

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Old Nenana/ Ester Hill Rehabilitation

Project Number (state/federal): 60455/0002257

Date: May 22, 2015

CE Designation: 23 CFR 771.117(c)(26)

23 CFR 771.117() ()

List of Attachments:

Appendix A - Figures

Appendix B - Class of Action Consultation

Appendix C - Section 106 Consultation

Appendix D - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Consultation

Appendix E - Section 4(f) Consultation

Appendix F - Agency & Public Scoping Documentation

I. Project Purpose and Need

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to rehabilitate the Old Nenana Highway from the Ester Community Park approach (milepoint [MP] 9.4) to the route beginning at the Parks Highway intersection (MP 0) in Ester, AK.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and reduce maintenance costs on the Old Nenana Highway. The proposed project is located in U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle Fairbanks D3; Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 29, 32, and Tract B, Township 1 South, Range 3 West, Sections 7 and 8, Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Fairbanks Meridian (Figures 1 & 2).

II. Project Description

The proposed project will rehabilitate the Old Nenana Highway from Ester Community Park approach (MP 9.4) to the route beginning at the Parks Highway (MP 0.0) in Ester, AK. Project improvements consist of:

- Repaving, including rebuilding the embankment in failing sections
- Shoulder widening
- Reconstructing and paving approaches
- Replacing/updating guardrail and end terminals
- Tree and brush clearing for the new embankment slopes and where needed to remove sight distance obstructions
- Rehabilitating and reconstructing drainage ditches
- Replacing, repairing, and adding culverts
- Upgrading mailboxes, signing, and striping
- Extending bike path from Ester Community Park approach to Village Road

On April 20, 2015 ADOT&PF Statewide environmental confirmed the project to be: 1) a categorical exclusion under Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 771.117(c)(26) and 2) a state-assignable project per the 6004 Memorandum of Understanding. A copy of the Class of Action statewide concurrence is in Appendix B.

III. Environmental Consequences

- For each yes, summarize the activity evaluated and the magnitude of the impact.
- For any consequence category with an asterisk (*), additional information must be attached such as an alternatives analysis, agency coordination or consultation, avoidance measures, public notices, or mitigation statement.
- Include direct and indirect impacts in each analysis.

A. <u>Right-of-Way Impacts</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Additional right-of-way required.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Permanent easements required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Estimated number of parcels: <u>0</u>			
• Full or partial property acquisition required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Estimated number of full parcels: <u>0</u>			
• Estimated number of partial parcels: <u>0</u>			
• Property transfer from state or federal agency required. <i>If yes, list agency in No. 4 below.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Business or residential relocations required. <i>If yes, summarize the findings of the conceptual stage relocation study in No. 4 below and attach the conceptual stage relocation study.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Number of relocations: <u>0</u>			
• Type of relocation: Residential: <input type="checkbox"/> Business: <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (Indicate number: _____) Business (Indicate number: _____)			
• Last-resort housing required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the project or activity have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations as defined in E.O. 12898 (DOT Order 6640.23, December 1998)?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The project will involve use of ANILCA land that requires an ANILCA Title XI approval. <i>If yes, the project is not assigned to the State per the 6004 MOU and the CE must be processed by FHWA.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. Summarize the right-of-way impacts, if any:

The proposed project limits fall within ADOT&PF owned right-of-way (ROW) and on previously disturbed ground. Permanent ROW acquisition is not anticipated for this project.

B. Social and Cultural Impacts

N/A YES NO

1. The project will affect neighborhoods or community cohesion.

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The project will affect travel patterns and accessibility (e.g. vehicular, commuter, bicycle, or pedestrian).

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The project will affect school boundaries, recreation areas, churches, businesses, police and fire protection, etc.

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The project will affect the elderly, handicapped, nondrivers, transit-dependent, minority and ethnic groups, or the economically disadvantaged.

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There are unresolved project issues or concerns of a federally-recognized Indian Tribe [as defined in [36 CFR 800.16\(m\)](#)]. *If yes, the project is not assigned to the State per the 6004 MOU and the CE must be processed by FHWA.*

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Summarize the social and cultural impacts, if any:

The project is expected to have beneficial long-term impacts by improving roadway conditions as well as providing widened shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists. The proposed project would not permanently affect current traffic patterns, access, or capacity within the area. The project would enhance bicycle and pedestrian access with the addition of shoulders. No adverse impacts to neighborhoods, community cohesion, disadvantaged social groups, businesses, or fire protection are anticipated from the proposed project.

C. Economic Impacts

N/A YES NO

1. The project will have adverse economic impacts on the regional and/or local economy, such as effects on development, tax revenues and public expenditures, employment opportunities, accessibility, and retail sales.

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The project will adversely affect established businesses or business districts.

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Summarize the economic impacts, if any:

Adverse economic impacts are not anticipated as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would improve economic potential by providing safer routes for those using alternative modes of transportation within the Ester area.

D. Land Use and Transportation Plans

N/A YES NO

1. Project is consistent with land use plan(s).

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a. Identify the land use plan(s) and date Fairbanks North Star Borough Regional Comprehensive Plan; September 13, 2005

Project is consistent with transportation plan(s).

