

Appendix F
Public Involvement

Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
NSHWY00657

Public Notices

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

www.DNR.Alaska.Gov



Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: June 7, 2022

Public invited to bid on 27 agricultural state land parcels, visit Nenana

(Anchorage, AK) – The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is inviting Alaskan residents, nonresidents, businesses, and corporations interested in owning a piece of agricultural land in the Last Frontier to participate in the 2022 Alaska Agricultural State Land Auction, Offering #494, which includes 27 parcels in the newly developed Nenana-Totchaket area.

“There is something special about planting and living on property you own, which is why land auctions are just one of the ways DNR helps implement my vision of putting Alaska land into Alaskans’ hands,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “If you’re thinking about bidding on agricultural or settlement land, you have an exciting opportunity to visit these brand new lots this week.”

The state’s Division of Agriculture is co-hosting Nenana Agriculture Education Day on Friday, June 10. Media and the public can meet at the 10th Street boat launch from 10am-4pm to learn more about the [Nenana-Totchaket Agricultural Project](#), speak with local and State agencies, and drive to the parcels (a 4-wheel drive vehicle is currently recommended!).

Alaska residents, nonresidents, businesses, and corporations may submit sealed bids in person, by mail, or online between Wednesday, June 1 at 10 a.m. and October 4 at 4:30 p.m. Apparent high bids will be announced October 19. Free auction brochures can be downloaded from the DNR Land Sales website at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsales/brochure/>.”

Parcels not sold at auction may be available through Over-the-Counter (OTC) sales to Alaska residents, non-residents or businesses, starting on November 2 at 10 a.m. OTC parcels currently available for purchase are posted on the Land Sales website’s Over-the-Counter section. DNR offers competitive in-house financing for land purchases. For more information about OTC sales, see Auction Brochure #494, page 24.

For details on financing and associated costs and Land Sales news and updates, follow Alaska State Land Sales at:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/alaskaland/
- Twitter: @alaskaland4sale
- Instagram: @alaska_land4sale
- Email subscription: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/landsales/email/>

For direct assistance, email landsales@alaska.gov or call 907-269-8594 weekdays from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (TTY available at 711 or 800-770-8973).

MEDIA CONTACT: Justin Wholey, 907-269-8602, landsales@alaska.gov

Public Meeting - Nenana-Tochaket Road

Nenana-Totchaket Road Project NSHWY00657

PUBLIC MEETING
Nenana City School Gymnasium
Nenana, Alaska

Saturday, September 10, 2022 @ 2 p.m.

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is working on a proposed road project to rehabilitate the existing 12.1 miles of Tochaket road and extend the road west an additional 19 miles to end near the Kantishna River at a parking area with a ramp down to the river. When complete, the project will improve the road grade, add drainage and erosion control measures, and provide improved access to the valley west of Nenana for agriculture, hunting, fishing, and other recreational uses.

For additional project information please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>

For more information on the project or to submit a comment by **September 30, 2022** please contact:

Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.
2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks AK 99709-5316
Telephone: (907) 451-5479
Text Telephone (TDD): 771 or 1-800-770-8973
Email: jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov

DOT&PF operates all programs without regard to race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: dot.alaska.gov/tvi_statement.shtml. To file a complaint, go to: dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml.

Attachments, History, Details

Attachments

None

Revision History

Created 9/8/2022 8:16:02 AM by emiller-chapman

Details

Department:	Transportation and Public Facilities
Category:	Public Notices
Sub-Category:	
Location(s):	Statewide
Project/Regulation #:	Nenana-Tochaket Road NSHWY00657
Publish Date:	9/8/2022
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Events/Deadlines:	

Public Comments
9/8/2022 - 9/30/2022



COMMENT SHEET
 Nenana-Totchaket Road
 NSHWY00657
 September 10, 2022
 Nenana School



We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
 (If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

I am against the road, I feel that it will negatively impact subsistence practices for locals. People who live their lives along the Kantishna and rely on the natural resources. Preserving the ever decreasing wilderness of Alaska is more important than recreational access.

The state should have done a better job reaching out to the community about this project.

Keep Alaska wild, don't become like the lower 48.

How did you hear about this meeting? *Native Movement*

*Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME: *Christine McGuigan*

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

For further information, please contact Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., Engineering Manager, at (907) 451-5479 or email: jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.



COMMENT SHEET

Nenana-Totchaket Road
NSHWY00657
September 10, 2022
Nenana School



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COMMENTS:

THERE IS GOOD POTENTIAL FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT HERE THAT COULD SUPPORT TRADITIONAL LAND USE AND EXTENDED ACCESS. HOWEVER, IT IS CONCERNING TO HEAR THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSENT OR ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH NENANA TRIBAL COUNCIL. THIS MEETING HAD VERY LITTLE HEADS UP AND MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE HUNTING OR BUSY ON THE LAND. THIS IS NOT GOOD PUBLIC PROCESS. ADDITIONALLY, THE EIS IS NOT COMPLETE AND APPEARS TO HAVE LOTS OF CONCERNS REGARDING WETLAND DESIGNATION AND AWARENESS OF THE THREATENED SALMON RUNS IN THESE WATERS. PLEASE SLOW DOWN.

How did you hear about this meeting? LOCAL TRIBAL MEMBERS.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME: BRANDON HILL

MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

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NSHWY00657
September 10, 2022
Nenana School



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COMMENTS:

What preparations are being made to support public safety for this road? Adding 20ish miles to the road makes it near impossible for the fire/EMS department to respond to EMERGENCIES that far out. The Nenana fire district ends 15 miles from the parks Highway east and west. Is there going to be an extension requested to add the remaining miles to the district? If so, is the state going to assist with funding to support operations to the end of the road?

How did you hear about this meeting?

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME: Joseph T Forness Fire/EMS Chief

MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

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 NSHWY00657
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We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
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COMMENTS:

I adamantly OPPOSE this project. My family lives on the Kantishna as well as others - they oppose this project as well. This project represents the destruction of delicate ecology and necessary habitat. This project endangers grizzly, peregrin, moose, salmon spawning grounds and more.

~~Thank~~ I'm pissed. I'm angry this project has been such a secret not allowing public opinion. I will oppose in every manner necessary.

How did you hear about this meeting?

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

NAME: Larenda Coy Forness

MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

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 NSHWY00657
 September 10, 2022
 Nenana School



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COMMENTS:

I oppose a road being built out to the Kartikha River, Agriculture is a good reason but I am going to be a land owner on the River. I don't want alot of traffic! There is enough traffic out there now! Going out there to go moose hunting the last couple years it not worth it anymore. People are everywhere now that I and family use to hunt.

How did you hear about this meeting? Daughter

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: [Redacted]

NAME: Sandra Johnson

MAILING ADDRESS: [Redacted]

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COMMENTS:

My family is from Nenana. We rely on subsistence hunting & fishing. With the current fishing disaster and the way the State has not been transparent with what the future outlook is I have no faith that this current project will not effect our hunting grounds/ food security. The reason for this road is not necessary and will just cause more erosion of our cultural foods/lands. Please do not proceed w/this road. As a tribal member & member of Toghokhele I am not in support of this Road.

How did you hear about this meeting?

Facebook

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E-MAIL ADDRESS:



NAME:

Heather Rubio

MAILING ADDRESS:



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COMMENTS:

I expect the state to hold a public vote to decide if this road project will be completed. The state is not properly considering the desires of the local and native populations that utilize this area for subsistence activities. I expect to receive notification before all permits are approved for the building of this road. Overall this road ~~will~~ in my opinion should not be built and I believe you will find most people in the area will oppose the road.

