Appendix B Historic Properties and Cultural Impacts

Nenana-Totchaket Road Project NSHWY00657

Consultation Initiation



Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

NORTHERN REGION Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5388 Main: 907-451-2200 Fax: 907-451-5126 TDD: 907-451-2363 dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To: Nenana-Totchaket Road State Funded Work: NSHWY00657 Consultation Initiation

January 12, 2022

Judith E. Bittner, Chief Alaska Office of History and Archaeology 555 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is seeking to construct the Nenana-Totchaket Road from the Nenana River to the Kantishna River, near Nenana Alaska. The project will include improving approximately 12 miles of existing road and constructing 20 miles of new road (see Table 1 and Figures 1-5).

Table 1: Project Location

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Pursuant to AS 41.35.070, Preservation of Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Threatened by Public Construction, the DOT &PF is initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

Project Description

Rehabilitation: The existing approximately 12-mile roadway is proposed to undergo minor-releveling 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 (Little Nenana River Bridge #1557, East Middle River Bridge #1559, and West Middle River Bridge #1558), and some drainage improvements including culvert replacement and ditch work. Existing turnouts are also proposed to be improved, and new turnouts may be constructed as needed to support hauling materials during construction. No realignment of the existing roadway is anticipated (see Figures 2-4).

Extension: Approximately 20 miles of new road is proposed to be constructed to extend the existing Totchaket Road, extending westerly to end at the Kantishna River. The first 16 miles of new road is proposed to be built within the City of Nenana's existing 500' wide right-of-way (ROW) easement, and new ROW acquisition would be required for the remainder (see Figures 2, 4-5). For the westernmost section of the proposed extension, there are two Proposed Alternatives:

Alternative 1: In this option, the proposed 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 (see Figure 5).

Alternative 2: In this option, the proposed road will alter course, taking on a northwesterly bearing. The proposed road would then extend approximately 3 miles over higher ground to terminate at a point further north near the Kantishna River (see Figure 5).

Material Sources: Materials to construct the road are anticipated to be extracted from combination of new site development within the floodplain of the Kantishna River near the western end of the new road (see Figure 5), utilization of material extracted within upland areas along the ROW alignment (see Figures 2, 4-5), as well as contractor-furnished from existing commercially available sources (see Figure 3 inset, owned and operated by the City of Nenana). Due to lack of information for the area, general material extraction zones have been identified for study (see Figures 2-5 in yellow). As more detailed data becomes available, the proposed material extraction zones will be refined.

Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The preliminary APE for this proposed project is shown on Figures 1-5 and consists of the 500' ROW boundary of the existing portion of the Totchaket Road (see Figures 1-4) and the proposed extension area (also 500' ROW) of the Totchaket Road (see Figures 1, 4-5), including the two possible alternatives (see Figure 5). Alternative 1 maintains 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 alters the course of the Totchaket Road, extending approximately 3 miles in a northerly direction, also terminating at the Kantishna River. The preliminary APE also includes the city-owned material source, and the drivable surface of the associated haul route [Nenana Street, 6th Street, Parks Highway (near MP 304), 10th Avenue, and an unnamed existing trail] (see Figure 3 inset map). Additionally, the preliminary includes material extraction zones within the proposed alignment of the Totchaket Road extension area (see Figures 4-5, highlighted in yellow).

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A search of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey-IBS (AHRS) database on January 12, 2022 indicated that no (0) AHRS sites are located within the preliminary APE.

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RST-346 Nenana-Kantishna Trail- This trail begins at Nenana, Alaska and follows south and west along the eastern bank of the Teklanika River. It continues along the eastern bank of the Toklat River, traversing to the south and to the west, eventually crossing over to the western bank of the Toklat River. The trail continues on to cross the Clearwater River, following the western bank. The trail continues along the western bank of Myrtle Creek, and then along the northern bank of Canyon Creek. The trail ends in Kantishna, Alaska at the junction of Lake Creek. The trail traverses overland for approximately 100 miles between the two communities. The trail is listed as a winter trail on the topographic map layer in the AHRS database. A review of the satellite imagery revealed that the trail is not visible on the ground surface.

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Consultation Efforts

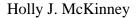
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If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at 907-451-2227, or by email at holly.mckinney@alaska.gov.

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We request your input on our proposal so that we can incorporate your concerns into project development. Your timely response will greatly assist our compliance efforts and the preparation of any required environmental documentation. For that purpose, we request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Environmental Impact Analyst III-Archaeologist (PQI) State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

Figures 2-5: Location Maps/Preliminary APE.

