the potential to temporarily disturb wildlife, marine mammals, birds, and fish, either resulting in temporary relocation to other habitats, or mortality. Implementation of construction best management practices, and proper activity scheduling during low risk seasons, is expected to result in no significant impacts.

**Secondary and Cumulative Impacts:** The project would open access to the Wulik River for subsistence and possible development of adjacent public and private lands. These impacts are anticipated to not be significant as the area is already a travel corridor for subsistence use and the anticipated increase in activity is expected to be relatively small compared to the levels of existing traffic and noise along the corridor.
Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Conditions of approval associated with this project are detailed in the Final EA and project permits and requirements will be included in the construction contract documents. The project has been coordinated with the appropriate agencies and the local Tribe, and includes measures to avoid and minimize impacts. The following commitments will be included in the project to reduce environmental impacts.

Land Use and Transportation

- Wulik River Source 1 is adjacent to and includes a portion of a Native allotment (less than a quarter of the proposed material site); however, use of this material source has been given lower priority as described in Section 4.3.4 of the EA, and the material source may be developed outside of the Native allotment if a material sales agreement with the owner cannot be reached. All other material sources and route alternatives avoid development in Native allotments; and
- Material sources near Native allotments would be designed to not block access to these areas.
- During permitting of the Wulik Relic Channel Source 2, DOT&PF will work with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to avoid the use of state-owned submerged lands.

Social and Economic Environment

- Individual material source reclamation plans would be developed, in consultation with appropriate agencies, local government, and landowners. Potential reclamation options may include flooding for creation of wetland and waterfowl/fish habitat, which may support increased subsistence use at these locations.

Hazardous Materials, Pollution Prevention, and Solid Waste

- Prior to construction, the contractor would develop a best management practices (BMP) based Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials Control Plan to address contaminant spill response, storage, management, and handling of hazardous materials, including fuel and lubricants. If leaks or spills occur, contaminated material and soils would be contained and disposed of properly; and
- The construction contractor would be required to stop work and notify the DOT&PF Project Engineer if suspected contaminated soil or water is encountered. DOT&PF would notify the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in compliance with 18 AAC 75.300. Any contamination encountered would be handled and disposed of in an ADEC-approved manner.
Water Resources and Water Quality

- **Water Quality:**
  
  - Measures to minimize releases of sediment to water bodies would be implemented during construction as part of compliance with the Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Construction General Permit (CGP). Compliance with the CGP includes preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation and monitoring of erosion and sediment control BMPs;
  
  - Utilization of low erodible material and armor rock placed in the Kivalina Lagoon would minimize sedimentation to these waterbodies. Sediment entrainment measures would further reduce impacts to water quality; and
  
  - Water withdrawal requires permitting through DNR and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), which would specify appropriate BMPs. BMPs, including water withdrawal volume limitations, would reduce the potential effects on stream flows during construction.

- **Floodplain:**
  
  - Material sites would be constructed to avoid river capture, floodplain widening, and increased erosion;
  
  - The road would be designed above the 100-year flood elevation.
  
  - Causeway bridge and culverts would be designed for adequate flows through the causeway at flood stage.

- **Hydrology:**
  
  - Roadway and causeway embankments would be protected from erosion to prevent sediment transport to adjacent habitats; and
  
  - Construction of a bridge or causeway in tidal waters falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Office of Bridge Programs (33C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter J, Part 115) and all necessary USCG authorizations would be obtained prior to construction.
Wetlands and Vegetation

Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands,” issued May 24, 1977, requires there be no practicable alternative to a Proposed Action if such action affects wetlands, and that any proposed federally funded action include all practicable measures to avoid and minimize harm to wetlands. As the majority of the Study Area is dominated by high functioning wetlands and waters, construction of an evacuation route from Kivalina to K-Hill would cause impacts to high value wetlands, and a USACE Section 404/10 Individual Permit would be required.