How did you hear about this meeting?

Friends

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E-MAIL ADDRESS:



NAME:

Gerrald Greenwood

MAILING ADDRESS:



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COMMENT SHEET

Nenana-Totchaket Road

NSHWY00657

September 10, 2022

Nenana School



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COMMENTS:

AS 46.03.010 speaks to the state fulfilling it's responsibility as trustee of the environment for present and future generations.

This road does not succeed at that mandate. First, it is not fully funded. The project manager gave me a rough estimate that the \$15 Million budget only funds about 2/3rds of the road distance and only at the level needed for contractors to move materials needed for further development. Soil samples indicate there is no real viable agricultural land until the road is closer to the Kantishna river. so, as funded, this project is truly a road to nowhere.

Additionally, many of my friends, neighbors, & acquaintances use the land as-is to teach our children to hunt, trap, fish, and subsist on thier own away from "civilization". This road will spoil many of those opportunities by

How did you hear about this meeting?

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E-MAIL ADDRESS:



NAME:

Gerald Babcock

MAILING ADDRESS:



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making it too easy to get out there. The value of Mushing, snow mading, and the like will be lost for future generations. Also, the road will give access to heavier vehicles that create more destruction on the land than the machines which can currently access the land.

This is also traditionally native land. Despoiling it with a road is not in keeping with respectful development options.

Finally, to return to my first point: the project isn't funded to the level which would support the forecast agricultural development opportunities. Without FULL funding for the road AND power out to the Kantishna River, this project will not meet the objectives and is a waste of money. The Kobe agricultural project STILL doesn't have power.

Please cancel this project and save this land for future generations of Alaskans!



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COMMENTS:

Why Don't the State Use
 Money to Fix the
 Road's that All Ready
 Exist? Use the
 Money to Fix 321
 PARKS Highway.
 Build what we Already Have.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS



NAME:

Rick Irish

MAILING ADDRESS



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COMMENT SHEET
 Nenana-Totchaket Road
 NSHWY00657
 June 10, 2022
 Nenana Boat Launch



We welcome written input and ideas from the public. Thank you for taking the time to be involved.
 (If you need more space please use back side of sheet.)

COMMENTS:

Opposed to project. Grew up in Nenana, property owner. Wants to limit road system. Doesn't think property owners @ Kantishna would want this.

- Called in, couldn't attend meeting

How did you hear about this meeting?

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E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME: Tarik Spear _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

For further information, please contact _____, Engineering Manager, at (907) _____ or email: _____@alaska.gov. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), please call (907) 451-2363.



COMMENT SHEET
 Nenana-Totchaket Road
 NSHWY00657
 September 10, 2022
 Nenana School



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COMMENTS:

Interesting to me that the State has pinged to push this road without much local input. In general, local opinion is against it, especially running it out to the Kantishna River. Lots of concern about making the area too easy to access, resulting in excess hunting pressure on an area used by Nenana, Minto, and Manley communities.

The DOT web info talks of an "aggressive" schedule, wanting to push the road past where it needs to be improved to make the Ag. project accessible. So, would be best from the Nenana community standpoint, to spend the \$15 million, improving the present road, replace the 3 bridges to a width that would permit farm equipment transit, put adequate

How did you hear about this meeting? Facebook, Nenana Community ^{over} page

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E-MAIL ADDRESS:



NAME: David Poppe

MAILING ADDRESS:



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culverts in the area of the road that washes out every year.

At the Ag Day, there was uncertainty about who would be responsible for road maintenance. Running the road to the Kantishna River would mean more road that would have to be maintained. Since the City of Nenana owns the ROW, having the City maintain 15 extra, unneeded, unwanted miles of road would adversely affect the meager ^{public} works budget that Nenana's tax base can pay/afford.

In the history of compromising wildlands, the tactic of compromising a wild area by building a road/trail, as a means of wrecking the wild quality with a "primitive" "pioneer" road is well known. The Kantishna River, and associated drainages, form a formidable undesignated wilderness that does not need to be violated at this time with an unnecessary extension of the present road.

Limit improvement, no more, of the present road, under the desired and limited plan to support the Nenana-Totchetket Ag Project DR

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Road to tolchaket
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 11:29:42 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Joeseeph Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Road to tolchaket

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi my name is Joeseeph Alexander, I am the first chief of Minto and as a leader and as someone that grew up on the river around tolchaket I strongly oppose a road being built there. The reasons are we don't need more traffic up there, some family's have land up there and if they do build a road up there not only the traffic would be high but also people abusing the land and garbage being left behind, it's good land up there and shouldn't disturb it around there and should preserve the land.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tolchacket Road extension
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:07:22 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laverne Alexander [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 1:06:07 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Tolchacket Road extension**

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Hi, I would like to say I oppose the road extension. This area is sacred to me because of my ancestors hunting grounds. The road access will allow many more people & hunters in the land. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Road project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 11:30:37 AM

From: Mitchell Alexander [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:45 AM
To: jonathan.hutchison@alaska.gov
Subject: Road project

I personally believe that the 20 mile road extension into the tolchaket area would not be a good thing to happen. It would open up so much other country that is primarily protected by its isolation and be detrimental to the surrounding area and wildlife. I have spoken with many that are opposed to this and want to keep our land sacred.

Mitchell Alexander
Tribal Administrator Minto Village Council

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From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket road.
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 12:25:49 PM

From: Blaine Ashcraft [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 10:58 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket road.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it concern;

I Blaine Ashcraft believe this road will be a benefit, and a good for many, not just agriculture. Yes it will help and is a must for the development of the Ag lands. As food security has become more important, development has become more important. This Road is a Must!
Not just for Ag, but all. Emergency service needs better access, hunter's will use it, camping, recreation, we all want to be able to see and enjoy the state without hiring a airplane or boat to get there.

Moose and other animals thrive on agriculture lands as well, I've seen them eat and move. This land needs to developed with roads that are good and can be maintained with minimal effort.

Thanks again
Blaine Ashcraft

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:37:06 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeannie Bennett [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 9:23:56 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Road Project

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I would like to see the Totchaket Road Project go forward so that we have some infrastructure in our area. Without infrastructure, there is no growth.

Thank you,
Rob Bennett

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Neanana Area Agricultural road extension
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 5:21:36 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Bolding [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 5:08:04 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Neanana Area Agricultural road extension**

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Hi Jonathan,

I missed you at our camp this year, five miles out the winter trail just before the first helicopter pad.

Interestingly enough we shot a moose next to the pad just before they tried to land. I must admit we were humored.

You spoke with Aaron Dey on the phone recently and Brian Scherburn on the trail.

For the record we continued to cut the trail out to the bluff where it drops down into the swamp. I believe it was 17 miles from the road.

Just in case we need a new hunting area.

We/I have been hunting the area from the Kantishna to the Toklat river for 14 years to include the winter trail out of Neanana.

It is an honor to be able to enjoy God's bounty and respect the land as I was taught.

I read the article in the Alaskan Beacon out of Juneau and was disturbed by the slant from Miss Ketzler.

I am pro development and believe the current plan to improve the road to accommodate the sale of the agricultural parcels is great but I oppose pushing past the 12 miles.

Let the current sale of the land prove itself before we push through the wilderness. If you have success with the first stage of the project, the farming

is successful and additional land is needed, then push the road out to accommodate phase two.

Thank you,
I am grateful to be able to share my comments.