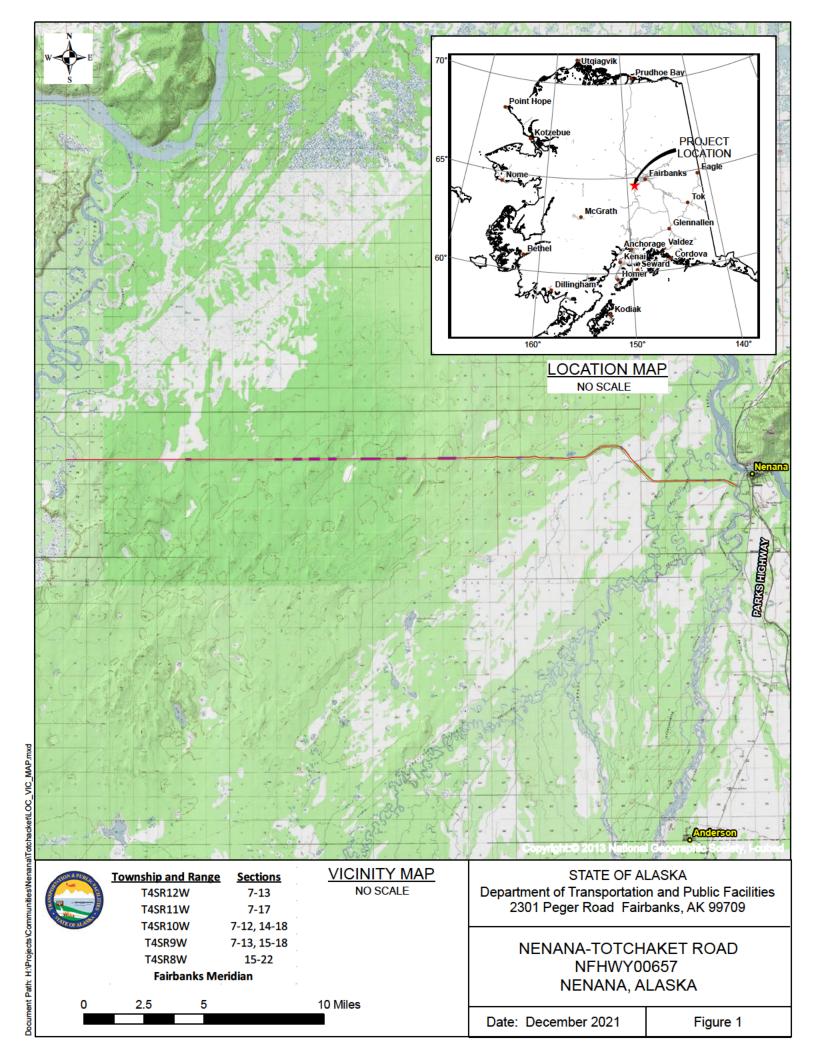
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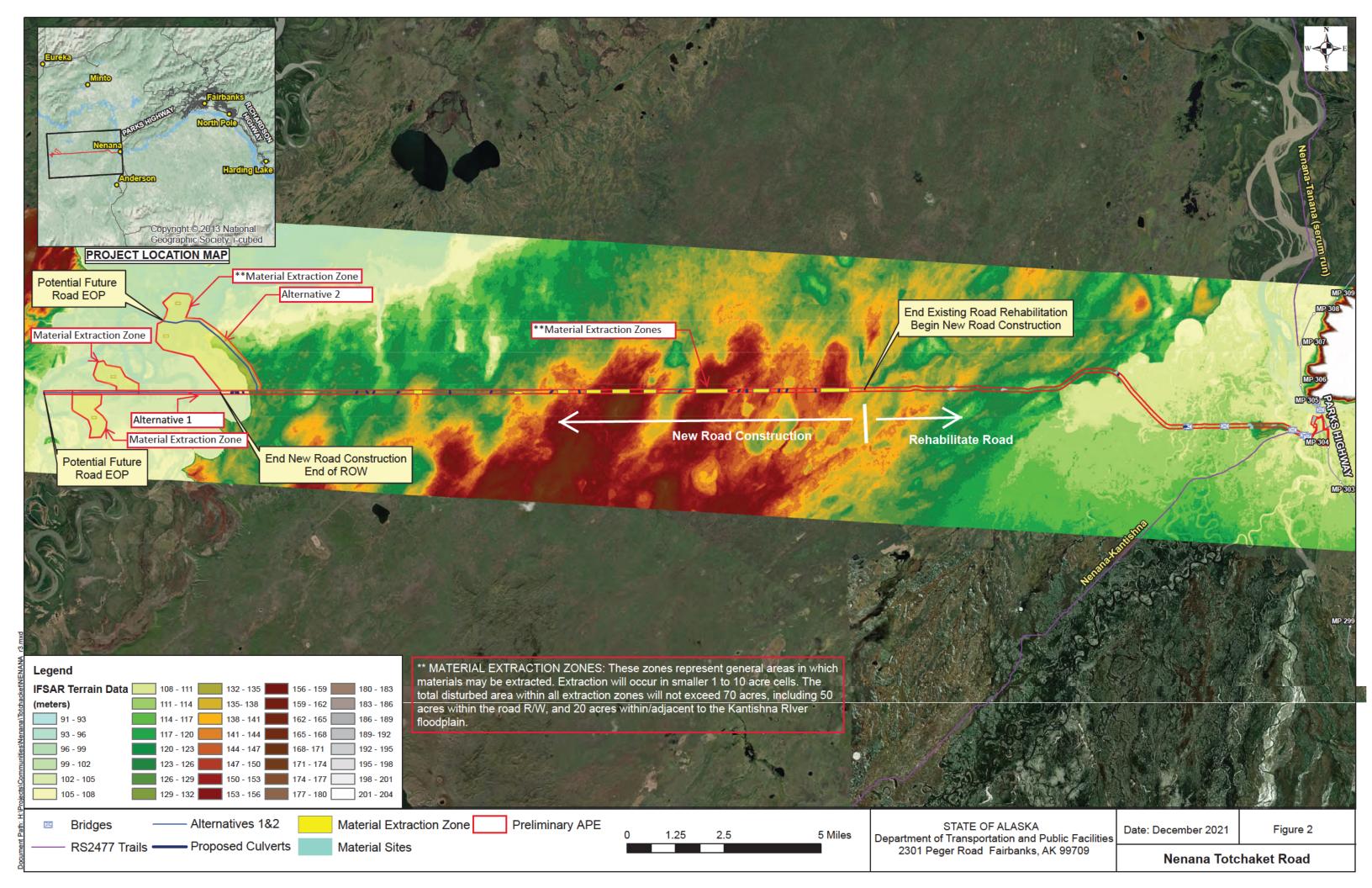
