



**AGENCY SCOPING
REQUEST FOR EARLY COORDINATION**

Project Name: Nenana-Totchaket Road
Project Number: NSHWY00657
Project Website: Anticipated January 2022
Comments Due Date: January 20, 2022
Anticipated Level of Documentation: State-Funded Project Environmental Checklist

Dear Agency Staff:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to construct the Nenana-Totchaket Road from the Nenana River to the Kantishna River. Project will include improving approximately 12 miles of existing road and constructing 20 miles of new road. The proposed Nenana-Totchaket Road Project is entirely State funded.

Please comment on the Project, including your knowledge of resources in the project vicinity under the jurisdiction of your agency or organization, and the potential need for permits and approvals from your agency or organization. To ensure your comments are addressed in the Project's design and environmental documentation, please refer to the Project by the above name and number, and e-mail your comments to:

Brett Nelson/ Northern Region Environmental Manager
Attn: Bill Sexton/ Environmental Impact Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Email: william.sexton@alaska.gov Phone: 907-451-2605

Brett D Nelson

12/23/2021

Brett Nelson/Regional Environmental Manager

Date

Figures 1-5: Project location, vicinity, and proposed alignment figures attached.

I. Purpose and Need of Project:

Construct the Nenana-Totchaket Road from the Nenana River to the Kantishna River. Project will include improving approximately 12 miles of existing road and constructing 20 miles of new road. The Project will provide access for future agricultural development as well as increased access for hunting and fishing in the area.

II. Project Description and Location:

Rehabilitation:

The existing approximately 12 mile roadway will undergo minor re-leveling in areas that have experienced settling, flattening of embankment side slopes, installation of new surface course, clearing of vegetation at slope toes, minor repair of three bridge crossings, and some drainage improvements including culvert replacement and ditch work. Existing turnouts will also be improved, and new turnouts may be constructed as needed to support hauling materials during construction. No realignment of the existing roadway is anticipated.

Extension:

Approximately 20 miles of new road will be constructed to extend the existing Totchaket Road, extending westerly to end at the Kantishna River. The first 16 miles of new road extension will be built within the City of Nenana's existing 500' wide R/W easement, and new R/W would be required for the remainder. For the westernmost section of the proposed extension, there are two Proposed Alternatives:

Alternative 1: In this option the road will maintain the bearing of the preceding road extension alignment, extending westerly an additional 4.5 miles to the East bank of the Kantishna River.

Alternative 2: In this option the road will alter course, taking on a northwesterly bearing. The road would then extend approximately 3 miles over higher ground to terminate at a point further North near the Kantishna River.

Both Alternatives would be constructed entirely above the ordinary high-water limits of the river.

Material Sources:

Material to construct the road are anticipated to be extracted from a combination of; new site development within the floodplains of the Kantishna River near the western end of the new road, utilization of material extracted within upland areas along the R/W alignment, as well as contractor furnished from existing commercially available sources. Due to lack of information for the area, general material extraction zones have been identified for study, as shown in yellow in Figures 2-5. As more detailed data becomes available, the proposed material extraction zones will be refined. Any extraction of materials from the Kantishna River floodplain would occur above ordinary high water and outside of a 1000' buffer from the main channel. Material sources are further described in Section O below.

III. Agency Review (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE RESOURCE OR REGULATORY AGENCY):

1. Responding Agency:
2. Is the information provided herein consistent with agency knowledge?
3. Does this scoping request adequately identify resources and permit needs under your agency's jurisdiction?
4. Will the project result in only minor affects that can be addressed through the use of appropriate BMPs or mitigation measures, as needed?