--



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:49:24 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jeff Chen [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 20, 2022 at 6:39:48 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jeff Chen



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:08:32 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:00 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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Sincerely,
Mr. Callen Christensen

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 6:50:26 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nels Christensen [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 3:04:02 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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Sincerely,
Mr. Nels Christensen





City of Nenana
PO Box 70, Nenana, Alaska 99760
907-888-5036
www.cityofnenana.com



Sept 29th 2022

Letter of Support for the Nenana Totchaket Road Project

To whom it may concern:

The City of Nenana is and has always been in support of the Nenana Totchaket Road project since its inception several decades ago. The City's interest is not just to carry on with something that was started years ago, but because of the potential that it brings to our community and to this state.

This is a project that the community of Nenana has been asking for and we appreciate Alaska D.O.T listening and responding to our request and helping us reach some of our goals.

Each of the community development plans we have had in the last 20 years (which have been put on at the Tribal Hall by TCC in partnership with the Nenana Native Council, the Nenana City School District and the City of Nenana *June 2006 Long-Range Community Master Plan, 2013-2018 Community Development Plan, 2019-2023 Community Development Plan*) have included the promotion of improved year-round access to the Nenana Totchaket Area Including:

Gas and Oil Exploration in the Nenana Basin.
Agricultural Development and Self-Sufficiency.
Continued improvement of road and bridge access.

We believe it is entirely possible to have growth and development while responsibly caring for our land, resources, and future as Alaska does far better than most other states and especially better than many of the countries which we are currently getting resources from.

The City of Nenana would like to see a future where we can take care of ourselves, especially in times of economic recession, world conflicts or disasters where we may not be able to continue relying on our food and resources to be trucked/ shipped/ flown to us. The Nenana Totchaket Road Project will open opportunities for Alaskans to access state lands for farming, subsistence, timber harvest, gas, oil, minerals and more.

Thank you,

Sincerely

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Road Project
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:38:53 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Adrienne Coffey <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 26, 2022 at 4:39:40 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Road Project

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To all Concerned,

I am writing in support of the Totchaket Road Project. My family has property out on the Kantishna River. We are also property owners in Nenana and outside of Nenana.

We utilize the commissioners line in the winter and the road out so far makes it much easier and safer to access. The bluff is a tough area to get up and down in and out of the marsh areas. The road access will bring more state land accessible to more people who want to purchase land for recreational and hunting purposes. We have utilized the land bids auctions and won property bids and have added to our property. We appreciate all the work done by the project participants and hope the negative does not outweigh the positives of opening up state lands to be utilized and land to be purchased to help boost agriculture and land ownership.

Sincerely
Adrienne Coffey

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Totchaket road improvements
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 11:20:51 AM

From: tarn coffey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:04 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket road improvements

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Dear Mr Hutchinson

I would like to express my thoughts on the purposed improvements to the totchaket road west of the city of nenana.

Give you a little background on myself. I live in the city of nenana at 306 1st Street. I own a piece of property on the Kantishna River. Just a few miles up from where the proposed Road would come to the river. And have used the route the road takes for winter access. And from the time I was a small child my parents staked a piece of remote cabin property in 80's the same area.

The section of road that's there is a good start. There's those three bridges that could use upgrading. And there' are other parts of the road the need a little bit of grade work. Then the eventual extension of the road on to the kantishna river. The road is already getting a fair bit of use. And this does open up the area to the citizens of Alaska. For recreation and to develop and use. Projects like this are not just about Nenana or the interior. It's about the state doing responsible development to give access to every resident to be able to utilize state land.

In fact during this last hunting season. There was quite a few Hunters using the road in the area. Not sure how many there were. But it's opened up the entire area for people to hunt fish Berry pick sightsee. Or maybe just to go out and dream of what could be.

As a resident of Nanana and land holder on the kantishna. I fully support the state's activities to improve the road make it safer. something all alaskans can be proud of. Proud of the state's ability to give Alaskan residents access to Alaska state Land.

Thank you

Tarn Coffey

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:49:35 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jan Conitz [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 23, 2022 at 8:51:41 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) was too rushed and not a fair public process. Less than a week of notice was given and many Nenana Tribal members were busy preparing for winter, out hunting, and unable to return for the meeting. Furthermore, the Nenana Tribal Council was not properly consulted and did not consent to advancement of this project. The State was not transparent in its intentions for the road construction and land sale. Multiple issues in the EIS need to be addressed

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Please establish government-to-government contact with the Nenana Tribal Council immediately, and give full weight to their input and concerns.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jan Conitz



Regarding Nenana-Totchaket Road Project,

It has come to my attention that the project labeled as the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project is a detrimental and destructive project that needs to be permanently cancelled. I, and my family, have lived in this region many long years, continue to live here, and have multiple generations of my family still living here. This road project is terribly wrong for this area for a number of reasons, all of which I have listed in a simple question/answer, and commentary format here. See paragraphs below:

Question: _____ **What effect will the proposed Nenana-Totchaket Road Project have?**

Answer: The proposed Nenana- Totchaket Road project will destroy the Critical Habitat, Spawning Grounds, Essential Ecosystems and Traditional Hunting Areas.

Question: _____ **Who will this project hurt?**

Answer: This project will hurt delicate ecosystems, locals, bush residents, wildlife, and will have detrimental and permanent negative effects on geological stability in the land itself because it is predominantly made up of sand and river-silt with a thin, fragile top-layer of leaf/tree loam.

The regions adversely affected and destroyed by this proposed road project include:

- **Critical Habitat of the Traditional Spawning Areas** from the Tanana River at Nenana to the Kantishna River in its entirety and all regions around the Kantishna River, extending as far as Lake Minchumina, which includes all water tributaries which flow into the Kantishna River Region.
- **Critical Habitats of the caribou herd migrations to and from Denali National Park** and regions around Denali National Park which are traditionally connected to the healthy and longtime migrations of the caribou herds
- **Salmon spawning grounds of the Toklat River**
- **Traditional Salmon Spawning grounds of Clear Creek**
- **Traditional Salmon Spawning grounds of all tributaries to the Kantishna and Tanana Rivers**
- **Private land affected by the road and ramp to the lower Kantishna**
- **Private Native allotments located within this Critical Habitat area**
- **Traditional Hunting Grounds used each year by local natives**
- **Traditional Hunting Grounds used each year by longtime permanent bush/subsistence residents**
- **Eagle-nesting Habitat**
- **Threatened and Endangered Species in area: such as The Peregrine Falcon(removed from endangered species list in 1999..however, this habitat is critical to keeping the Peregrine Falcon off of the endangered species list)**

The proposed road project would destroy areas of critical habitat of the wildlands surrounding the Toklat River, a longtime and strategically-important salmon-spawning area that encompasses, affects, and supports not only the Kantishna River, but also the Tanana River lands, and Yukon River lands as well. These areas are all connected to each other by weather patterns, spawning-runs, herd-migrations, animal use patterns, climate changes, and geological impacts. **Because these areas are on the upstream end of Critical Salmon Spawning destinations, they affect all spawning areas from the headwaters of every stream that runs into the Kantishna River, to the Tanana River and beyond, to the Yukon River Regions as well.**

On the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game website, under the Federal Special Status Species /Federal Endangered Species list, Critical Habitat is defined as:

“Critical Habitat”

The ESA defines **critical habitat** as "the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed . . . on which are found those physical or biological features (I) **essential to the conservation of the species** and (II) **which may require special management considerations or protection;**" and "specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed . . . [if those areas are determined to be] **essential for the conservation of the species.**" ”

Question:_____Do surrounding communities need this road?