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a. Identify the transportation plan(s) and date. Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Road Plan; July 11, 1991

Project would induce adverse indirect and cumulative effects on land use or transportation. *If yes, attach analysis.*

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Summarize how the project is consistent or inconsistent with the land use plan(s) and transportation plan(s):

The project is consistent with both the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Regional

Comprehensive Plan as well as the Comprehensive Road Plan. Proposed improvements are to an existing roadway and will not promote changes to land use. The project proposes to repair the surface of the roadway which shows increasing signs of stress such as ruts, surface cracking, potholing, and failing drainage. The purpose of the project is to improve safety, reduce maintenance costs and extend the service life of the roadway. The goals that are consistent with the proposed project are outlined in the table below.

Plan Name	Plan Goal/Policy/Need	How Proposed Project is Consistent
Fairbanks North Star Borough Regional Comprehensive Plan (September 2005)	Land Use Goal : 3 To have a variety of land uses that fit the diverse need of the community.	Improves the movement of people and goods through the local area; therefore improves the diverse need of the community.
Fairbanks North Star Borough Regional Comprehensive Plan (September 2005)	Transportation & Infrastructure Goal : 1 To have a safe, efficient, multi-modal transportation system that anticipates community growth.	Improves access for local residents and improves safety.
Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Road Plan (July 1991)	Title: Community Impact Policy: Select alignments of transportation improvements to minimize cost and displacement of residences and businesses, improve development potential, and to define neighborhoods.	Will reduce maintenance costs and improve travel within the community.
Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Road Plan (July 1991)	Title : Safety Policy: Traffic analysis and roadway improvements should ensure safe and adequate pedestrian circulation in downtown areas, activity centers, and neighborhoods.	Shoulder widening will increase pedestrian safety and improve vehicular line of site.

E. Impacts to Historic Properties

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
| 1. Does the project involve a road that is included on the “ List of Roads Treated as Eligible ” in the Alaska Historic Roads PA? <i>If yes, follow the Interim Guidance for Addressing Alaska Historic Roads.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does the project qualify as a listed activity that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties? <i>If yes, attach concurrence from the FHWA Area Engineer (non-assigned projects) or Statewide NEPA Manager for 6004-assigned projects.</i> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a. Indicate the appropriate policy directive or memo that identifies the project as an action with no potential to cause effects to historic properties:
<u>The project meets all of the Tier 2 Allowances General Conditions (1-7) as outlined in the Programmatic Agreement Appendix B, September 2014.</u> | | | |
| 3. Is a National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible property in the Area of Potential Effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Date Consultation/Initiation Letters sent <u>N/A</u> <i>Attach copies to this form.</i> | | | |

E. Impacts to Historic Properties

N/A YES NO

a. List consulting parties N/A

b. If no letters were sent, explain why not. *Attach "Section 106 Proceed Directly to Findings Worksheet", if applicable*

Consultation/Initiation Letters were not sent for the following reasons:

- The project involves an existing transportation facility.

- The APE is not within a National Historic Landmark.

- The project is not within or adjacent to a Historic District (FAI-00231 Ester Historic District is 200 meters outside of the APE).

- There are no standing buildings or structures within the APE that are more than 45 years of age.

- The APE has a low probability for in-situ archaeological remains.

- The project has no known tribal concerns or public controversy related to historic preservation.

- The project does not include activities requiring consultation on effects to a TE road.

Authorization that the project qualifies for processing as a Programmatic Allowance by Northern Region DOT&PF PQI is dated April 30, 2015 (Appendix C).

Date "Finding of Effect" Letters sent N/A *Attach copies to this form*

a. State any changes to consulting parties N/A

List responding consulting parties, comment date, and summarize:

N/A

Are there any unresolved issues with consulting parties?

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a. If yes, list N/A

Date SHPO concurred with "Finding of Effect" N/A *Attach copy to this form.*

Will there be an adverse effect on a historic property? *If yes, attach correspondence (including response from ACHP) and signed MOA. If yes, Programmatic Agreements (PCEs) do not apply.*

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Summarize any effects to historic properties. *List affected sites (by AHRS number only) and any commitments or mitigative measures. Include any commitments or mitigative measures in [Section VI](#).*

Impacts to historic properties are not anticipated, as outlined in the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement Streamlined Project Review Screening Record (Appendix C).

F. <u>Wetland Impacts</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Project affects wetlands as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). <i>If yes, document public and agency coordination required per E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands.</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are the wetlands delineated in accordance with the “ Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Alaska Region (Version 2.0) Sept. 2007 ”?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Estimated area of wetland involvement (acres): <u>1,150 square feet/0.03 acre</u>			
4. Estimated fill quantities (cubic yards): <u>340 cubic yards</u>			
5. Estimated dredge quantities (cubic yards): <u>170 cubic yards</u>			
6. Is a USACE authorization anticipated? <i>If yes, identify type:</i> NWP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> General Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Wetlands Finding <i>Attach the following supporting documentation as appropriate:</i>			
• <i>Avoidance and Minimization Checklist, and Mitigation Statement</i>			
• <i>Wetlands Delineation.</i>			
• <i>Jurisdictional Determination.</i>			
• <i>Copies of public and resource agency letters received in response to the request for comments.</i>			
a. Are there practicable alternatives to the proposed construction in wetlands? <i>If yes, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands? <i>If no, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Only practicable alternative: Based on the evaluation of avoidance and minimization alternatives, there are no practicable alternatives that would avoid the project’s impacts on wetlands. The project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the affected wetlands as a result of construction. <i>If no, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Summarize the wetlands impacts and mitigation, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i>			
<p>ABR, Inc. conducted a wetlands delineation and functional assessment in September 2012. Results identified one shrub scrub wetland complex approximately 0.42 acres in size within the study area and Ester Creek, a waters of the U.S. (described in more detail in Section G) (Figure 2). Impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. have been quantified based on preliminary design and will be further refined during the permitting process - closer to final design:</p> <p>- Approximately 0.03 acre of wetlands will be impacted.</p> <p>- Approximately 340 cubic yards of fill will be placed within wetlands.</p> <p>- Approximately 170 cubic yards of material will be dredged.</p>			
G. <u>Water Body Involvement</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Project affects a water body.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project affects a navigable water body as defined by USCG, (i.e. Section 9).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Project affects Waters of the U.S. as defined by the USACE, Section 404.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>