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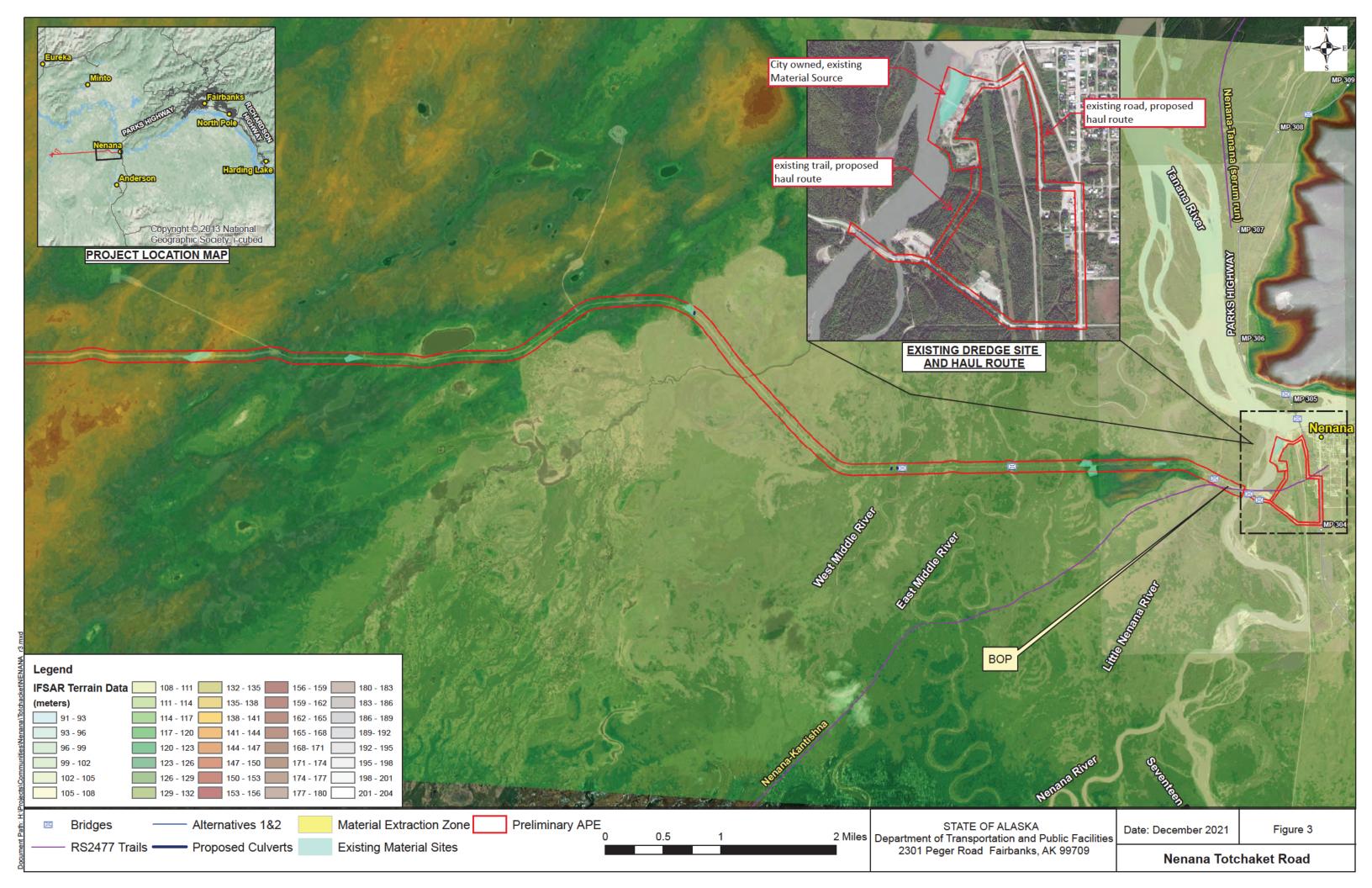
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