Answer: NO. This would be a “road to nowhere” and would not benefit the local or bush residents or Native Villages.

Question_____Is access to, and creation of, an agricultural endeavor in this area a viable option considering the terrain and affected ecosystems?

Answer: NO.

The Agricultural project this road proposes to access is still in a planning stage, and the location of this area for such an endeavor is not an applicable one because the land itself is predominantly made up of of river-silt and perma-frost. An agricultural venture would cause rapid thawing of perma-frost-creating a vast lake, and drainage and destructive run-off of the weakened sand/silt layers and pollution into the Critical Habitat of the Kantishna River System.

Question_____Would this affect Alaskan Wetlands?

Answer: YES

Question_____Would Private land, State land, or Federal land be affected?

Answer: YES, there are no less than 36 parcels that the ‘anticipated environmental consequences’ section lists on the DOT Scoping Letter as being property that would be ‘required’ as Right Of Way.

Question: _____ **What benefits would the proposed Nenana-Totchaket Road Project have for Traditional Use, Locals, or wildlife ecosystems?**

Answer: NONE. The Nenana-Totchaket Road Project will not benefit Local, Traditional Use, Subsistence Use, or the Critical Habitats and or Ecosystems in any way. The Nenana-Totchaket Road Project will damage or destroy all of those areas.

The Nenana-Totchaket-Scoping Letter falsely claims that these community areas would be unaffected in its section labeled

“social-community impact’:

“Nenana-Totchaket Project could affect community cohesion, neighborhoods, or other community facilities. _____No”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Historic Properties:

This section states that the project has no knowledge of places of traditional religious or cultural importance to Tribes present in the project area as well as adverse affects on historical properties. Both are listed as ‘unknown.’ See quote below:

“Section: 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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Fish and Wildlife Impacts:

Section E-Fish and Wildlife Impacts states that this project could impact anadromous or resident fish species. Number 3 on the list wrongly states that there is no Essential Fish Habitat present in the project area. This area is part of the surrounded area that directly affect the Kantishna River Drainage. A known Critical Habitat area for critical spawning grounds, The Toklat River- a tributary to the Kantishna River. It also mentions it does not know if it has eagle nesting areas in this region. The answer is YES. It does. Eagles nest in the Kantishna River Region and are seen by bush residents, locals, and Natives who traverse the area. Number 7 states that this road project could affect migratory bird-nesting grounds as well. See quotes below:

“Section: 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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding threatened and endangered species:

Because this project area affects more than one small footprint, this list regarding threatened and endangered species is incorrect. It claims there are no threatened and endangered species in the area, Proposed or candidate species in the area, and that there is no Critical Habitat in the area. Since this project area directly affects the Kantishna River Drainage area, which is connected to and part of the Toklat River Drainage, it is **part of a Critical Habitat** area, and essential to the ecological systems contained and supported within that system. See quote below:

“Section: 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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Wetlands and Waterbodies:

The section regarding Wetlands and Waterbodies states that this project does involve wetlands and waterbodies. It does not include a rough estimate on wetland acreage that it intends to impact, it simply states it is unknown. There is a wild and scenic river in this area, even though it may not be listed as one officially. See quotes below:

“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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Water Quality:

In section M of the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping letter, it states that this project could involve a public or private drinking source. It also states that this project could result in a discharge of storm waters to Waters of the U.S.

This discharge of storm waters could potentially pollute the water of the region, from small creeks to rivers, directly affecting the Kantishna River Drainage and it’s tributaries, which include the Critical Habitat of the Spawning grounds located on the Toklat River.

It also mentions “Excavation dewatering is anticipated within 1,500 feet of a contaminated site. See quote below:

“Section 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.”

__For these reasons, this project must be stopped permanently through a Tribal Emergency Closure/ Cease and Desist Order, effective immediately.

__For these reasons, the Nenana Native Tribal Council should annex the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project and claim it officially as the Traditionally Important Lands that this area has always been. This would not affect private property rights. This would provide important environmental protection against developments such as the Nenana-Totchaket Project and the damage it would wreak on the delicate ecosystem that has long been traditionally protected by longtime Alaskans who sustainably live in, and rely upon, these areas for their survival.

For these reasons, I am extremely opposed to the Nenana Tochaket Road Project, as well as the Nenana Tochaket Agricultural Project. I am against the destruction of these wildlands which are so essential to those who rely upon them, both human and wildlife. This project needs to be stopped immediately.

**Verna Coy, Longtime Permanent Alaskan Bush resident of the Kantishna River
 William Coy, Longtime Permanent Alaskan Bush resident of the Kantishna River
 Rose Coy, Longtime Permanent Alaskan Bush resident of the Kantishna River
 Larenda Coy Forness Longtime resident of Kantishna River as a child/ currently
 permanent resident and Asst. Fire Chief/EMS of Nenana, Alaska**

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Totochaket Rd.
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:51:45 AM

From: Wilma David <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totochaket Rd.

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I understand that they want to put this rd. in. Without coming to Minto and getting our input. I am against this road. It leads into our lands Minto. We have hard enough time getting our food for winter fishing and hunting. There are some many people out on our Minto Flats from Fbks, Anc. All over that come in the flats that we cant even get our moose or fish. This would be another access to our lands. We need support, for not letting this project go forth. I feel that people never listen to us when we voice our concerns its been that way for years.

Please do not let this Rd go thru.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW:
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:02:29 AM

From: boat30@gci.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject:

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Good Morning, I lived in Nenana for 55 years. I have been all over the area to be farmed. I totally support the State of Alaska with this Nenana Totchaket project. We need food security in Alaska. I have read the comments about hunting grounds and ruining the environment. That area is hard to get to during hunting season, I've tried. It would be good for the whole area to have farming right next to Nenana. The animals are very adaptive with progress. Look at how many moose live right in Anchorage. I have lived in Anchorage for 18 years. I see them all of the time. 100% support from me.
Gary Demientieff [REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Road
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 6:09:11 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Aaron Dey [REDACTED]
Date: September 28, 2022 at 4:27:17 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: Totchaket Road

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Jonathan,

Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk about the road to the Kantishna. I really appreciate it. I was looking through the information online and couldn't really find anything about public comment periods. Is the project still accepting public comment?

Regardless, I guess you could add my name to the list of folks that would like to see the State slow down on the construction of the new section of road. I'm not exactly opposed to the road, rather I think we might be spending money on something just because we have it and not for an actual public interest.

I think that if the land sales for ag are successful then the road is justified. However, we could be spending money on an access road that the property owners of the Kantishna, like myself, don't really want. I'm opposed to the road being built if the only purpose is for Kantishna river access.

I staked my remote property because it is remote and difficult to get to. That's all part of the charm.

However, if the ag land sale is successful and people actually start building farms out there, (skeptical face) then I feel that the road will be justified. But part of me really worries that this road is rapidly heading down the same tracks as all the other state funded catastrophes and bad projects. Personally, I think that projects like this are best when they work from the bottom up not the top down.

I know, I know, this road has been talked about by planning people for decades. However, it hasn't been asked for by the real stakeholders. I guess I don't know everyone on the Kantishna, but I do know 5-6 families that own property and have cabins like me. Nobody I know really wants a road to the Kantishna, but that's just my unscientific analysis. Most of us have been aware of the road plan for years but honestly didn't really think it was going to happen.