G. Water Body Involvement

Project affects Navigable Waters of the U.S. as defined by the USACE (Section 10)

N/A YES NO

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Project affects fish passage across a stream frequented by salmon or other fish (i.e. [Title 16.05.841](#))

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Project affects a cataloged anadromous fish stream, river or lake (i.e. [Title 16.05.871](#)).

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Project affects a designated Wild and Scenic River or land adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River. *If yes, the Regional Environmental Manager should consult with the Statewide NEPA Manager (assigned CEs) or FHWA Area Engineer and FHWA Environmental Program Manager (non-assigned CEs) to determine applicability of Section 4(f).*

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Proposed water body involvement: Bridge ☐ Culvert ☒ Embankment Fill ☐
Relocation ☐ Diversion ☐ Temporary ☐ Permanent ☐ Other ☐

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Type of stream or river habitat impacted: Spawning ☐ Rearing ☐ Pool ☐
Riffle ☐ Undercut bank ☐ Other ☒

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Amount of fill below (cubic yards): OHW 35 cubic yards MHW 0 HTL 0

11. Summarize the water body impacts and mitigation, if any. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in [Section VI](#).*

Potential receiving water bodies identified within the project area include Emma Creek and Ester Creek. Emma creek connects to the Chena River which flows into the Tanana River via a series of intermediate creeks. Ester Creek, an intermittent stream, connects to Chena River via ground water, wetlands, and intermediate creeks. Due to their downstream connectivity to Chena River both creeks are considered waters of the U.S.

Ester Creek will be directly impacted since the proposed project involves a culvert replacement and approximately 35 cubic yards of fill below OHW. Impacts are expected to be temporary and will improve the overall drainage of the area.

Indirect impacts to water quality during construction activities could occur at both creeks. Impacts due to construction activities are further addressed in Section P.

H. Fish and Wildlife

N/A YES NO

1. Anadromous and resident fish habitat. *Any activity or project that is conducted below the ordinary high water mark of an anadromous stream, river, or lake requires a Fish Habitat Permit.*

a. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: ADF&G, Fish Resource Monitor;
February 13, 2015

b. Anadromous fish habitat present in project area.

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c. Resident fish habitat present in project area

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d. Adverse effect on spawning habitat.

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e. Adverse effect on rearing habitat.

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f. Adverse effect on migration corridors.

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g. Adverse effect on subsistence species.

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Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). *EFH includes any anadromous stream used by any of the five species of Pacific salmon for migration, spawning or rearing, as well as other coastal, nearshore and offshore areas as designated by NMFS.*

- | H. <u>Fish and Wildlife</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: ADF&G, Fish Resource Monitor; February 13, 2015; | | | |
| b. EFH present in project area | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Project proposes construction in EFH. <i>If yes, describe EFH impacts in H.6.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Project may adversely affect EFH. <i>If yes, attach EFH Assessment.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Project includes conservation recommendations proposed by NMFS. <i>If NMFS conservation recommendations are not adopted, formal notification must be made to NMFS. Summarize the final conservation measures in H.6 and list in Section VI.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Wildlife Resources:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Project is in area of high wildlife/vehicle accidents. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Project would bisect migration corridors. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Project would segment habitat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. *If yes to any below, consult with USFWS and attach documentation of consultation.*

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Eagle data source(s) and date(s) : U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Information Planning and Conservation (IPaC) System decision support tool, February 13, 2015 | | |
| b. Project visible from an eagle nesting tree? | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Project within 330 feet of an eagle nesting tree? | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Project within 660 feet of an eagle nesting tree? | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Will the project require blasting or other activities that produce extreme loud noises within 1/2 a mile from an active nest? | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Is an eagle permit required? | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is the project consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act ? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Summarize fish and wildlife impacts and mitigation, including timing windows, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | |

Migratory Birds

Adverse impacts to migratory birds and other species of concern are not anticipated. The USFWS recommends that land disturbing activities (e.g., clearing of vegetation or grubbing of stumps, stockpiling, or placing of fill) occur prior to May 1 or after July 15 to avoid impacts to breeding migratory birds. If this is not possible then other measures to avoid impacts to breeding migratory birds should be initiated.