Please provide any additional project-related comments, recommendations, or resource information below:

IV. Anticipated Environmental Consequences

A. Right-of-Way (R/W)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Additional ROW required. | Yes |
| 2. Estimated number of parcels impacted. | 36 |
| 3. Property transfer from local, state, or federal agency. | Yes |
| 4. Business or residential relocations. | No |
| 5. Property acquisition from Tribe or ANCSA Corporation. | No |
| 6. Describe: The project will take place within the existing 500' wide R/W easement owned by the City of Nenana, except Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 will require a new R/W easement be established from DNR. | |

B. Socio-Economic

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Project could affect community cohesion, neighborhoods, or other community facilities. | No |
| 2. Project could affect economic development, such as established area businesses. | Yes |
| 3. Project could affect travel patterns and accessibility. | Yes |
| 4. Project could disproportionately affect minorities or disadvantaged persons. | No |
| 5. Project will result in adverse economic impacts. | No |
| 6. Describe: This Project has the potential to improve and expand economic activity and development in the area by providing improved access to natural resources and subsistence. | |

C. Land Use and Transportation Plans

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Project is consistent with land use plans. | Yes |
| 2. Project is consistent with transportation plans. | N/A |
| 3. Describe: Project has purpose of creating access to new agricultural development area. No known transportation plan is currently in place for this new road. | |

D. Historic Properties

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. National Register listed eligible/potentially eligible historic properties in project area. | No |
| 2. Places of traditional religious or cultural importance to Tribes are present in the project area. | Unknown |
| 3. Historic Properties survey may be required to identify if sites are present. | Anticipated |
| 4. Possible adverse effect on historic properties. | Unknown |
| 5. Describe: Cultural resource survey anticipated for project. | |

E. Fish and Wildlife Impacts

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Project could affect anadromous or resident fish species. | Yes |
| 2. Problem fish pass culverts within the project area. | No |
| 3. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) present in the project area. | No |
| 4. Project in area of high wildlife/vehicle accidents. | No |
| 5. Project could affect migration corridors or segment habitat. | No |
| 6. Eagle nesting tree(s) or ledge(s) in the project area. | Unknown |
| 7. Construction activities could affect migratory bird nests. | Potentially |
| 8. Describe: The area of the proposed road extension runs through part of the extent of the 2009 Minto Flats South Fire. Preliminary information suggests the area is predominately open black spruce forest. | |

F. Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Listed T&E species in project area. | No |
| 2. Proposed or Candidate species in project area. | No |
| 3. Designated Critical Habitat in the project area. | No |
| 4. Describe: No known threatened or endangered species are present in project area. | |

G. Wetlands and Waterbodies

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Project involves Waters of the U.S. and/or wetlands. | Yes |
| 2. Wetlands survey/delineation may be needed. | Yes |
| 3. USACE authorization anticipated. | Yes |
| 4. Rough estimate on wetland acreage impacted. | Unknown |
| 5. U.S. Coast Guard bridge permit anticipated. | No |
| 6. Designated Wild & Scenic River in project area. | No |
| 7. Describe: NWI data for the area shows the existence of small, discontinuous pockets of wetlands within low elevated areas and adjacent to drainages. Wetland field investigations are anticipated in Spring 2022 to further delineate wetlands and determine the overall scope of affected wetland areas. | |

H. Invasive Species

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Known invasive species infestation in project area. | Unknown |
| 2. Describe: There are no known invasive species inhabiting this region. | |

I. Hazardous Waste/Contaminated Sites

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Known or potentially contaminated sites along project corridor. | No |
| 2. Existing and/or proposed ROW is contaminated. | No |
| 3. Potential for encountering contaminated material during construction. | Yes |
| 4. Describe: While there are no contaminated sites along the project corridor, there are sites located near a potential contractor furnished material site in the Nenana River. | |

J. Air Quality

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Project is located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area (i.e. – CO or PM-2.5). | No |
| 2. Describe: This project is not located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area. | |

K. Floodplains

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Project encroaches (including material sites) into a 100-year floodplain. | Yes |
| 2. Project involves a regulatory floodway. | No |
| 3. Project is located within an area protected by local flood hazard ordinances. | No |
| 4. Flood hazard permit is required from local government. | No |
| 5. Describe: Floodplain extents for the Kantishna River are not well understood. Material extraction may occur within the 100- year floodplain. | |

L. Noise

1. The project is located on new location, would result in substantial changes in vertical or horizontal alignment, or would increase the number of through lanes (Type I project)? No
2. There are noise-sensitive receivers/land uses adjacent to the proposed project? No
3. Describe: This project is primarily an extension of an existing road, providing improved access West of Nenana without scaling the existing access beyond its current level. There are no known noise-sensitive receptors or land uses adjacent to the project.