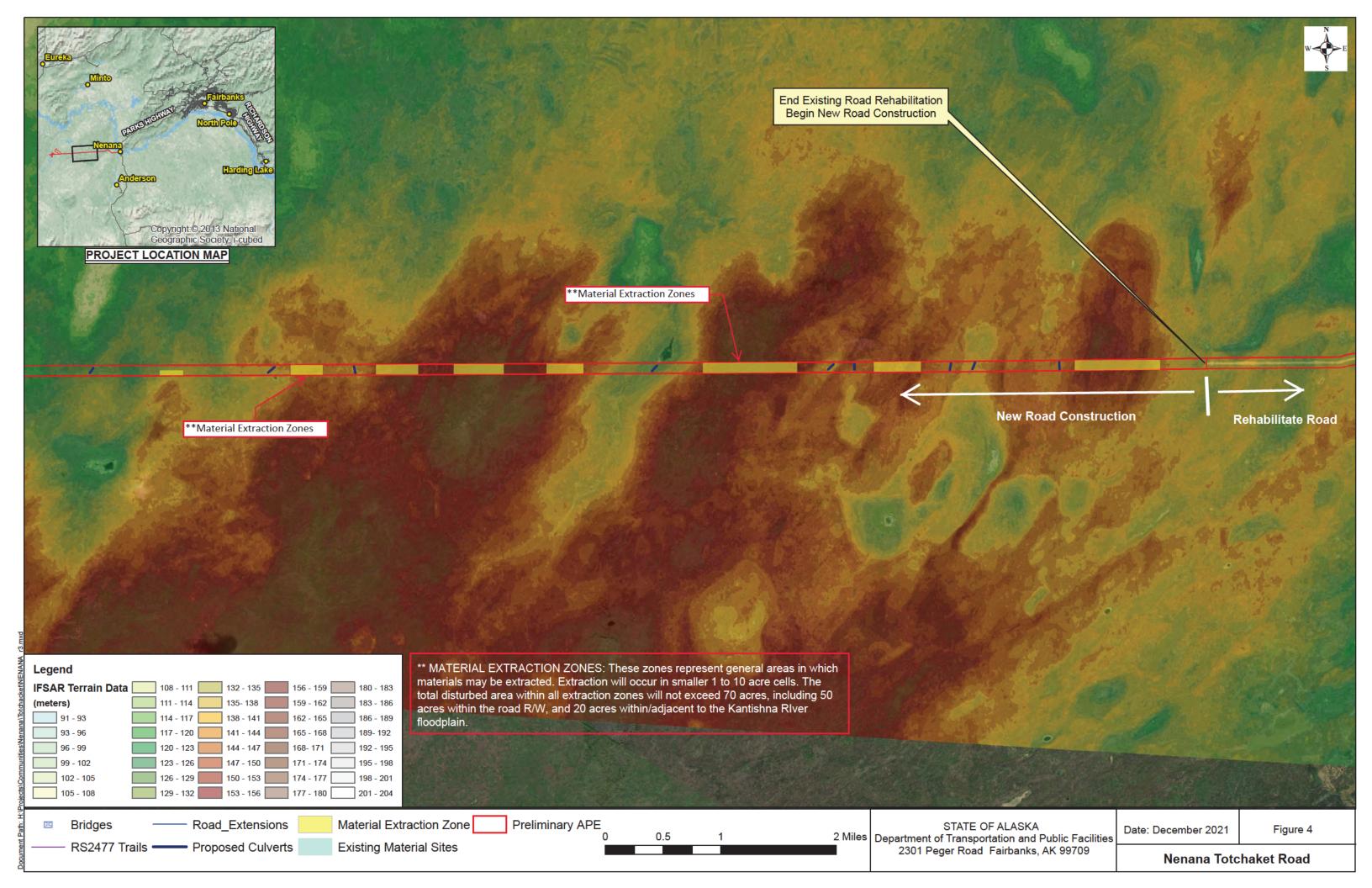
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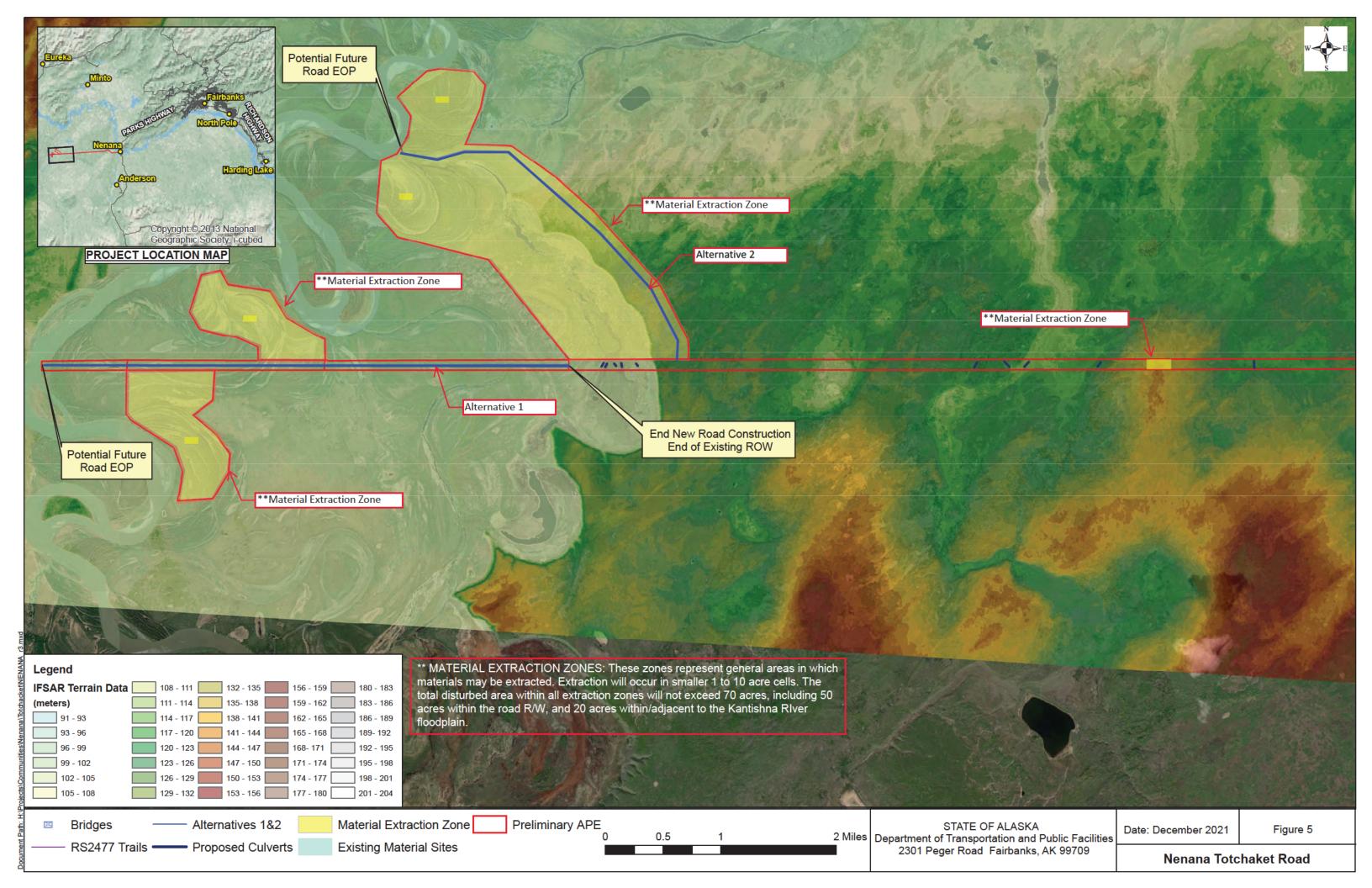
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In Reply Refer To: Nenana-Totchaket Road State Funded Work: NSHWY00657 Consultation Initiation