Bald and Golden Eagles

The USFWS maintains a raptor-nest database which indicates there are eagle nests located more than 5.5 miles from the site. Impacts to these nests are not anticipated. However, should construction be necessary within 330 feet or 660 feet (the primary and secondary zones, respectively) of an active eagle nest, such work would cease and USFWS would be consulted for guidance on how to proceed.

Consultation with USFWS, on both migratory bird regulations, as well as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act can be found in Appendix D.

I. Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)

N/A YES NO

1. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: USFWS IPaC database; February 13, 2015

2. Listed threatened or endangered species present in the project area.

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Threatened or endangered species migrate through the project area.

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Designated critical habitat in the project area.

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Proposed species present in project area.

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Candidate species present in project area.

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What is the effect determination for the project? *Select one.*

a. Project has no effect on listed or proposed T&E species or designated critical habitat.

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b. Project is not likely to adversely affect a listed or proposed T&E species or designated critical habitat. *Informal Section 7 consultation is required. Attach consultation documentation, including concurrence from the Federal agency, to this form.*

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c. Project is likely to adversely affect a listed or proposed T&E species or designated critical habitat. *If yes, consult the FHWA Area Engineer (non-assigned projects) or Statewide NEPA Manager for 6004-assigned projects.*

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3. Summarize the findings of the consultation, conferencing, biological evaluation, or biological assessment and the opinion of the agency with jurisdiction, or state why no coordination was conducted. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in [Section VI](#).*

The USFWS responded to ADOT&PF's Agency Scoping request (on September 11, 2012) stating that the USFWS does not object to this project as proposed (Appendix D). There are no threatened or endangered species in the project area, thus the USFWS does not expect project-related activities to adversely impact listed species. Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation regarding this project is not necessary at this time.

J. Invasive Species

N/A YES NO

1. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC); February 16, 2015.

Does the project include all practicable measures to minimize the introduction or spread of invasive species, making the project consistent with [E.O. 13112](#) (Invasive Species)? *If yes, list measures in J.3.*

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Summarize invasive species impacts and minimization measures, if any. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in [Section VI](#).*

A search of the AKEPIC clearinghouse noted the following invasive species occur in or adjacent to the project area. Invasive species found within the project area include:

- Bird Vetch (*Vicia cracca*)
- Yellow Sweetclover (*Melilotus officinalis*)
- White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

- Quackgrass (*Elymus repens*)
- Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
- Narrowleaf Hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)
- Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*)

The majority of species reported in the project area reproduce by creeping along the ground, the remainder spread by seed. Measures used to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive species, found in ADOT&PF's Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP), include:

- establishing low maintenance plants, such as grasses, during road construction or rehabilitation; or
- using native soils for backfill, where possible, from "weed free" sources during road construction.

K. Hazardous Waste

N/A YES NO

1. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Contaminated Sites Program; February 16, 2015
2. There are potentially contaminated sites within or adjacent to the existing and/or proposed ROW.

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There are identified contaminated sites within or adjacent to the existing and/or proposed ROW.

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Extensive excavation is proposed adjacent to, or within, a known hazardous waste site, or the potential for encountering hazardous waste during construction is high. *If yes, attach the hazardous waste investigation report and approved ADEC Corrective Action Plan.*

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Summarize the hazardous waste impacts and mitigation, if any. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in [Section VI](#).*

A search of the ADEC contaminated sites database indicated there are no known contaminated sites, spills, or leaking underground storage tanks within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

L. Air Quality (Conformity)

N/A YES NO

1. The project is located in an air quality maintenance area or nonattainment area (CO or PM-10 or PM-2.5). *If yes, indicate CO ☐ or PM-10 ☐ or PM-2.5 ☐, and complete the remainder of this section.*

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The project is included in a conforming Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

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- a. List dates of FHWA/FTA conformity determination: _____

The project is exempt from an air quality analysis per [40 CFR 93.126](#) (Table 2 and Exempt Projects). *If no, a project-level air quality conformity determination is required for CO nonattainment and maintenance areas, and a qualitative project-level analysis is required for both PM-2.5 and PM-10 nonattainment and maintenance areas.*

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4. Have there been a significant change in the scope or the design concept as described in the most recent conforming TIP and LRTP? *If yes, describe changes in L.8. In addition, the project must satisfy the conformity rule's requirements for projects not from a plan and TIP, or the plan and TIP must be modified to incorporate the revised project (including a new conformity analysis).*

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- | L. <u>Air Quality (Conformity)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. A CO project-level analysis was completed meeting the requirements of Section 93.123 of the conformity rule. The results satisfy the requirements of Section 93.116(a) for all areas or 93.116(b) for nonattainment areas. <i>Attach a copy of the analysis.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. A PM-2.5 project-level air quality analysis was completed meeting the requirements of Section 93.123 of the conformity rule. The results satisfy the requirements of Section 93.116 . <i>Attach a copy of the analysis.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. A PM-10 project-level air quality analysis was completed meeting the requirements of Section 93.123 of the conformity rule. The results satisfy the requirements of Section 93.116 . <i>Attach a copy of the analysis.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Summarize air quality impacts, mitigation, and agency coordination, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | | |

The City of Fairbanks is both a maintenance area for CO and nonattainment area for PM-2.5. However the project is located outside the boundaries for both and is exempt from an air quality analysis per 40 CFR 93.126.