So in summary, is there a real public interest in extending the existing road to the Kantishna? I don't really think there is. We could be spending money for no real

reason way before we should. I'm definitely all for improvement of the existing road and I'm not really opposed to planning and surveying further road improvements. However, I'd really appreciate a few more years before the state plows a road through my favorite hunting ground.

Aaron Dey

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:54:25 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:00 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Anne Doerpinghaus

[REDACTED]



September 26, 2022

Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.
Engineering Manager, ADOT&PF
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

Doyon, Limited provides this letter in support of the improvements of the Nenana Totchaket Road by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation in October 2022 as well as the continued construction starting in 2023.

Doyon is one of the Alaska Native regional corporations established by Congress under the terms of ANCSA. Headquartered in Fairbanks, Doyon has more than 20,000 Alaska Native shareholders. Doyon is the largest private landowner in Alaska, with a land entitlement under ANCSA of more than 12.5 million acres. Doyon's lands extend from the Brooks Range in the north to the Alaska Range in the south and from the Alaska-Canada border in the east to almost the Bering Sea in the west.

The Nenana Tochaket Road Project is a construction project from the Nenana River to the Kantishna River. The 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.

Doyon improved and constructed portions of the first 12 miles during its multi-year oil and gas exploration activities in the Nenana-Minto Basin which concluded in 2018. The access is located on a City of Nenana Right of Way held since 1984. In addition, Doyon supported early work on the development of the bridge which provides over water access to the Totchaket Road. In 2021, the Nenana Tribe received a BUILD federal grant to construct the bridge.

Doyon worked in partnership with Toghoththele, the City of Nenana, the Nenana Tribe, and various other organizations in constructing portions of the first 12 miles of the road to not only provide access to support exploration activities but to provide future access to the Toghoththele lands and state lands.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic showcased the dire needs for food security in Alaska and especially so in Arctic regions such as the Interior region villages and Fairbanks. These areas

were inequitably impacted by increased prices and transportation supply issues for fruits and vegetables key to daily health needs. We support this agricultural access project which enhances food security by way of local food production which will benefit our shareholders and the region.

Please contact me with any questions,.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah E. Obed".

Sarah Obed
Senior Vice President of External Affairs
Doyon, Limited

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:54:12 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 6:11 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms Rosielani Enos

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:39:48 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

I am a non-Native living in the Nenana area and I stand in solidarity with the local Nenana tribe in questioning the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657). It seems like there is a rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice about the Sept. 10 meeting, while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Carrie Farr

[REDACTED]



Lake Williams
President

**FAIRBANKS BUILDING
& CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
AFL-CIO**



Joshua Paris
Secretary/Treasurer

Jonathan J Hutchinson, P.E.
Engineering Manager, ADOT & PF
2301 Peger Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

The Fairbanks Building Trades Council (FBT Council) has reviewed the Nenana Totchaket Road project and fully supports the project moving forward including the completion of the environmental field studies, funding, and final construction. The FBT Council is a coalition of AFL-CIO affiliates building and construction trades Unions that represent over 4,000 skilled craft union members in Alaska, north of the 63rd parallel. We represent highly trained, productive, and skilled construction professionals, many who come from rural areas of Alaska. Our Locals Unions have decades of experience recruiting and training skilled labor – including women, communities of color and military veterans, and we strive to partner with local projects to create local jobs that have transferrable trade skills of which the community can continue to count on. The FBT Council support the “roads to resources” model for accessing land for resource development, food security (agricultural development and/or hunting and fishing opportunities), or to increase land access for recreation use and tourism. Our members and contractors have worked on various parts of the project over the years including building and maintaining ice roads for exploratory wells, providing rig support, and the construction of the Nenana River bridge for the Totchaket Road. We believe the Totchaket Road will prove a financial benefit to local residents during the construction phase and an economic boost to the community in perpetuity. The unions of the FBT Council, our local contractors, and the workers we represent have a proven track record of following strict environmental and cultural standards, completing projects on time, on budget, safely, and hiring and training local community members. We look forward to the approval of the Nenana Totchaket Road project and partnering with our contractors to see the project completion.

Sincerely,

Lake Williams
President, Fairbanks Building and Construction Trades Council
3002 Lathrop St Fairbanks, AK 99701
Cell: #907-590-1893
Email: lwilliams@iuoe302.org

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket road
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 1:56:27 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cheryl Fitka [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 1:41:23 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket road

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Good afternoon. Not all people are against this road! I think it is a great idea, pursue it.
I'm all for roads that connect people and make life easier for them. Let's get this done
Have a beautiful week.

Cheryl Fitka
Nenana resident

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Totchaket road project
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 12:54:42 PM

From: Larenda Coy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 11:41 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket road project

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I am absolutely opposed to this project. This project will destroy delicate habitat, drive away valuable subsistence opportunities, and would mark the beginning of the end of a way of life for traditional Alaskans.

This area is home to salmon spawning, delicate peregrine falcon nesting areas, grayling spawning, and more.

The families that have lived here for decades oppose the project. This is not a suitable ground for farming or raising livestock of any kind. The building of this road will destroy the country it penetrates.

I am staunchly opposed and this road MUST NOT be built.

Larenda Forness, long time Kantishna resident
[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:52:17 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:55 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

#LandBack isn't just for the Natives trying to take "land back" it's for the world! There should always be tribal consultation on all land matters with the local tribes no matter where! #tribalsovereignty FOOD SOVEREIGNTY!
#NONenanaTotchaketRoad !

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Aubrey Gamble

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:43:56 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Atticus Geiger <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 8:34:15 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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Sincerely,
Dr. Atticus Geiger



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket road
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 6:36:26 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rex Goolsby [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 6:13:01 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket road

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To whom it may concern,
I wish to add my comment concerning the construction of the Totchaket road. I am very much in favor of the project. Development and access to lands in Rural Alaska is necessary for our future. I have lived in Interior Alaska for over 45 years and have been in Nenana for several years now. I am particularly in favor of anything which will promote agricultural development and support responsible projects of this kind.

--

**Rex Goolsby,
Lars Construction Management Co.
Nenana, Alaska**

[REDACTED]

*Always and invariably submit to the dictates of an ethical conscience

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:44:09 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lindsey Hajduk [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 8:00:42 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is now incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lindsey Hajduk



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Rd
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:56:16 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: JD Hanson [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 8:03:27 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Rd

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My name is Jamie Hanson I have been a resident of Nenana since 2008 I can't say enough good about the proposed road to the Kantishna river I was hunting and fishing berry picking over there before the drilling and since the exploration it has only gotten better This project will benefit the whole State in my opinion with access for subsistence agriculture wildfire management I can't say enough good about the contractors that have started this project with the care to the environment that they have shown I know because I have hiked all of it and can't wait for more I have so many stories of my encounters with nature out there and really know this project is good for everyone

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:08:55 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 12:07 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mr. Glenn Helkenn

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana Totchaket Road
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:45:18 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michael Hirt <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 9:18:40 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana Totchaket Road**

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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I am excited for the Nenana Totchaket Road to be built as it will give access to an area I have always wanted to view but never had the means to do so. I have lived in the interior since 1965 and appreciate the Rex trail, the area of Ferry, both being reasonably accessible. There are other places like the Stampede road that also make some access to the west. I don't believe access to these areas and others have been significantly detrimental to our environment but have expanded my appreciation for our great state. There are several barriers including rivers that this road with its bridges makes access possible. I believe in an abundance mentality which means there is much to be gained with this project as opposed to a scarcity mentality that only allows access for people with boats and float planes. The environment will not be impacted any more than it has in other areas but will allow a greater love for Alaska.