January 12, 2022

Aaron Schutt, President Doyon, Limited 1 Doyon Place Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

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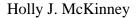
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In Reply Refer To: Nenana-Totchaket Road State Funded Work: NSHWY00657 Consultation Initiation

January 12, 2022

Ms. Eva Burk, Vice Chair Toghotthele Village Corporation PO Box 249 Nenana, AK 99760

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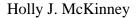
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January 12, 2022

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Material Sources: Materials to construct the road are anticipated to be extracted from combination of new site development within the floodplain of the Kantishna River near the western end of the new road (see Figure 5), utilization of material extracted within upland areas along the ROW alignment (see Figures 2, 4-5), as well as contractor-furnished from existing commercially available sources (see Figure 3 inset, owned and operated by the City of Nenana). Due to lack of information for the area, general material extraction zones have been identified for study (see Figures 2-5 in yellow). As more detailed data becomes available, the proposed material extraction zones will be refined.

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The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be finalized after comments are received from your agency and other consulting parties.

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Consultation Efforts

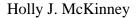
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If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at 907-451-2227, or by email at holly.mckinney@alaska.gov.

Consultation Initiation

We request your input on our proposal so that we can incorporate your concerns into project development. Your timely response will greatly assist our compliance efforts and the preparation of any required environmental documentation. For that purpose, we request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Environmental Impact Analyst III-Archaeologist (PQI) State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

Figures 2-5: Location Maps/Preliminary APE.

References:

Proue, M. and B. Neely

2009 Nunivak #1 Drill Site and Totchaket Road Rehabilitation Monitoring Plan. Plan prepared for Fairweather, Inc. Exploration and Production Services. Northern Land Use Research, Inc., Anchorage.

Electronic cc w/enclosures:

Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., DOT&PF, Northern Region, Project Manager William Sexton, DOT&PF Northern Region, Environmental Impact Analyst Brett Nelson, DOT &PF Northern Region, Regional Environmental Manager Kathy Price, DOT&PF Statewide Cultural Resource Manager



Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

NORTHERN REGION Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5388 Main: 907-451-2200 Fax: 907-451-5126 TDD: 907-451-2363 dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To: Nenana-Totchaket Road State Funded Work: NSHWY00657 Consultation Initiation

January 12, 2022

Pollack "PJ" Simon Chief/Chairman Tanana Chiefs Conference 122 First Avenue, Suite 600 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is seeking to construct the Nenana-Totchaket Road from the Nenana River to the Kantishna River, near Nenana Alaska. The project will include improving approximately 12 miles of existing road and constructing 20 miles of new road (see Table 1 and Figures 1-5).

Table 1: Project Location

Townsh	Range	Section(s)	USGS Quad Map	Meridian
ip				
004S	008W	14, 18-23	Fairbanks C-5	Fairbanks
004S	009W	7-8, 10-13, 15-16	Fairbanks C-5	Fairbanks
004S	010W	11-12	Fairbanks C-5	Fairbanks
004S	010W	7-11	Fairbanks C-6	Fairbanks
004S	011W	7-12	Fairbanks C-6	Fairbanks
004S	012W	8-12	Fairbanks C-6	Fairbanks
004S	012W	6-8	Kantishna River C-1	Fairbanks
004S	013W	1, 9-12,16	Kantishna River C-1	Fairbanks
003S	013W	35-36	Kantishna River C-1	Fairbanks

Pursuant to AS 41.35.070, Preservation of Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Threatened by Public Construction, the DOT &PF is initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

Project Description

Rehabilitation: The existing approximately 12-mile roadway is proposed to undergo minor-releveling 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 (Little Nenana River Bridge #1557, East Middle River Bridge #1559, and West Middle River Bridge #1558), and some drainage improvements including culvert replacement and ditch work. Existing turnouts are also proposed to be improved, and new turnouts may be constructed as needed to support hauling materials during construction. No realignment of the existing roadway is anticipated (see Figures 2-4).

Extension: Approximately 20 miles of new road is proposed to be constructed to extend the existing Totchaket Road, extending westerly to end at the Kantishna River. The first 16 miles of new road is proposed to be built within the City of Nenana's existing 500' wide right-of-way (ROW) easement, and new ROW acquisition would be required for the remainder (see Figures 2, 4-5). For the westernmost section of the proposed extension, there are two Proposed Alternatives:

Alternative 1: In this option, the proposed 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 (see Figure 5).

Alternative 2: In this option, the proposed road will alter course, taking on a northwesterly bearing. The proposed road would then extend approximately 3 miles over higher ground to terminate at a point further north near the Kantishna River (see Figure 5).

Material Sources: Materials to construct the road are anticipated to be extracted from combination of new site development within the floodplain of the Kantishna River near the western end of the new road (see Figure 5), utilization of material extracted within upland areas along the ROW alignment (see Figures 2, 4-5), as well as contractor-furnished from existing commercially available sources (see Figure 3 inset, owned and operated by the City of Nenana). Due to lack of information for the area, general material extraction zones have been identified for study (see Figures 2-5 in yellow). As more detailed data becomes available, the proposed material extraction zones will be refined.

Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The preliminary APE for this proposed project is shown on Figures 1-5 and consists of the 500' ROW boundary of the existing portion of the Totchaket Road (see Figures 1-4) and the proposed extension area (also 500' ROW) of the Totchaket Road (see Figures 1, 4-5), including the two possible alternatives (see Figure 5). Alternative 1 maintains 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 alters the course of the Totchaket Road, extending approximately 3 miles in a northerly direction, also terminating at the Kantishna River. The preliminary APE also includes the city-owned material source, and the drivable surface of the associated haul route [Nenana Street, 6th Street, Parks Highway (near MP 304), 10th Avenue, and an unnamed existing trail] (see Figure 3 inset map). Additionally, the preliminary includes material extraction zones within the proposed alignment of the Totchaket Road extension area (see Figures 4-5, highlighted in yellow).