Air quality would be maintained through the use of BMPs such as watering, sweeping, stabilizing construction entrances/exits, and use of equipment emission control devices.

- | M. <u>Floodplain Impacts (23 CFR 650, Subpart A)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Project encroaches into the base (100 year) flood plain in fresh or marine waters. Identify floodplain map source and date : <u>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Community Panel Number 0250090200F, 02090C4305J, 02090C4310J ; March 17, 2014.</u>

<i>If yes, attach documentation of public involvement conducted per E.O. 11988 and 23 CFR 650.109. Consult with the regional or Statewide Hydraulics/Hydrology expert. Attach the required location hydraulic study developed per 23 CFR 650.111. Answer questions M.1.a through d.</i>

<i>If no, skip to M.2.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| a. Is there a longitudinal encroachment into the 100-year floodplain? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Is there significant encroachment as defined by 23 CFR 650.105(q) ? <i>If yes, the project cannot be approved as proposed without a finding that the proposed action is the "Only Practicable Alternative" as defined in 23 CFR 650.113. Attach the finding for approval.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Project encroaches into a regulatory floodway. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The proposed action would increase the base flood elevation one-foot or greater. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Project conforms to local flood hazard requirements. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Project is consistent with E.O. 11988 (Floodplain Protection). <i>If no, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Summarize floodplain impacts and mitigation, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | | |

The proposed project does not encroach into a FEMA mapped floodplain.

- N. **Noise Impacts (23 CFR 772)** N/A YES NO
1. Does the project involve any of the following? *If yes, complete N.1.a.* ☐ ☒
- If no, a noise analysis is not required. Skip to section O.*
- Construction of highway on a new location.
 - Substantial alteration in vertical or horizontal alignment as defined in [23 CFR 772.5](#).
 - An increase in the number of through lanes.
 - Addition of an auxiliary lane (except a turn lane).
 - Addition or relocation of interchange lanes or ramps added to a quadrant to complete an existing partial interchange.
 - Restriping existing pavement for the purpose of adding a through-traffic lane or an auxiliary lane.
 - Addition of a new or substantial alteration of a weigh station, rest stop, ride-share lot or toll plaza.
- a. Identify below which category of land uses are adjacent: *A noise analysis is required if any lands in Categories A through E are identified, and the response to N.1 is 'yes'.*
- Category A: Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose. ☒ ☐ ☐
- Category B: Residential. *This includes undeveloped lands permitted for this category.* ☒ ☐ ☐
- Category C (exterior): Active sport areas, amphitheaters, auditoriums, campgrounds, cemeteries, daycare centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, parks, picnic areas, places of worship, playgrounds, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, recreation areas, Section 4(f) sites, schools, television studios, trails, and trail crossings. *This includes undeveloped lands permitted for this category.* ☒ ☐ ☐
- Category D (interior): Auditoriums, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, schools, and television studios. ☒ ☐ ☐
- Category E: Hotels, motels, offices, restaurants/bars, and other developed lands, properties or activities not listed above. *This includes undeveloped lands permitted for this category.* ☒ ☐ ☐
2. Does the noise analysis identify a noise impact? *If yes, explain in N.3* ☐ ☒
3. Summarize the findings of the attached noise analysis and noise abatement worksheet, if applicable:

The proposed project does not require a noise analysis in accordance with 23 CFR 772. The proposed project meets the criteria listed in under 23 CFR 772.5 as a Type III project and is exempt.

O. <u>Water Quality Impacts</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Project would involve a public or private drinking water source. <i>If yes, explain in O.7</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Project would result in a discharge of storm water to a Water of the U.S. (per 40 CFR 230.3(s))		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Project would discharge storm water into or affect an ADEC designated Impaired Waterbody. <i>If any of the Impaired Waterbodies have an approved or established Total Maximum Daily Load, describe project impacts in O.7</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. List name(s), location(s), and pollutant(s) causing impairment: <u>N/A</u>			
4. Estimate the acreage of ground-disturbing activities that will result from the project? <u>121</u> acres			
5. Is there a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) APDES permit, or will runoff be mixed with discharges from an APDES permitted industrial facility?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a. If yes, list APDES permit number and type: <u>N/A</u>			
6. Would the project discharge storm water to a water body within a national park or state park; a national or state wildlife refuge? <i>If yes and Alaska Construction General Permit applies to the project, consultation with ADEC is required at least 30 days prior to planned start of construction activities.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Summarize the water quality impacts and mitigation, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i>			

There are no permanent water quality impacts associated with this project.

P. <u>Construction Impacts</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. There will be temporary degradation of water quality.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There will be a temporary stream diversion.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. There will be temporary degradation of air quality.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. There will be temporary delays and detours of traffic.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. There will be temporary impacts on businesses.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. There will be temporary noise impacts.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. There will be other construction impacts.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Summarize construction impacts and mitigation for each 'yes' above. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i>			

Water Quality

The proposed project may cause temporary deterioration of water quality due to ground disturbing activities and sedimentation of storm water runoff. An Erosion and Sediment Plan (ESCP) and SWPPP would be prepared for the proposed project. Both would include BMPs to be used during construction to stabilize slopes and prevent sedimentation and would comply with the APDES CGP required for this project.

Air Quality

The operation of construction equipment may lead to a temporary decrease in air quality because of increased airborne dust and emission-related particulate matter.