Avoidance, minimization and, if required, either compensatory or sponsor-proposed mitigation are the primary measures available to offset wetland losses for the proposed project. In fulfillment of Executive Order 11990, the following avoidance and minimization measures would be implemented to reduce the impacts to wetlands:

- The proposed route alternatives are routed to avoid and minimize impacts to Waters of the U.S. and the higher Category I+ wetlands. Upland areas are utilized as possible, while avoiding upland important bird habitat (Closed Low Scrub) at the same priority as Category I+ wetlands;
- Project elements (e.g., road embankment geometry, vehicle turn outs, water crossings) are designed to safely incorporate the minimal dimensions necessary to serve the project purpose and need to minimize required wetland fill;
- Staking or otherwise delineating the road embankment footprint and associated temporary impact areas would be completed prior to construction;
- Construction materials would be stockpiled within existing fills and/or developed staging areas to minimize construction disturbance and avoid impacting additional wetland acreage;
- Setbacks from surface waters would be maintained for refueling and vehicle maintenance activities to reduce the likelihood of hazardous substances entering waterbodies from accidental spills or releases; and
- A project Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, SWPPP, and Hazardous Material Control Plan would be implemented to protect streams and wetlands, and minimize the introduction of sediment and runoff to adjacent waterbodies.
Fish and Fish Habitat

- All Features
  
  o Compliance with the APDES CGP, and implementation of the required SWPPP and BMPs during construction, to reduce the potential for sediment laden storm water runoff during construction. Stabilization of side slopes with vegetation or non-erodible material would also be implemented as part of CGP compliance to further reduce the potential for sedimentation of nearby streams;

  o Construction of all crossing structures would adhere to appropriate BMPs for in-water works to minimize potential effects to fish or fish habitats from sediment mobilization and transport, and accidental contaminant spills;

  o During in-water construction activities, monitoring may be required onsite to implement site specific BMPs and other potential permit requirements; and

  o Obtain Fish Habitat Permit from ADF&G.

- Lagoon Crossing:

  o In-water work associated with the lagoon crossing would be scheduled to reduce impacts to fish;

  o Implementation of BMPs that avoid or minimize adverse impacts to water quality and marine habitats;

  o The causeway’s northeastern culvert(s) will be designed to be easily maintained as an open water passage at mean tide and accommodate anticipated debris and icing mitigation to prevent flow blockage; and

  o Pile driving would be conducted through constructed embankment, to limit impacts to salmon juveniles and adults (NMFS, 2017a).
• Road Construction:
  o During construction occurring concurrent with critical timing windows, appropriate measures would be implemented (e.g., construction of a diversion channel) to maintain fish migration and passage
  o DOT&PF will coordinate with ADF&G to mitigate impacts to fish during water withdrawal activity and ice harvest that may be needed for construction of ice roads; and
  o DOT&PF and the construction contractor would coordinate with ADF&G to identify and implement appropriate migration measures.

• Material Sources:
  o Material source selection, site specific mining plan design, permitting, and reclamation would reduce the potential for adverse impacts and could enhance fish habitats in some drainages, such as the Wulik Relic Channel;
  o Reclamation plans may include developing shallow littoral zones and shrubby riparian areas for migratory bird habitat;
  o Site specific material site plans will incorporate work timing windows to work around sensitivities for salmon and Dolly Varden;
  o Material sites will be prioritized for use: 1) K-Hill and Relic Channel sources and 2) Wulik River 1 (only after other sites are exhausted);
    ▪ If the Wulik River Material Site 1 is constructed, maintain a connection to the Wulik River; and
  o Coordination with ADF&G and NMFS would be conducted during design to develop an adequately sized material source at the selected location, maintain adequate setbacks from the river, and avoid adverse impacts to EFH.
Terrestrial and Aquatic Birds

- The Proposed Action alternatives have been routed to minimize interactions with waterbodies (i.e., aquatic bird habitat) wherever feasible. Where possible, the road alignment would approach the waterbody perpendicularly to minimize impacts to the riparian habitats;

- Temporary disturbance, reclaimed land, and other areas of ground disturbance would be revegetated with regionally appropriate seed mix that minimizes introduction of noxious weeds where practicable;

- Where possible, vegetation clearing, site preparation, and construction activities would adhere to the recommended periods to avoid vegetation clearing from June 1–July 31 for Northern Alaska. If vegetation clearing, site preparation, and construction occurs within these periods, pre-construction nest surveys would be conducted by qualified personnel and appropriate mitigation developed in consultation with the USFWS; and

- High-disturbance project-related activities (e.g., blasting, pile driving) would be avoided where practicable during the nesting and peak migration window.

