



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

SOUTHCOST REGION
PRECONSTRUCTION
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES

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November 21, 2018

KTN: S. Tongass - Herring Cove Bridge Improvements
State project number SFHWY00072
Federal project number 0902043

Dear Agency Representative:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has assumed the responsibilities of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 U.S.C. 327, and proposes a project to replace the Herring Cove Bridge on South Tongass Hwy. in Ketchikan.

The proposed project, located in Section 36 of Township (T) 75 S, Range (R) 31 E, USGS Quadrangle Ketchikan B-5, Copper River Meridian, would require minor acquisition of Right of Way (ROW) and temporary construction easements. Please see attached sheets 1-3.

Purpose & Need

The existing bridge is 66 years old and is nearing the end of its serviceable life. Also, the existing bridge has 2' parapet curbs on each side without pedestrian accommodations. High numbers of pedestrians visit the area during the summer for recreation and wildlife viewing which places pedestrians on the roadway. This project would install American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pathways outside of the east and west guardrail of the bridge.

Wood Road intersects the South Tongass Hwy at a 40-degree angle. Longer vehicles exiting Wood Road to the north have to perform 5 point turns and repeatedly stop traffic on South Tongass Hwy while maneuvering. The existing roadway was last resurfaced in 2005.

The purpose of this project is to:

- replace the Herring Cove Bridge with a structure that includes pedestrian walkways on both sides of the bridge.
- construct ADA pedestrian improvements

"Keep Alaska Moving through service & infrastructure"

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.

Re: Ketchikan: S. Tongass, Herring Cove Bridge Improvements
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- realign the Wood Road intersection
- rehabilitate South Tongass Hwy. near the Wood Road and Powerhouse Road intersections, including guardrail, striping, signing, and drainage improvements

Project Description

Project work includes the following improvements:

- Replace the existing bridge which would require a temporary structure during construction
- Install ADA accessible pathways on the outside of the guardrail
- Improve intersection configurations
- Replace guardrails
- Improve drainage
- Provide new asphalt surfacing, new guardrail along South Tongass Hwy, and associated drainage and guardrail improvement
- Relocate the overhead electrical and communication utilities along South Tongass Hwy into underground conduit across the existing bridge in order for the new bridge to be constructed

Identified Resources

The proposed project crosses Herring Cove Creek which would involve placing fill in the intertidal zone. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) fish permits would be required, as would an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment and consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Fill placed in Waters of the US would require authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). There may be Bald Eagle nests within 660 ft. of the project area. If so, an eagle disturbance permit would be acquired.

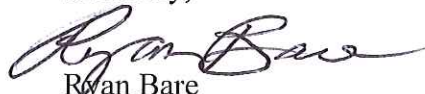
DOT&PF archaeological field reconnaissance of the project shows low potential to adversely impact historic properties. DOT&PF would consult in accord with the Section 106 process.

Agency Comment Request

We request your comments about the proposed action, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction. Your comments are important and would be included in the project's environmental document. We would appreciate your response by **December 21, 2018**.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for comments. If you need any further information, please contact me by phone at 465-3705 or e-mail at ryan.bare@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Ryan Bare

Project Environmental Coordinator, DOT&PF

Enclosures:

- Sheet 1 of 3 Location and Vicinity maps
- Sheet 2 of 3 Project Area Map
- Sheet 3 of 3 Bridge Footprint Detail

Re: Ketchikan: S. Tongass, Herring Cove Bridge Improvements
Request for Comments

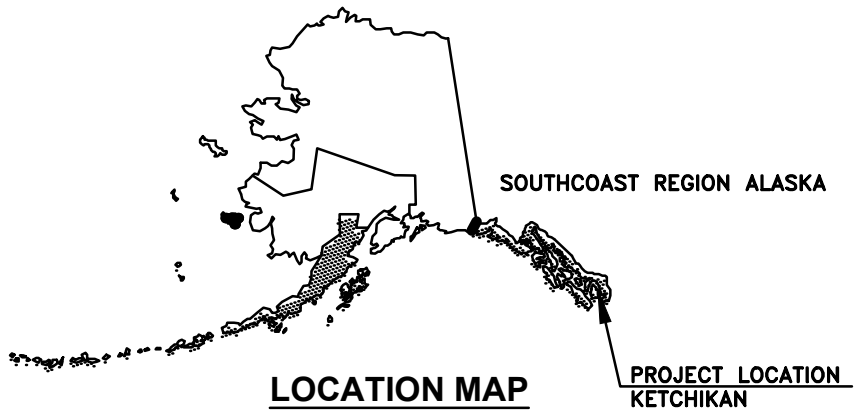
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Distribution List via email:

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Mark Adams, Ketchikan Public Utility, Electric

Cc:

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Chris Goins, P.E., DOT&PF, Southcoast Design Group Chief
John Barnett, DOT&PF, Southcoast Region Environmental Manager
Jill Taylor, DOT&PF, NEPA Program Manager, Statewide Environmental Office



LOCATION & VICINITY MAPS

APPLICATION BY:

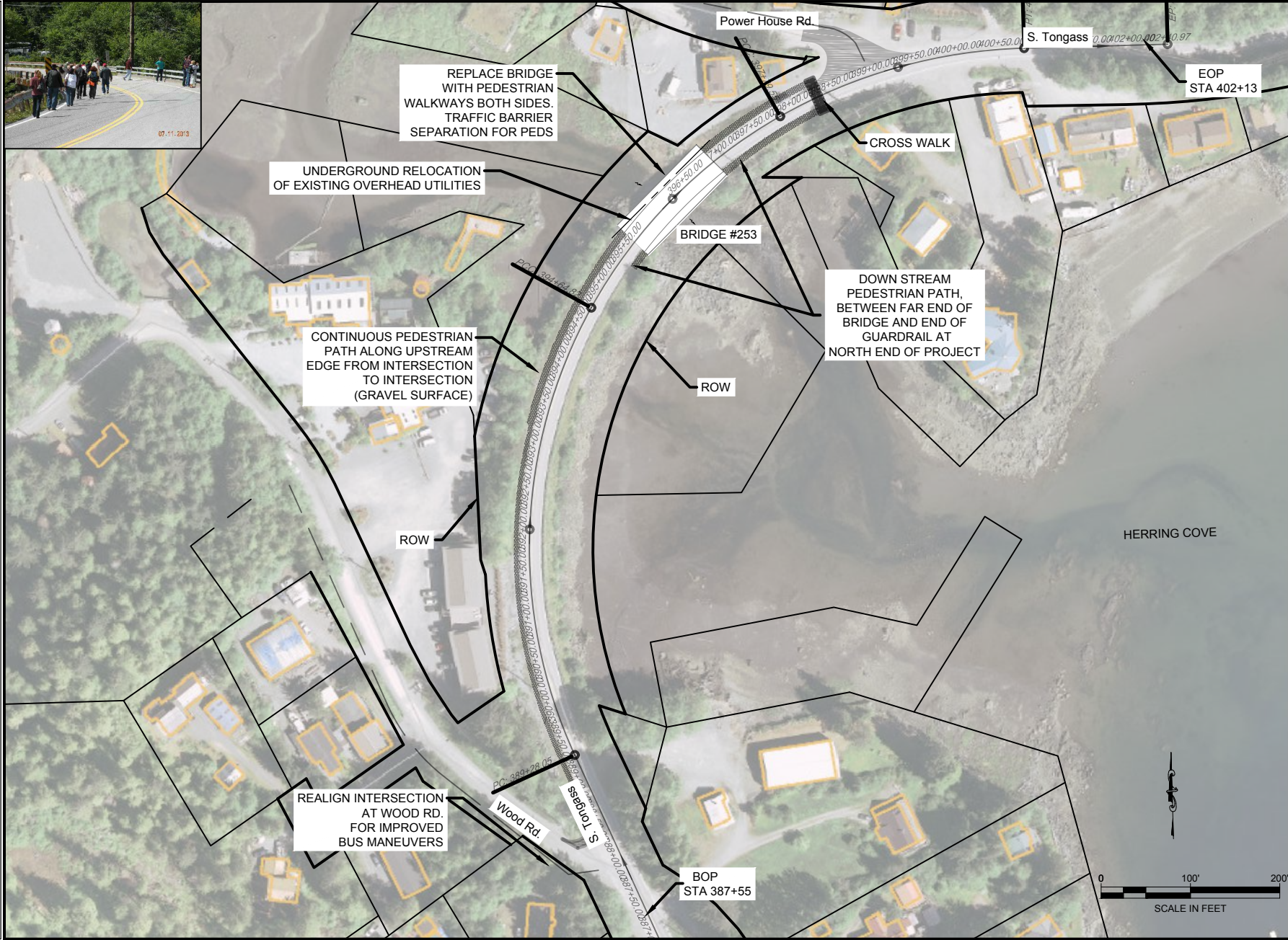
*ALASKA STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES DIVISION
SOUTHEAST REGION*