However, changes in air quality are expected to be temporary and minor and would be abated through watering disturbed surface areas and ensuring that construction equipment receives regular maintenance.

Traffic and Business Impacts

Temporary traffic impacts may include delays or detours. These impacts will be mitigated by providing advance notice to the public and creation of a traffic control plan.

Temporary business impacts may include changes to access and delays. Calypso Farm and Ecology Center is located in Ester and is accessed off the Old Nenana Highway. There is a school bus pullout located off the highway, adjacent to the driveway accessing the center. Roadway widening may cause slight modification or relocation of the existing school bus pullout.

Access to Ester Park, a Section 4(f) resource, will be maintained during construction as required by Section 643 of the ADOT&PF Standard Specifications for Highway Construction.

Noise Impacts

Temporary noise impacts to residences may result from the operation of heavy equipment, the presence of construction crews, and other associated construction activities. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in any permanent noise impacts. Noise from construction equipment can be minimized by maintaining noise control devices.

Q.	<u>Section 4(f)/6(f)</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1.	Section 4(f) (23 CFR 774)			
a.	Does a Section 4(f) resource exist within the project area; or is the project adjacent to a Section 4(f) resource? <i>If yes, attach consultation with the Statewide NEPA Manager (assigned CEs) or FHWA Environmental Program Manager (non-assigned CEs) to determine applicability of Section 4(f)</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	Does an exception listed in 23 CFR 774.13 apply to this project? <i>If yes, attach consultation with the Statewide NEPA Manager (assigned CEs) or FHWA Environmental Program Manager (non-assigned CEs), and documentation from the official with jurisdiction, if required.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Does the project result in the “use” of a Section 4(f) property? “Use” includes a permanent incorporation of land, adverse temporary occupancy, or constructive use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Has a <i>de minimis</i> impact finding been prepared for the project? <i>If yes, attach the finding.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e.	Has a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation been prepared for the project? <i>If yes, attach the evaluation.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- Q. Section 4(f)/6(f)** N/A YES NO
- f. Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation? *If yes, the project is not assigned to the State per the 6004 MOU and the CE must be processed by FHWA. Attach the evaluation.* ☐ ☐ ☒

2. Section 6(f) ([36 CFR 59](#))

- a. Were funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) used for improvement to a property that will be affected by this project? ☐ ☐ ☒
- b. Is the use of the property receiving LWCFA funds a “conversion of use” per Section 6(f) of the LWCFA? *Attach the correspondence received from the ADNR 6(f) Grants Administrator.* ☐ ☐ ☒

3. Summarize Section 4(f)/6(f) involvement, if any:

On June 20, 2013, the ADOT&PF's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) manager concurred that the proposed project will not impact Ester Park, a Section 4(f) resource (Appendix E). Ester Park exists at the beginning of the project near MP 9.4. The project does not propose to acquire or use property associated with the Park. Rehabilitation pertains to the roadway and neighboring embankments and ends just short of the park's entrance. Adverse impacts to the park or its access are not anticipated.

IV. Permits and Authorizations

N/A YES NO

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. USACE, Section 404/10 <i>Includes Abbreviated Permit Process, Nationwide Permit, and General Permit</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Coast Guard, Section 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit (Title 16.05.871 and Title 16.05.841) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Flood Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. ADEC Non-domestic Wastewater Plan Approval | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. ADEC 401 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. ADEC APDES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Eagle Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Other. <i>If yes, list below.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

V. Comments and Coordination

N/A YES NO

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Public/agency involvement for project. <i>Required if protected resources are involved.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Public Meetings. Date(s): <u>March 18, 2015</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Newspaper ads. <i>Attach certified affidavit of publication as an appendix.</i>
Name of newspaper and date: <u>Fairbanks Daily News-Miner March 8, 15, 17, and 18, 2015</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Agency scoping letters. Date sent: <u>August 27, 2012</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Agency scoping meeting. Date of meeting: <u>N/A</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Field review. Date: <u>N/A</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

7. Summarize comments and coordination efforts for this project. Discuss pertinent issues raised. *Attach correspondence that demonstrates coordination and that there are no unresolved issues.*

Agency Scoping

A request for early coordination and comments from agencies was distributed via email on August 27, 2012, with written comments requested by October 5, 2012. The USFWS was the only agency to provide feedback. Although the USFWS did not have any objections to the proposed project they did recommended consideration be given to migratory birds, eagles, and invasive species (Appendix F).

Public Scoping

A variety of public outreach documents have been drafted to aid in the public scoping process. These documents include a project specific website (<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/old-nenana-rehab/>), interactive map, fact sheet, and comment sheet.

A public open house was held on March 18, 2015, with 42 participants signing in. The majority of comments received included the need for improved pedestrian and cycling safety along the highway, safe access to Ester Community Park, drainage issues, driveway approaches and access to the highway, and concerns about ROW clearing (both for and against). Copies of all public comments are located in Appendix F.

VI. Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures

List all environmental commitments and mitigation measures included in the project.

Standard environment commitments and mitigation measures are outlined within each section above. Additionally, there are no environmental commitments or mitigation measures that are unique to this project.