Marine Mammals

- Pile driving would will occur through constructed embankment;

- Project specific Barges and Small Boats:
  - If project specific barges are required, operators would be required to follow the best practices and safety regulations required of barge operators which regularly service the communities.
  - Barges that may provide some incremental project support but are not strictly under project control will be encouraged to avoid designated (73 FR 19000) North Pacific right whale critical habitat or maintain vigilant watch while under way in order to avoid vessel strikes to individuals of the Critically Endangered population frequenting the Bering Sea.
  - If project specific barges are required, during vessel transit, the project will follow 50 CFR 224.103 regulations and NMFS marine mammal viewing guidelines.
  - Small project-specific boats will move at less than 10 knots (kn; 18.52 km/h) when in the Kivalina Lagoon to reduce noise impacts and for safe vessel maneuverability to avoid obstacles and marine mammals in the water.
If project specific barges are required and practicable vessel operation requires purposely approaching within 1.6 km (1 mi) of observed whales, except in emergency situations, the vessel operator will take reasonable precautions to avoid potential interaction with the whales.

- Reducing vessel speed to less than 5 kn (9.26 km/h) within 300 yards (274 m) of pinnipeds.
- If project specific barges are required, they will avoid transiting through identified (73 FR 19000) North Pacific right whale critical habitat. Protected Species Observers (PSOs) are not required if barges do not enter designated North Pacific right whale critical habitat.

If project specific barges are required to transit through North Pacific right whale critical habitat, the following will be implemented:

- Vessels will not make way in excess of 10 kn (18.52 km/h) while travelling within the boundaries of designated North Pacific right whale critical habitat.
- Dedicated PSOs will be on board all motorized vessels travelling through designated North Pacific right whale critical habitat. PSOs are not required if barges transit around North Pacific right whale critical habitat. PSOs will maintain a constant watch for all marine mammals from the bridge or other similar vantage point. PSOs will maintain direct contact with the vessel pilot, advising the pilot/operator of the position of all observed marine mammals as soon as they are observed.
- The vessel pilot/operator will maneuver vessels to the extent practicable to:
  - Remain further than 874 yds (800 m) from North Pacific right whales,
  - Remain further than 100 yds from other marine mammal species, and
  - Avoid approaching any species of whale head-on.
- Vessels will adjust speed and heading as needed to avoid disturbance of all marine mammals, provided vessel speed and heading adjustments are consistent with maintaining vessel safety.

Fill Placement:

- If material is being placed in summer during ice-free conditions, a qualified PSO will monitor for marine mammal presence and implement a 50 m (164 ft) exclusion zone around the material placement site to avoid physical harm, direct, and indirect takes by construction equipment.
- If material is being placed in the winter, a PSO is only needed if there are areas of naturally occurring open water within 50 m (164 ft) of construction activities. If there is no naturally occurring open water within 50 m (164 ft) of construction activities, no PSO is required and no exclusion zone is necessary.
If an observed marine mammal is likely to approach within 50 m (164 ft) of the fill placement site, fill placement will stop until the marine mammal is farther than 50 m (164 ft) from the fill placement site, or is not seen for 15 minutes. The PSO will continuously scan the activity-specific monitoring zone for the presence of species for 30 min before any fill placement activities take place.

- If any species are present within the exclusion zone, fill placement activities will not begin until such animal(s) has left the exclusion zone or no species have been observed in the exclusion zone for 15 min (for pinnipeds) or 30 min (for cetaceans).
- If any species enter, or appear likely to enter, the exclusion zone during fill placement, all inwater activities will cease immediately. Fill placement activities may resume when the animal(s) has been observed leaving the area on its own accord. If the animal(s) is not observed leaving the area, fill placement activities may begin 15 min (for pinnipeds) or 30 min (for cetaceans) after the animal is last observed in the area.

- Subsistence Activities
  - Signs will be installed reminding the public that State of Alaska Fish and Game regulations prohibit shooting from, on, or across a highway (5 AAC 92.080; ADF&G 2006).

- A polar bear interaction plan would be developed as required by USFWS.

Wildlife—Terrestrial Mammals

- To reduce potential disturbance to caribou during migration, mitigation measures such as those applied at the Red Dog Mine are recommended during construction. Vehicles traveling the project road would be required to stop when they are within sight of migrating caribou either approaching or actively crossing the road. Vehicles would not be permitted to proceed until all caribou have crossed the road. Road closures may last anywhere from 30 minutes to multiple days depending on the number of caribou and speed of travel (USEPA 2009; Teck 2013);

- Reduce speed limit along the project road as well as any temporary spur roads; and

- A bear-human conflict management plan would be developed to reduce potential mortality risk of bears during construction activities. Such a plan would include, among other considerations, measures to manage waste disposal and reduce bear attractants at camps or temporary works sites.
Historic, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources

- An Archaeological Monitoring Procedures and Inadvertent Discovery Plan has been developed in consultation between DOT&PF, SHPO, NPS, and local consulting parties to be implemented during the continued planning and execution of the project, including ground-disturbing work associated with construction and material source development; and

- A professional archaeologist would monitor vegetation removal and stripping of fine-grained sediments possibly capping buried gravel deposits within Relic Channel Source 1, and north of the exposed gravel bar within the Wulik River Source 1 area.