Sincerley,
Michael Hirt
Born in Petersburg, Alaska, 1950

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:06:23 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 12:00 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

This sale and proposed road is a horrific affront to the community of Nenana and Nenana Tribal members. The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is rushed and with less than a week of notice, cannot be considered public process. It surely must be purposeful to do this while Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mx. Arleigh Hitchcock

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Tokchaket project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 5:45:18 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: M Hoskins [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 5:37:55 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Tokchaket project

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Please support this project AK needs more roads ..the communities need this more land needs to be opened. Thank you and God bless Ak...

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Road project out of Nenana
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 6:38:46 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: chuck hugny [REDACTED]
Date: September 28, 2022 at 10:15:21 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Road project out of Nenana

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reason for this letter is the Nenana Agricultural land sale and the \$15 million dollar road extension to the Kantishna River. I agree with our local tribes' view that this project should be stopped so a full disclosure of the environmental impact, cultural and traditional use of the area is determined. In addition are these public funds being used to the best benefit of the citizens of the state of Alaska?

The area where the land sale and road are proposed have been traditional hunting, fishing, trapping and wood gathering land used by local Nenana residents. Privatizing this area for farming will greatly curtail these century old practices.

The land where the road would go is wetlands atop permafrost. With the warming climate a road built over this base is bound to have issues. The newly established road to Tanana has become a difficult road to travel due to lack of upkeep. Once these roads are built who will maintain them?

From the public comment meeting on September 10th I gathered that the presented reason for making the road was to provide agricultural opportunities and access to hunting and fishing. I understand the State's interest in food securities. My thought is that the State should be choosing to develop food sources in the Mat-Su valley. This would be much more effective for a number of reasons. Mat-Su has a much longer growing season and is close to the major population centers so food transportation would be much less and access to good soil, electricity and water is already established,

As for the hunting and fishing access, this proposed area is already available by boat. Local subsistence users boat the rivers as a non-intrusive way of reaching needed resources. A road would stress the local food source as it would encourage outside hunters to expand their hunting opportunities at the expense of those who live and depend on the food resources locally.

Finally, is this the best use of Federal transportation money. The existing highways in Alaska are in constant need of repair. Wouldn't a greater good be to improve what we already have?

Thanks for your time and consideration,
Sent from my iPhone
Chuck Hugny

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: "Road to nowhere"
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:03:50 PM

From: kari irish [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>; Bishop, Click (LEG) <senator.click.bishop@akleg.gov>
Subject: "Road to nowhere"

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There is currently a "meeting" being held in our local school gym. This isn't a public meeting, this is a tragedy. We the local people have not been duly notified and these "meetings" disguised as an AG day held in Nenana, Alaska. Now today there is another "public meeting" yet we are not allowed to have a public comment so we made our public comment.

This road has been spoken of for the last 41 years that I know of. It is a road to nowhere. This needs to STOP. There is so much more that needs to be done before you put this road in. The representatives here today repeatedly have stated that they have spoken to the locals and the stakeholders of TOG, Nenana Native Council but those stakeholder STOOD in front of them and stated that they had not been notified or contacted.

The State of Alaska needs to STOP!!!!!! We as a people do not support this as the S.O.A. has not done their due diligence... and they are going to try to put a road across bog and marsh and wetlands and permafrost..... and across lands that only should be accessed by wildlife and those that are familiar with these areas and lands.

Your own research has stated that the grounds are not conducive to building a road. or supporting the magnitude of traffic that would be running this "road to nowhere".

I would like to know why this road has even been funded when other active villages/cities would benefit from an actual road to their locations instead of a road to a place where there is only 1 active family living there and several seasonal households. And agricultural lands just do not ring true.

I need answers. My community needs answers and not bureaucratic bs.

Sincerely,
Kari L Irish
[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:24:55 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Alexis Jenkins

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd:
Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022 6:07:34 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Daniel Kehoe [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 9:04:54 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>

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Since the state of Alaska is currently offering agricultural land parcels along this roadway. I believe the State of Alaska should upgrade these roads. We do have the money currently have money set aside to improve these roads, and residents of this state would like to continue to have access. Please continue the Totchaket Road Project.

State of Alaska resident.
Daniel Kehoe

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Totchaket
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:41:37 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2022-09-29 at 1.42.17 PM.png](#)

Deryl Krause wanted to put in a public comment, but doesn't have an email address. He's a local farmer from Nenana. Asked me to forward this to you.

To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of this project to open up more land for farms. The road will also be able to be used for access to state forest lands. The road will also help citizens to access more hunting and gathering areas without having to have a boat or airplane.

Deryl



DANNY RUERUP
President

**LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION
of NORTH AMERICA**
LOCAL 942

2740 DAVIS RD., FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709, (907) 456-4584
722 W. 9th ST., JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801, (907) 586-2860
FAIRBANKS FAX (907) 452-6285
JUNEAU FAX (907) 586-5757



JACOB HOWDESHELL
Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer

September 29th, 2022

Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson
Engineering Manager, AKDOT&PF
2301 Peger Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Re: Nenana Totchaket Road

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

On behalf of Laborers' Local 942, please accept this letter in support of the proposed Totchaket Road project located in Nenana.

In an effort for full disclosure, Laborers' Local 942 does have a vested interest in the project as it could potentially employ our members during the construction phase of the project. We also have members that live in the area that could potentially benefit from both the construction phase of the project and the economic and social benefits that will inevitably follow.

We are supportive of projects that bring the possibility of economic development to areas within the Interior and are done in the most environmentally responsible way while maintaining the subsistence, cultural, and historical value. We believe that this project accomplishes both aims.

Proper public scoping is the lynchpin of a robust permitting process that ensures that only those projects that meet the exacting standards of the State of Alaska Department of Transportation, the stakeholders of the locality, and the public at large move forward. We are appreciative for the opportunity to give our input as you consider the course and scope of this vital project for the area.

Respectfully,

Jacob Howdeshell
Business Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:32:29 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Guy Layfield [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 11:09:21 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Road Project

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Greetings,

I just wanted to reach out as a resident of Nenana to express support for the Totchaket Road Project. I believe that it has huge potential to make Nenana an important crossroads. Expanding the road system gives us more opportunity for future growth in ways that some may be too short-sighted to recognize. I am hopeful that this project will continue and suspicious of the intentions of the few people who are vocally against the project. Please realize that there are many less vocal residents that are in favor of growth, expansion, and opportunity.

Thanks for considering my thoughts.
-Guy Layfield

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana Totchaket Road
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 6:23:14 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amy Alaska [REDACTED]
Date: September 28, 2022 at 5:52:58 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana Totchaket Road

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I would like to comment on this road extension. Indigenous Americans who have lived here & had their homes here & used it for subsistence hunting to feed their families are having enough trouble feeding their families without another road for non-Native people to be able to come in and hunt and fish on their property. As I understand it this also includes ancient native burials which is horrible that the Alaska DOT would even consider putting a road over these areas!!!! I am against it and I would like to officially say that.

thank you

Amy Lee

North Pole, AK

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:44:21 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Princess Lucaj [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 10:11:56 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Princess Lucaj



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:25:25 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Abby Lutmer <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 27, 2022 at 5:12:51 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

Please do not rush this process. It is antithetical to Native rights and furthering the continuation of land degradation and food scarcity in the tribal areas around Nenana.