VII. Environmental Documentation Approval

N/A YES NO

1. Do any unusual circumstances exist, as described in [23 C.F.R. 771.117 \(b\)](#)? *If yes, the CE Documentation form cannot be approved.* ☐ ☒
2. Does this 6004 Program approval statement apply?
“The State has determined that this project has no significant impact(s) on the environment and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in [23 CFR 771.117\(b\)](#). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out, the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated September 20, 2012, executed between the FHWA and the State.” *If no, the CE must be approved by FHWA.* ☒ ☐

VII. Environmental Documentation Approval

N/A YES NO

3. **For 6004 projects:** The project meets the criteria of the [DOT&PF Programmatic Approval 2](#) authorized in the November 6, 2012 "[CE Directive – Delegation of Approval Authority for Certain CEs under 6004 MOU](#)". If yes, the CE may be approved by the Regional Environmental. If no, the CE may be approved by a Statewide NEPA Manager.
4. **For non-assigned projects:** The project meets the criteria of the April 13, 2012 "Programmatic Categorical Exclusion for Use on Federal-Aid Highway Projects in Alaska" between FHWA and DOT&PF. If yes, the CE may be approved by the Regional Environmental Manager. If no, the CE may be approved by FHWA Area Engineer.

☐ ☒ ☐

☒ ☐ ☐

VIII. Environmental Documentation Approval Signatures

Prepared by: Kevin J. Martin