**Required Permits and/or Approvals**

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on:

- **ESA (Section 7 Informal Consultation) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA):** The National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service provided concurrence under informal consultation that the project with mitigation measures was not likely to adversely affect Endangered Species or Marine Mammals.

- **EFH:** Concurrence from the NMFS (12/14/17) that the project with mitigation measures was not likely to adversely affect EFH or that adverse effects to EFH would be minimal, with incorporation of specific conservation recommendations.

- **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; Section 106):** Concurrence from the SHPO (10/9/17) of no historic properties adversely affected for the proposed project.

- **Department of Transportation Act (Section 4[f]):** Based on concurrence from the NPS (10/6/17) and SHPO (10/9/17) with the finding that no historic properties under NHPA Section 106 will be adversely affected, it is DOT&PF’s finding that the project’s use of the CKNHL would only result in a de minimis impact, and DOT&PF documented its determination in a De Minimis Impact Finding (Appendix K).
Major permits and/or approvals required include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Permit or Authorization; Agency</th>
<th>Why Permit/Clearance is Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Permits and Authorizations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Section 404/10 Clean Water Act (CWA) Wetlands Dredge or Fill Permit; USACE</td>
<td>A Section 404/10 permit is required for the placement of fill within jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>USCG Bridge Permit</td>
<td>Construction of a bridge or causeway in tidal waters falls under the jurisdiction of the USCG Office of Bridge Programs (33C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter J, Part 115).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ESA Section 7 Consultation; USFWS</td>
<td>Section 7 consultation is required as part of NEPA when the project may affect a listed Threatened or Endangered species. Section 7 consultation with USFWS would cover potential impacts to Spectacled and Steller’s Eiders and Polar Bear Critical Habitat. Consultation with USFWS is complete and they concurred that the project is not likely to adversely affect listed eiders or polar bears (Appendix G).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MBTA compliance; USFWS</td>
<td>Compliance with MBTA USFWS recommended “no clearing” timing windows would reduce the potential for incidental take of protected migratory bird species and their nests. USFWS recommended timing window is May 20-July 20.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act EFH consultation and assessment (NMFS)</td>
<td>EFH assessment is prepared by the lead agency (DOT&amp;PF) to describe potential impacts to EFH and propose conservation measures to reduce those impacts. This is used to consult with NMFS, who would either concur on the lead agency’s findings or recommend additional conservation measures and/or mitigation. Consultation with NMFS is complete as of approval of the Final EA and additional conservation measures have been incorporated into the project (Appendix I).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ESA Section 7 and MMPA Consultation (NMFS)</td>
<td>Section 7 and MMPA consultation is required as part of NEPA when the project may affect a listed Threatened or Endangered species that is also a marine mammal protected under the MMPA. Section 7 and MMPA consultation with NMFS would cover potential impacts to bearded and ringed seals, as well as other listed species that may be encountered along project specific barge routes (if required). Consultation with NMFS is complete and they concurred with a finding of may affect but it not likely to adversely affect, any listed species or critical habitat under NMFS jurisdiction (Appendix G).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Permits and Authorizations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources Consultation (Section 106 Review); DNR, Office of History &amp; Archaeology and SHPO</td>
<td>Section 106 compliance is required as part of NEPA, and provides for the identification and protection of cultural and historic resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation is completed with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties, and a determination of effect is issued, with mitigation measures and agreements amongst stakeholders completed as needed, depending on anticipated impacts. Consultation has been completed at the time of this publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Section 401 Certification – Certificate of Reasonable Use</td>
<td>A 401 water quality certification would be issued concurrently with the USACE 404/10 permit and notify compliance with state water quality standards.</td>
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<td>Assurance; ADEC Division of Water Quality</td>
<td>administrative code. The USACE 404/10 permit would not be issued until this certification is complete.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ROW (State-owned non-marine waters and submerged lands); DNR, DMLW</td>
<td>An Interagency Land Management Assignment (ILMA) would be required from DNR DMLW to cross the state owned tidelands with the lagoon crossing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DNR Material Site Designation</td>
<td>To develop any new material sites within state-owned lands, DNR DMLW would need to designate those sites as material sites/sources which would require a &quot;best interest&quot; decision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>APDES CGP for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Large and Small Construction Activities; ADEC, Division of Water</td>
<td>For projects with disturbance of over 1 acre, compliance with the APDES CGP is required. A SWPPP and notice of intent to seek coverage under the CGP would be required prior to construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Title 16 Fish Habitat Permit; ADF&amp;G</td>
<td>For any work below the ordinary high water of a stream containing fish, a Title 16 permit would be required. Measures to maintain fish passage within these waters would be required, as well as measures to avoid and minimize impacts to fish and their habitats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Temporary Water Use Permit (TWUP)</td>
<td>Water use (including water withdrawals, dewatering, diversions) can be authorized through a TWUP. These will last for up to 5 years, and allow the use of water during construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Title 9 Community Infrastructure and Conditional Use Permit; NAB Planning Department</td>
<td>Development of lands within the Study Area designated as a Subsistence Conservation District, a conditional use permit would be required from the NAB planning department. Also as the Study Area is not within a zoned NAB resource development or transportation corridor, an evacuation route would need to be zoned as such by the NAB Planning Commission prior to construction.</td>
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</table>