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many

of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Miss Abby Lutmer



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Road Repair
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 2:51:07 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Angelo Mangione <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 2:50:40 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Road Repair

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Since the state of Alaska is currently offering agricultural land parcels along this roadway. I believe the State of Alaska should upgrade these roads. We do have the money currently have money set aside to improve these roads, and residents of this state would like to continue to have access. Please continue the Totchaket Road Project.

State of Alaska resident.
Angelo Mangione

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:41:35 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Terry Talkaero <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 9:40:25 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Road Project

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Since the state of Alaska is currently offering agricultural land parcels along this roadway I believe the State of Alaska should upgrade these roads. We do have the money currently have money set aside to improve these roads, and residents of this state would like to continue to have access. Please continue the Totchaket Road Project.
State of Alaska resident.
Terry Mangione

Sept, 9, 2022

Regarding Nenana-Totchaket Road Project,

It has come to my attention that the project labeled as the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project is a detrimental and destructive project that needs to be permanently cancelled. I, and my family, have lived in this region many long years, continue to live here, and have multiple generations of my family still living here. This road project is terribly wrong for this area for a number of reasons, all of which I have listed in a simple question/answer, and commentary format here. See paragraphs below:

Question: _____ **What effect will the proposed Nenana-Totchaket Road Project have?**

Answer: The proposed Nenana- Totchaket Road project will destroy the Critical Habitat, Spawning Grounds, Essential Ecosystems and Traditional Hunting Areas.

Question: _____ **Who will this project hurt?**

Answer: This project will hurt delicate ecosystems, locals, bush residents, wildlife, and will have detrimental and permanent negative effects on geological stability in the land itself because it is predominantly made up of sand and river-silt with a thin, fragile top-layer of leaf/tree loam.

The regions adversely affected and destroyed by this proposed road project include:

- **Critical Habitat of the Traditional Spawning Areas** from the Tanana River at Nenana to the Kantishna River in its entirety and all regions around the Kantishna River, extending as far as Lake Minchumina, which includes all water tributaries which flow into the Kantishna River Region.
- **Critical Habitats of the caribou herd migrations to and from Denali National Park** and regions around Denali National Park which are traditionally connected to the healthy and longtime migrations of the caribou herds
- **Salmon spawning grounds of the Toklat River**
- **Traditional Salmon Spawning grounds of Clear Creek**
- **Traditional Salmon Spawning grounds of all tributaries to the Kantishna and Tanana Rivers**
- **Private land affected by the road and ramp to the lower Kantishna**
- **Private Native allotments located within this Critical Habitat area**
- **Traditional Hunting Grounds used each year by local natives**
- **Traditional Hunting Grounds used each year by longtime permanent bush/subsistence residents**
- **Eagle-nesting Habitat**
- **Threatened and Endangered Species in area: such as The Peregrine Falcon(removed from endangered species list in 1999..however, this habitat is critical to keeping the Peregrine Falcon off of the endangered species list)**

The proposed road project would destroy areas of critical habitat of the wildlands surrounding the Toklat River, a longtime and strategically-important salmon-spawning area that encompasses, affects, and supports not only the Kantishna River, but also the Tanana River lands, and Yukon River lands as well. These areas are all connected to each other by weather patterns, spawning-runs, herd-migrations, animal use patterns, climate changes, and geological impacts. **Because these areas are on the upstream end of Critical Salmon Spawning destinations, they affect all spawning areas from the headwaters of every stream that runs into the Kantishna River, to the Tanana River and beyond, to the Yukon River Regions as well.**

On the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game website, under the Federal Special Status Species /Federal Endangered Species list, Critical Habitat is defined as:

“Critical Habitat”

The ESA defines **critical habitat** as "the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed . . . on which are found those physical or biological features (I) **essential to the conservation of the species** and (II) **which may require special management considerations or protection;**" and "specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed . . . [if those areas are determined to be] **essential for the conservation of the species.**" ”

Question:_____Do surrounding communities need this road?

Answer: NO. This would be a “road to nowhere” and would not benefit the local or bush residents or Native Villages.

Question_____Is access to, and creation of, an agricultural endeavor in this area a viable option considering the terrain and affected ecosystems?

Answer: NO.

The Agricultural project this road proposes to access is still in a planning stage, and the location of this area for such an endeavor is not an applicable one because the land itself is predominantly made up of river-silt and perma-frost. An agricultural venture would cause rapid thawing of perma-frost-creating a vast lake, and drainage and destructive run-off of the weakened sand/silt layers and pollution into the Critical Habitat of the Kantishna River System.

Question_____Would this affect Alaskan Wetlands?

Answer: YES

Question_____Would Private land, State land, or Federal land be affected?

Answer: YES, there are no less than 36 parcels that the ‘anticipated environmental consequences’ section lists on the DOT Scoping Letter as being property that would be ‘required’ as Right Of Way.

Question: _____ **What benefits would the proposed Nenana-Totchaket Road Project have for Traditional Use, Locals, or wildlife ecosystems?**

Answer: NONE. The Nenana-Totchaket Road Project will not benefit Local, Traditional Use, Subsistence Use, or the Critical Habitats and or Ecosystems in any way. The Nenana-Totchaket Road Project will damage or destroy all of those areas.

The Nenana-Totchaket-Scoping Letter falsely claims that these community areas would be unaffected in its section labeled

“social-community impact’:

“Nenana-Totchaket Project could affect community cohesion, neighborhoods, or other community facilities. _____No”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Historic Properties:

This section states that the project has no knowledge of places of traditional religious or cultural importance to Tribes present in the project area as well as adverse affects on historical properties. Both are listed as ‘unknown.’ See quote below:

“Section: 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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Fish and Wildlife Impacts:

Section E-Fish and Wildlife Impacts states that this project could impact anadromous or resident fish species. Number 3 on the list wrongly states that there is no Essential Fish Habitat present in the project area. This area is part of the surrounded area that directly affect the Kantishna River Drainage. A known Critical Habitat area for critical spawning grounds, The Toklat River- a tributary to the Kantishna River. It also mentions it does not know if it has eagle nesting areas in this region. The answer is YES. It does. Eagles nest in the Kantishna River Region and are seen by bush residents, locals, and Natives who traverse the area. Number 7 states that this road project could affect migratory bird-nesting grounds as well. See quotes below:

“Section: 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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding threatened and endangered species:

Because this project area affects more than one small footprint, this list regarding threatened and endangered species is incorrect. It claims there are no threatened and endangered species in the area, Proposed or candidate species in the area, and that there is no Critical Habitat in the area. Since this project area directly affects the Kantishna River Drainage area, which is connected to and part of the Toklat River Drainage, it is **part of a Critical Habitat** area, and essential to the ecological systems contained and supported within that system. See quote below:

“Section: 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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Wetlands and Waterbodies:

The section regarding Wetlands and Waterbodies states that this project does involve wetlands and waterbodies. It does not include a rough estimate on wetland acreage that it intends to impact, it simply states it is unknown. There is a wild and scenic river in this area, even though it may not be listed as one officially. See quotes below:

“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.”

Problems found in the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping Letter regarding Water Quality:

In section M of the Nenana-Totchaket Scoping letter, it states that this project could involve a public or private drinking source. It also states that this project could result in a discharge of storm waters to Waters of the U.S.

This discharge of storm waters could potentially pollute the water of the region, from small creeks to rivers, directly affecting the Kantishna River Drainage and it’s tributaries, which include the Critical Habitat of the Spawning grounds located on the Toklat River.