KETCHIKAN
HERRING COVE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS
AT: KETCHIKAN ALASKA

DATE: 6/19/18

SHEET 1 OF 3

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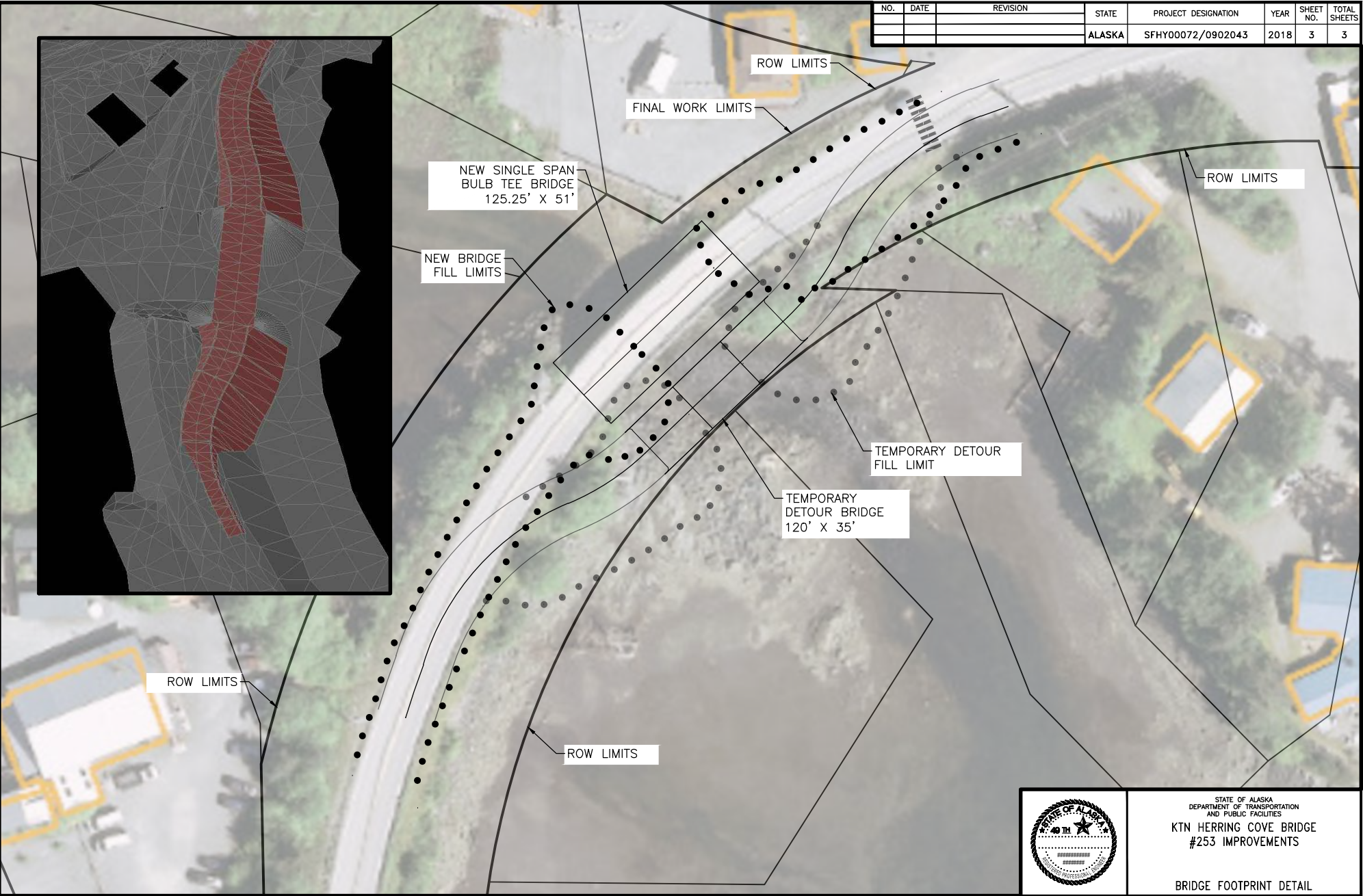
STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
6880 GLACIER HWY, JUNEAU, AK 99811
907-465-1723

**KTN HERRING COVE
BRIDGE #253
IMPROVEMENTS**

AREA MAP
AREA

| NO. | DATE | REVISION | STATE | PROJECT DESIGNATION | YEAR | SHEET NO. | TOTAL SHEETS |
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STATE OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
**KTN HERRING COVE BRIDGE
 #253 IMPROVEMENTS**
 BRIDGE FOOTPRINT DETAIL