M. Water Quality

1. Project could involve a public or private drinking source. Yes
2. Project could result in a discharge of storm water to Waters of the U.S. Yes
3. Project could affect a designated impaired water body. No
4. Storm water discharges to a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). No
5. Runoff may mix with discharges from an APDES permitted industrial (MSGP) facility. No
6. Excavation dewatering is anticipated within 1,500 feet of a contaminated site. No
7. Describe: The potential contractor furnished source of material on the Nenana River is the only known potential affecter of local drinking water sources. This source is commercially available and actively mined by the City of Nenana and its operators.

N. Section 6(f)

1. Section 6(f) properties affected by the proposed action. No
2. Describe: The Minto Flats Game Refuge, while none of its land would be used, is located several miles North of the proposed project area.

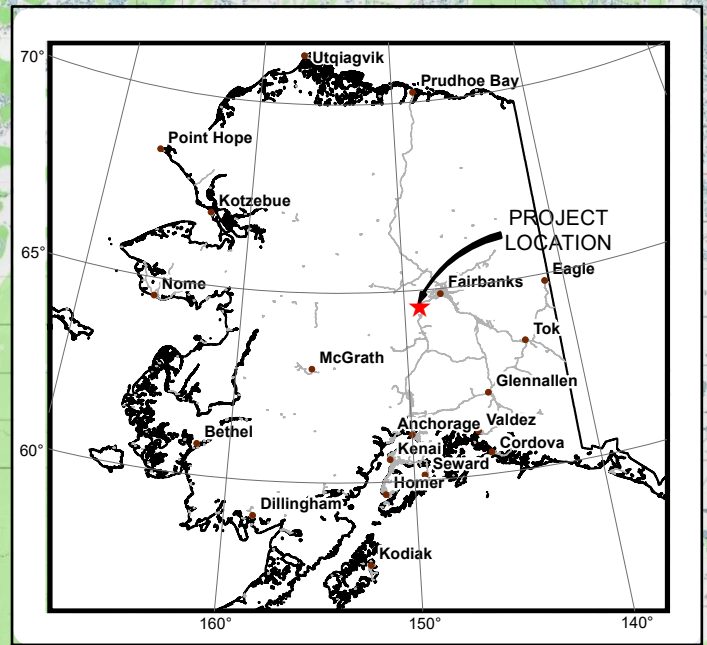
O. Material Source(s) and Staging Areas

1. Potential sites needed for project have been identified. Yes
2. Describe: **Existing Sources:** Along the East bank of the Nenana River there is a commercially available source of alluvial soils, extracted from un-vegetated gravel bars which are self-replenishing. This site is owned and operated by the City of Nenana. **Proposed Sources:** Alluvial material is also widespread along the floodplains of the Kantishna River. Large material extraction zones were identified as potential sites for material sourcing. As more information is gathered, these zones will be refined. Extraction within these zones would occur within smaller 1-10 acre cells, not to exceed a total area of ground disturbance of 20 acres. Extraction anticipated to occur outside a 1000' buffer of the Kantishna at elevations above the river's ordinary high water level (Fig.2-5). Large material extraction zones have also been identified along the proposed road extension, within the existing 500' R/W. Similar to how the existing portion of the Totchaket Road was constructed, the majority of the proposed road extension will use in-situ material, primarily sand located in higher elevation upland areas. Areas in which suitable materials may be found are shown in Fig.2-5, these were determined using aerial imagery and elevation data. The current "material extraction zones" do not represent the actual proposed area of extraction. Actual areas will be determined within these zones and extraction will occur within 1-10 acre cells contained within. Total ground disturbance from material extraction within the R/W is not expected to exceed 50 acres.