**Local Permits and Authorizations**

**Federal Finding and Approval**

The DOT&PF Statewide Environmental Office (SEO) has determined that the Southern Route with Lagoon Crossing D selected in this decision will have no significant impact on the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on the attached Final EA and Section 4(f) De Minimis Impact Findings (see Section 5 and Appendix K of the Final EA), which the SEO independently evaluated and determined the documents adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. The EA complies with Executive Orders: E.O. 12898, Environmental Justice; E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management; E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands; E.O. 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment; E.O. 13007, Indian Sacred Sites; E.O. 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; and E.O. 13112, Invasive Species, as amended by E.O. 13751.
The EA and concurrence documents provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The DOT&PF SEO takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope and content of the attached Final EA, and the ESA, MMPA, NHPA, and Department of Transportation Act consultations. A full list of required permits and compliance activities is included in Section 4.15 of the EA.

I have carefully and thoroughly considered the facts contained in the attached EA. Based on that information, I have found the proposed Federal action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101(a) of the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable environmental requirements. I also find the proposed Federal action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or include any condition requiring consultation pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA. As a result, DOT&PF Statewide Environmental Office will not prepare an EIS for this action.

1/19/2018
Date
Amy Sumner
Acting Statewide Environmental Program Manager
DOT&PF Statewide Environmental Office
KIVALINA EVACUATION AND SCHOOL SITE ACCESS ROAD  
Project Number: 0002384/NFHWY00162  

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

By the  
State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  

The action complies with:  
E.O. 12898, Environmental Justice;  
E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management;  
E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands;  
E.O. 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment;  
E.O. 13007 Indian Sacred Sites;  
E.O. 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; and  
E.O. 13112, Invasive Species, as amended by E.O. 13751.

11/19/2018  
Date of Approval  
Sarah Schacher  
Regional Preconstruction Engineer  
State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,  
Northern Region

11/19/2018  
Date of Approval  
Amy Sumner  
Acting Statewide Environmental Program Manager  
State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,  
Statewide Environmental Office

The following individual may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:  
Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., Project Manager. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Northern Region, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709

The Proposed Action would construct a safe, reliable, all-season evacuation road between the community of Kivalina and Kisimigiuqtuq Hill. The proposed project would provide Kivalina residents a safe and reliable evacuation route in the event of a catastrophic storm or ocean surge, allowing evacuees to temporarily mobilize to safe refuge at an assembly site on Kisimigiuqtuq Hill.
## PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION QUANTITIES

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

### PAY ITEMS:
- **CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING**: 15%
- **INDIRECT COST ALLOCATION PLAN (ICAP)**: 3.70%

**SUBTOTAL**: 41 Items
- **BASIC BID**: 40,341,278.40
- **CENG**: 6,051,191.76
- **SUBTOTAL**: 46,392,470.16
- **PROJECT TOTAL**: 48,108,991.56