Finally, the preliminary APE covers the proposed material extraction zones adjacent to the two proposed alternatives. If Alternative 1 is selected, the preliminary APE will include two, smaller, material extraction zones (see Figure 5, highlighted in yellow). If Alternative 2 is selected, the preliminary APE will include one, larger, material extraction zone (see Figure 5, highlighted in yellow). Staging locations for this project have not been determined but will be included in the findings letter for this project.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be finalized after comments are received from your agency and other consulting parties.

Identification Efforts

A search of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey-IBS (AHRS) database on January 12, 2022 indicated that no (0) AHRS sites are located within the preliminary APE.

A search of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Lands and Water Revised Statute (RS) 2477 database indicates that there is one (1) recognized public rights-of-way under this Statute within the preliminary APE. That RS 2477 trail is briefly described below:

RST-346 Nenana-Kantishna Trail- This trail begins at Nenana, Alaska and follows south and west along the eastern bank of the Teklanika River. It continues along the eastern bank of the Toklat River, traversing to the south and to the west, eventually crossing over to the western bank of the Toklat River. The trail continues on to cross the Clearwater River, following the western bank. The trail continues along the western bank of Myrtle Creek, and then along the northern bank of Canyon Creek. The trail ends in Kantishna, Alaska at the junction of Lake Creek. The trail traverses overland for approximately 100 miles between the two communities. The trail is listed as a winter trail on the topographic map layer in the AHRS database. A review of the satellite imagery revealed that the trail is not visible on the ground surface.

A search of the DOT&PF Northern Region Cultural Resources Library indicated that the existing portion of the Totchaket Road was previously surveyed for cultural resources (Proue and Neely 2009), and no sites were found within the preliminary APE as a result of that survey. The remaining portion of the preliminary APE has not been previously surveyed. A cultural resources survey for the new road extension (including both alternatives) will be completed by an as yet to be determined cultural resources consultant. The results of that survey will be included with the findings letter for this project. The DOT&PF Archaeologist-Cultural Resources Specialist (PQI) believes that this level of identification is sufficient for this project.

Consultation Efforts

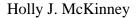
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If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at 907-451-2227, or by email at holly.mckinney@alaska.gov.

Consultation Initiation

We request your input on our proposal so that we can incorporate your concerns into project development. Your timely response will greatly assist our compliance efforts and the preparation of any required environmental documentation. For that purpose, we request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Environmental Impact Analyst III-Archaeologist (PQI) State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

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References:

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Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

NORTHERN REGION Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5388 Main: 907-451-2200 Fax: 907-451-5126 TDD: 907-451-2363 dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To: Nenana-Totchaket Road State Funded Work: NSHWY00657 Consultation Initiation

January 12, 2022

Ms. Shayna Rowe, Tribal Administrator Nenana Native Association PO Box 369 Nenana, Alaska 99760-0356

Dear Ms. Rowe:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is seeking to construct the Nenana-Totchaket Road from the Nenana River to the Kantishna River, near Nenana Alaska. The project will include improving approximately 12 miles of existing road and constructing 20 miles of new road (see Table 1 and Figures 1-5).

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Consultation Efforts

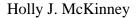
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Consultation Initiation

We request your input on our proposal so that we can incorporate your concerns into project development. Your timely response will greatly assist our compliance efforts and the preparation of any required environmental documentation. For that purpose, we request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Environmental Impact Analyst III-Archaeologist (PQI) State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

Figure 1: Project Overview Map

Figures 2-5: Location Maps/Preliminary APE.

References:

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Electronic cc w/enclosures:

Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., DOT&PF, Northern Region, Project Manager William Sexton, DOT&PF Northern Region, Environmental Impact Analyst Brett Nelson, DOT &PF Northern Region, Regional Environmental Manager Kathy Price, DOT&PF Statewide Cultural Resource Manager

Initiation Responses

From: Ortiz, Liz M (DNR)

To: McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT)

Cc: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT); Sexton, William J (DOT); Maybrier, Scott L (DOT); Nelson, Brett D (DOT); Price,

Kathy E (DOT)

Subject: RE: NSHWY00657 Nenana Totchaket Road Initiation

Date: Friday, January 28, 2022 11:16:01 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

3130-2R DOT&PF 2022-00038

Good morning Holly,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated January 12, 2022) concerning the Nenana Totchaket Road rehabilitation and extension project on January 12, 2022. Following review of the documentation provided, we are satisfied with the level of investigation suggested for the road extension project as proposed. Based on the results of that cultural resources, and once materials sources outside of the project survey area are identified, additional investigations may be appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. We look forward to continuing consultation on the Nenana Totchaket Road project. Please contact me at (907)269-8722 or liz.ortiz@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Liz Ortiz

Archaeologist II - Review and Compliance Alaska State Historic Preservation Office Office of History and Archaeology Department of Natural Resources 550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1310 Anchorage AK, 99501 (907) 269-8722

<u>liz.ortiz@alaska.gov</u>

We are currently on a hybrid schedule; email communication is best. Be well!