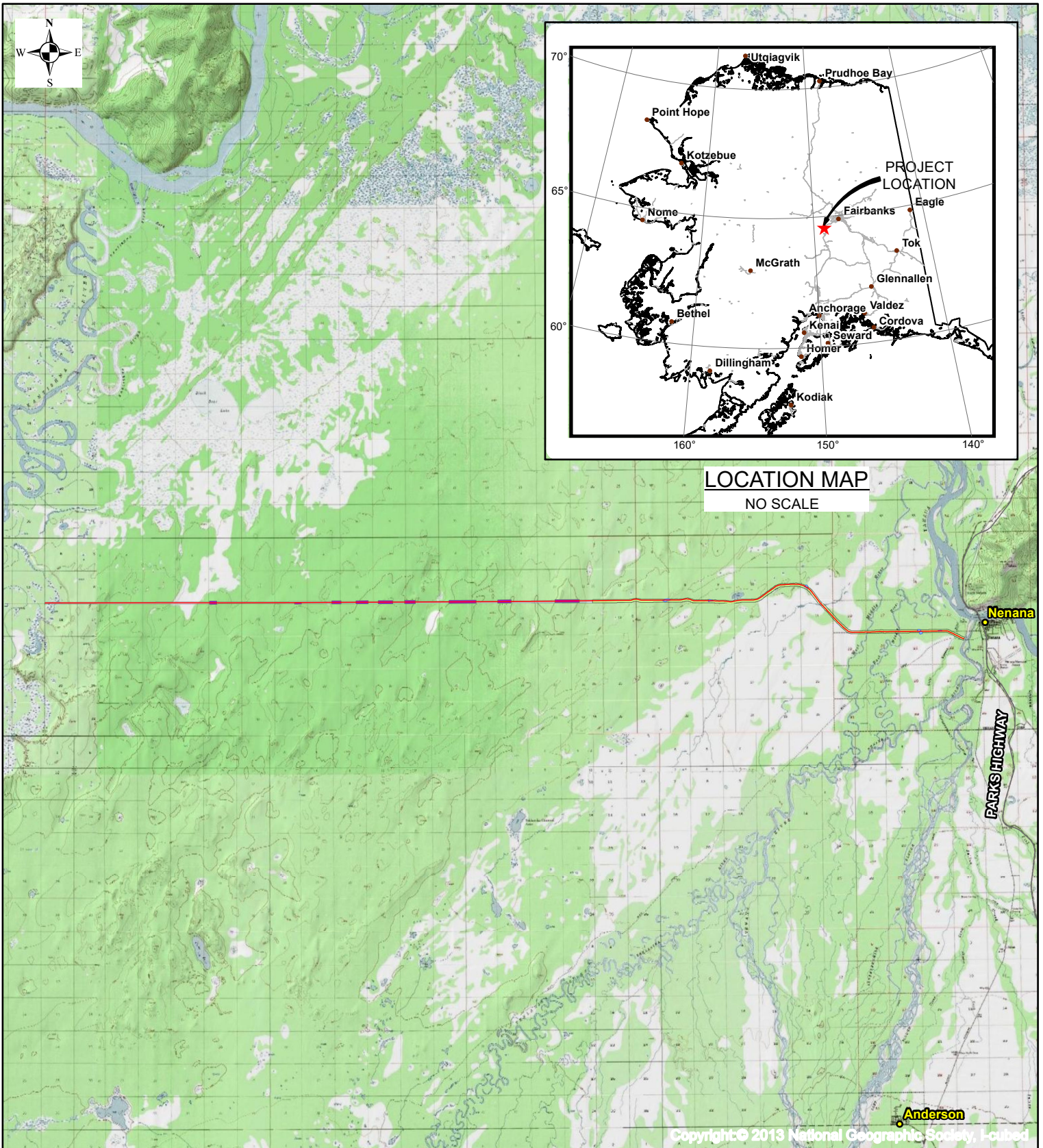
P. Permits and Authorizations

1. USACE, NWP or IP: Yes
2. USCG, Bridge Permit: No
3. ADF&G, Fish Habitat Permit: Yes

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 4. Material Site(s) Sales Agreements/Permits: | Yes |
| 5. Floodplain Permit: | No |
| 6. ADEC, 401 Cert.: | Yes |
| 7. ADEC, Storm Non-domestic Storm Water Disposal Plan Approval: | No |
| 8. APDES, CGP: | Yes |
| 9. ADNR, Land Use Permit: | Yes |
| 10. Borough/City, Development Permit: | Unknown |
| 11. ADEC, Excavation Dewatering Permit: | No |
| 12. ADNR, Temp. Water Use Permit: | Yes |
| 13. ADF&G, Special Area Permit: | No |
| 14. Other(s): | Unknown |