[Sign] Environmental Impact Analyst

Date: 6/2/15

Kevin J. Martin
[Print Name] Environmental Impact Analyst

Reviewed by: Lauren Little
[Sign] Engineering Manager

Date: 6/2/2015

Lauren Little
[Print Name] Engineering Manager

Approved by: Brett Nelson
[Sign] Regional Environmental Manager

Date: 6-2-15

Brett Nelson
[Print Name] Regional Environmental Manager

Assigned CE

Approved by: _____
[Sign] DOT&PF Statewide NEPA Manager

Date: _____

[Print Name] DOT&PF Statewide NEPA Manager

Non-Assigned CE

Approved by: _____
[Sign] FHWA Area Engineer

Date: _____

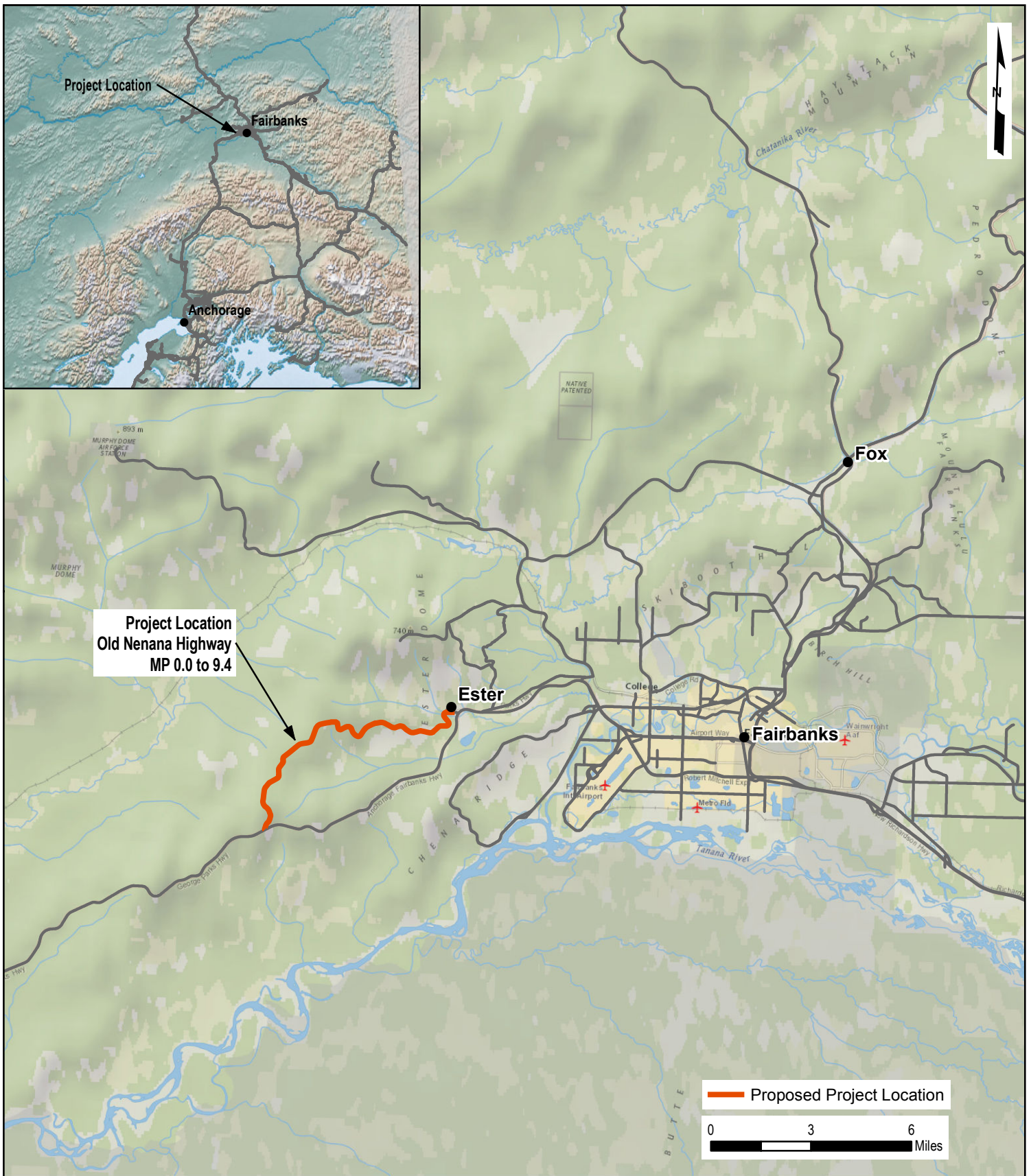
[Print Name] FHWA Area Engineer

APPENDIX A

Figures

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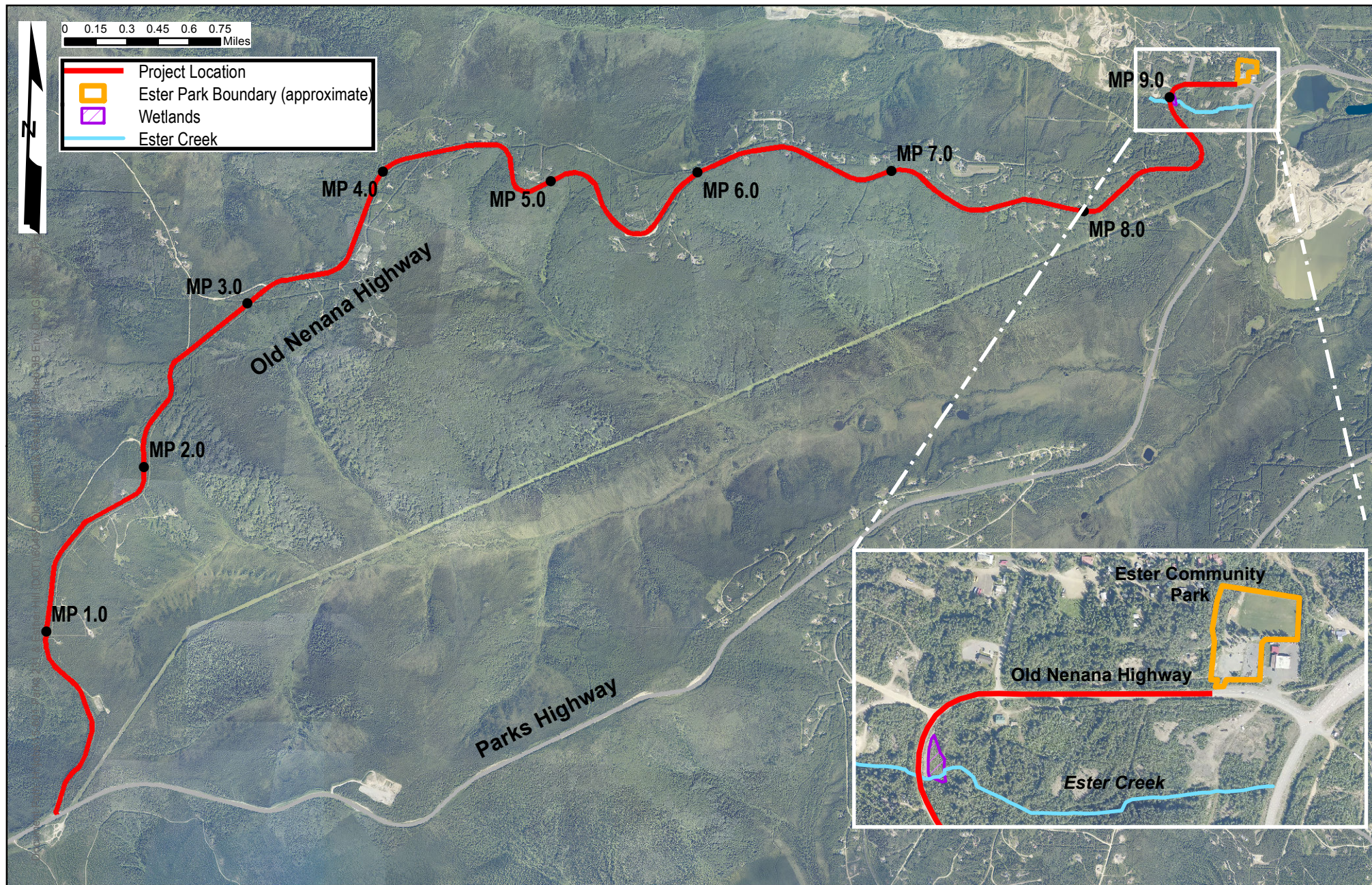
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Figure 2 - Proposed Project	A-2



Sections 9,10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20,
29, 32, and Tract B, T. 1S, R 3W,
Sections 7 and 8, T 1S, R 2W,
Fairbanks Meridian
USGS Quadrangle Fairbanks D3

Old Nenana/Ester Hill Rehabilitation
Project No.: 60455/0002257
Alaska Department of Transportation
& Public Facilities

Figure 1
Location and Vicinity Map
A-1



Sections 9,10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 29, 32, and
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USGS Quadrangle Fairbanks D3

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& Public Facilities

Figure 2
Proposed Project