From: Ortiz, Liz M (DNR) < liz.ortiz@alaska.gov> Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:40 PM

To: McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <holly.mckinney@alaska.gov>

Cc: DNR, Parks OHA Review Compliance (DNR sponsored) <oha.revcomp@alaska.gov>; Ortiz, Liz M (DNR) cortiz@alaska.gov>; Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>; Sexton, William J (DOT) <william.sexton@alaska.gov>; Maybrier, Scott L (DOT) <scott.maybrier@alaska.gov>; Nelson, Brett D (DOT)
brett.nelson@alaska.gov>; Price, Kathy E (DOT) <kathy.price@alaska.gov>

Subject: FW: NSHWY00657 Nenana Totchaket Road Initiation

Hi Holly,

Initiation packet received and logged with me under file number 2022-00038.

I will get this back to you soon,

Thanks! Liz Ortiz

Archaeologist II - Review and Compliance Alaska State Historic Preservation Office Office of History and Archaeology Department of Natural Resources 550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1310 Anchorage AK, 99501 (907) 269-8722 liz.ortiz@alaska.gov

Due to Covid-19 concerns, we are on a hybrid schedule. Email is the best communication method. Be Well!

From: McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) < holly.mckinney@alaska.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:05 PM

To: DNR, Parks OHA Review Compliance (DNR sponsored) <oha.revcomp@alaska.gov>

Cc: Ortiz, Liz M (DNR) < ! Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)

<ionathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>; Sexton, William J (DOT) <william.sexton@alaska.gov>;

Maybrier, Scott L (DOT) < scott.maybrier@alaska.gov">scott.maybrier@alaska.gov; Nelson, Brett D (DOT) < brett.nelson@alaska.gov; Price, Kathy E (DOT) < kathy.price@alaska.gov>

Subject: NSHWY00657 Nenana Totchaket Road Initiation

Hi Liz,

Please see attached consultation initiation letter for the Nenana Totchaket Road project.

Best, Holly



Cultural Resource Specialist Alaska DOT&PF

2301 Peger Road / Fairbanks, AK 99709 Office (907) 451-2227 Fax (907)451-5126

In-Office Schedule: Monday-Friday 7:00AM-3:00PM

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email (and any attachments) are for the use of the intended recipient(s) only. The information contained in this communication may be confidential and privileged. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete it. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not keep, use, disclose, copy or distribute this email without the author's prior permission.

McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT)

From: Aaron Schutt <schutta@doyon.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:48 PM

To: McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT)

Cc: Jamie Marunde

Subject: RE: NSHWY00657 Nenana Totchaket Road Initiation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you. We are very interested in and supportive of this project. Aaron

From: McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <holly.mckinney@alaska.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:21 PM To: Aaron Schutt <schutta@doyon.com>

Subject: NSHWY00657 Nenana Totchaket Road Initiation

[External Mail - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Dear Mr. Schutt,

Please see attached consultation initiation letter for the Nenana Totchaket Road project.

Sincerely, Holly McKinney



Holly McKinney, PhD Archaeologist (PQI) Cultural Resource Specialist Alaska DOT&PF 2301 Peger Road / Fairbanks, AK 99709 Office (907) 451-2227 Fax (907)451-5126

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Stantec Inc. Cultural Resource Survey Report Confidential

Findings Letter Confidential

OHA Conditional Concurrence Confidential

Follow-Up Findings Letter Confidential

OHA Concurrence



Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501-3561 907-269-8700 http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha

October 17, 2022

File No.: 3130-2R DOT&PF / 2022-00038

Holly McKinney Cultural Resource Specialist Northern Region DOT&PF 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road: Follow-up Findings for the Existing Portion of Totchaket Road

Dear Dr. McKinney:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO)/ Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) received the subject project for review under the Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AHPA, AS 41.35.070) with a request to expedite our response on October 14, 2022. Included in the documentation was the survey report titled *Nenana-Totchaket Road Cultural Resource Survey Report: Existing Road Section*.

Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur that site FAI-02808 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion D.

The avoidance measures

include having an SPI-qualified professional monitor the installation of temporary fencing to restrict project activities to the existing road prism and prohibiting certain activities from occurring in this area, such as ditch work or vegetation clearing. As such, we believe a finding of no historic properties adversely affected is appropriate for the proposed project.

Please note that our office will continue to review the cultural resources report. We will follow up with you and the contractor as necessary to discuss any findings or next steps regarding methods and performance as the survey and subsequent report was subject to SCRIP 2022-26.

We look forward to continued consultation on the project. Please contact Sarah Meitl at 907-269-8720 or sarah.meitl@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Judith E. Bittner

Chief, Office of History & Archaeology State Historic Preservation Officer

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