LOCATION MAP
NO SCALE

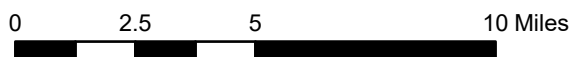


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<u>Township and Range</u>	<u>Sections</u>
T4SR12W	7-13
T4SR11W	7-17
T4SR10W	7-12, 14-18
T4SR9W	7-13, 15-18
T4SR8W	15-22
Fairbanks Meridian	

VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE



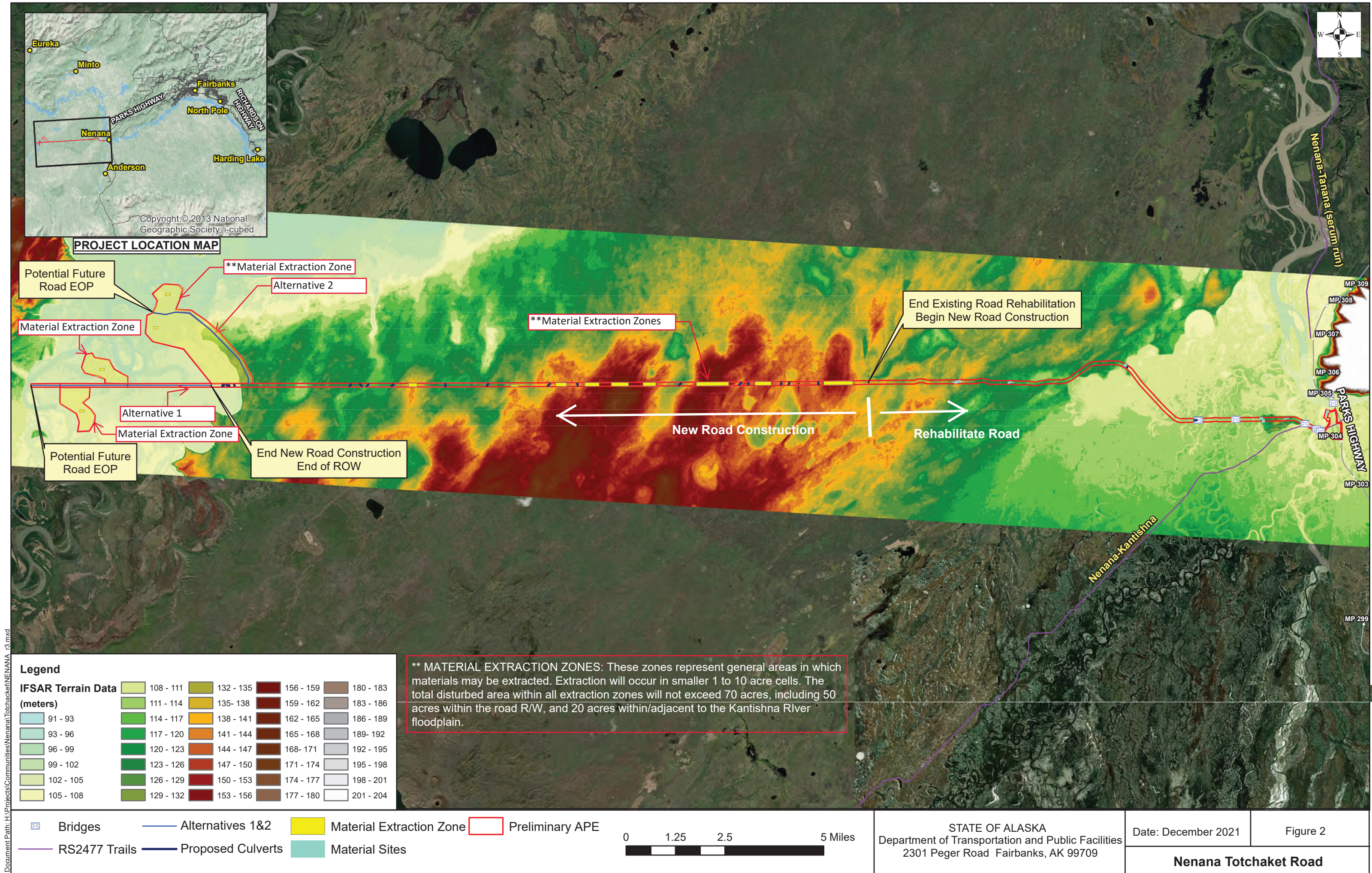
STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

NENANA-TOTCHAKET ROAD
NFWY00657
NENANA, ALASKA

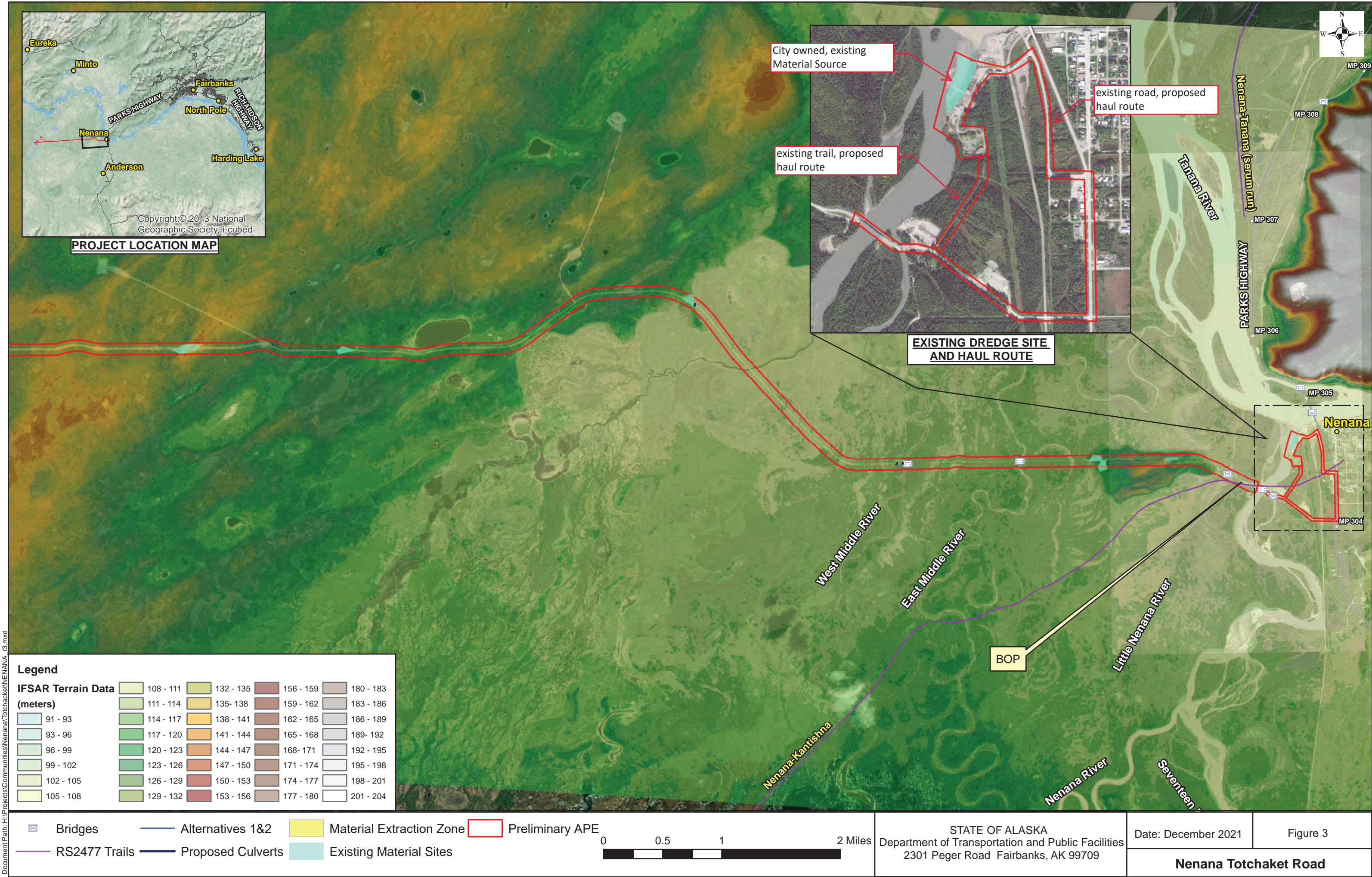
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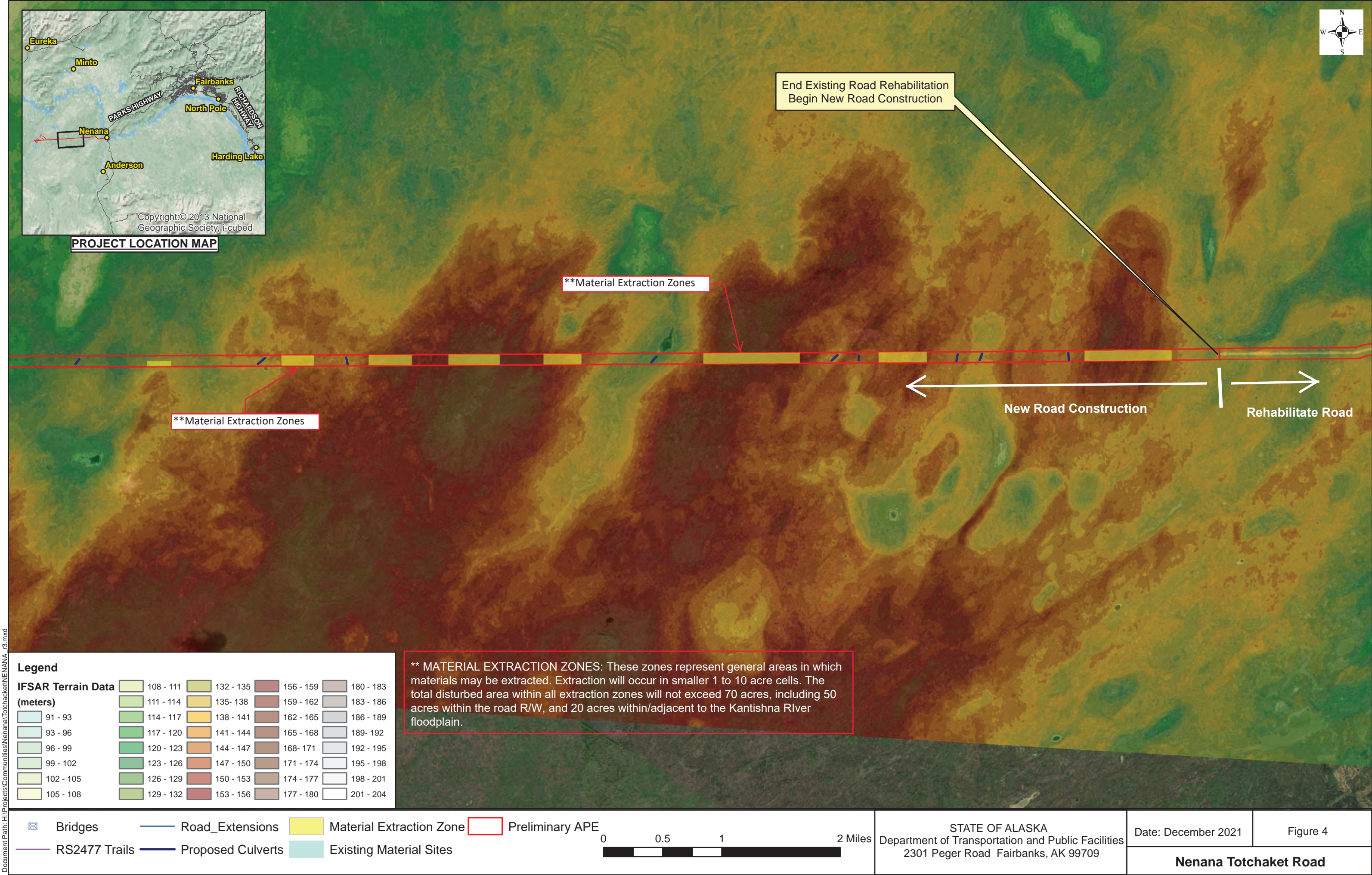
Figure 1

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