It also mentions “Excavation dewatering is anticipated within 1,500 feet of a contaminated site. See quote below:

“Section 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.”

__For these reasons, this project must be stopped permanently through a Tribal Emergency Closure/ Cease and Desist Order, effective immediately.

__For these reasons, the Nenana Native Tribal Council should annex the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project and claim it officially as the Traditionally Important Lands that this area has always been. This would not affect private property rights. This would provide important environmental protection against developments such as the Nenana-Totchaket Project and the damage it would wreak on the delicate ecosystem that has long been traditionally protected by longtime Alaskans who sustainably live in, and rely upon, these areas for their survival.

For these reasons, I am extremely opposed to the Nenana Tochacket Road Project, as well as the Nenana Tochaket Agricultural Project. I am against the destruction of these wildlands which are so essential to those who rely upon them, both human and wildlife. This project needs to be stopped immediately.

**Mike Turner, Longtime Permanent Alaskan Bush resident of the Kantishna River
Fran Turner, Longtime Permanent Alaskan Bush resident of the Kantishna River**

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 8:25:23 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Miller <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 27, 2022 at 4:50:07 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,

Mr. Peter Miller



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Totchaket Road Extension
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 2:36:37 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nathan Minnema <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 2:01:06 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Road Extension

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Mr. Hutchinson,

I would like to submit a public comment in favor of the Totchaket Road Extension. I grew up in the Nenana area, and presently live in the Fairbanks area. My parents and a sibling still live in the Nenana and we still call the area home! I am in favor of the Totchaket Road Extension because it opens up more of interior Alaska to development, agriculture, and resource development. Far too much of the State is locked up and inaccessible. If properly developed in conjunction with local government and tribal entities this would be a huge benefit to the area and the State as a whole.

Regards,
Nathan J. Minnema

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:01:53 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ryan Morse

[REDACTED]



FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mr. Brett Nelson/ Northern Region Environmental Manager
Attn: Mr. Bill Sexton/ Environmental Impact Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709

September 30th, 2022

Re: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project (Project# NSHWY00657)

Dear Mr. Nelson and Mr. Sexton,

I am writing in regard to the Nenana-Totchaket Rd extension which will be constructed between Nenana and the Kantishna River as described in the project scoping letter.

The mission of the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) is to assist private landowners and leaseholders and all citizens of the district in the development of private land using sustainable and best management practices in critical natural resource areas by offering technical and educational assistance. FSWCD also acts as a liaison between private landowners and users and other agencies and organizations. Our critical natural resource areas include wise land development, promotion of agriculture, prevention and eradication of invasive weeds, natural resource education, and the wise use of soil, water, and forestry resources.

The proposed road through the Nenana Totchaket area relates to all of these concerns. FSWCD has been promoting this area for agricultural development for over 30 years and realizes that a road through the parcels will increase the success of agriculture in the area. While meeting the needs of promoting agriculture, FSWCD wants to ensure that best management practices in all the natural resource issues are utilized by private landowners and in the construction of the proposed road. Of particular concern is the spread of invasive plants from the existing 12-mile stretch of road further into the natural areas surrounding the Kantishna River. A letter regarding invasive plants in the Nenana-Totchaket agricultural has been submitted separately in response to this scoping letter in January 2022, and is attached here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
Joni Scharfenberg
District Manager
Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District
jonisc@gmail.com



Mr. Brett Nelson/ Northern Region Environmental Manager
Attn: Mr. Bill Sexton/ Environmental Impact Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99709

January 20th, 2022

Re: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project (Project# NSHWY00657)

Dear Mr. Nelson and Mr. Sexton,

I would like to provide some information regarding invasive plants in the vicinity of the existing road from Nenana to the Totchaket area as it relates to the Nenana-Totchaket Rd which will be constructed between Nenana and the Kantishna River as described in the project scoping letter.

I have made observations of extensive, dense stands of white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*), and large patches of bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*) in the vicinity of the Nenana boat launch (64.556568, -149.113138), along 10th ave. leading up to Totchaket Rd (64.552765, -149.101930), and in several areas along the existing 12-mile long Nenana-Totchaket Rd (e.g. white sweet clover was found as far as 64.584894, -149.444778). Many of the infestations that I observed along the Nenana-Totchaket Rd were found to be spreading from existing turnouts and other disturbed areas. I made these observations in summer 2021. Some of the proposed material extraction zones that are demarcated in Fig.4 in the project scoping letter are very likely to contain white sweet clover or bird vetch. These are both highly invasive plants that spread easily, have persistent seed banks, and are very difficult to eradicate once established. The Nenana-Totchaket Rd will no doubt serve as a conduit and the material extraction zones as potential vector sites, for the spread of these invasive plants from Nenana deeper into the Nenana-Totchaket area towards the Kantishna River, in an area that is important for subsistence activities. Furthermore, the spread of invasive plants would compromise the quality of the agricultural land that the road is intended to serve. Therefore, it would be prudent to manage outlying infestations of these highly invasive plants in order to prevent their spread and protect natural areas, at the outset of project implementation.

A detailed survey of the invasive plants in the Nenana-Totchaket Rd area and vicinity has not as yet been conducted to the best of my knowledge, and I would consider this a priority in the 2022 season. We recommend the following steps to prevent the spread of high priority invasive plants by the construction of the Nenana-Totchaket Rd:

- (1) identify and map the current infestations of white sweet clover, bird vetch, and other high priority invasive plants between 10th Ave. in Nenana and the end of the existing 12-mile section of the Nenana-Totchaket Rd,
- (2) identify and map invasive plants present in the proposed material extraction sites, (3) conduct targeted control of invasive plants (e.g. control white sweet clover at material extraction sites), (4) implement best management practices to prevent the spread of invasive plants during all project operations, and (5) install signage and conduct outreach to alert the public of the presence of invasive plant infestations and how to prevent their spread. FSWCD would be happy to assist in the planning and implementation of these important activities. We believe that preventing the spread of invasive plants at the outset of the Nenana-Totchaket Rd Project would be an ecologically and economically beneficial step to take.

Thank you for your attention in this matter, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aditi Shenoy".

Ms. Aditi Shenoy, PhD.
Invasive Species Specialist
Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District
aditi.shenoy@gmail.com

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:43:41 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Isabelle Nicolier [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 12:00:47 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Isabelle Nicolier



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:51:16 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 12:00 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

Public process must be fair!

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Sincerely,
Mx. Maio Nishkian

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana totchaket road project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 1:55:33 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Nord <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 1:18:00 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana totchaket road project

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It has come to my attention that we have an abnormal amount of out of state activists arguing against this project. This is contradictory to the desires of most Alaskans. We support more infrastructure, industry, and jobs. We need more of these projects that provide opportunity to the willing, to our citizens, to the native american corporations, and broaden the Alaskan homestead.

Please do your best to vet the kick back your receiving from these rabble rousers who do not belong in Alaska nor provide helpful supportive feedback that is applicable to our citizens, this state, or the respitive future for people who are vested in this state. They do not reside here, pay taxes, nor any other meaningful action. Among many other Alaskans I feel extremely frustrated that projects, such as this one, recieve so much antagonism.

Please let me know what is being done so I can fully assist in a good outcome for Alaskans and our future.

V/r
Scott Nord (AK resident since 2009)

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Totchaket Road
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:47:58 PM

From: Charlie O'Brien <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:43 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket Road

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Just wanted to express my opposition to the road extension proposed near Nenana. Growing up in Nenana I have never seen the land so overran and torn up from outside hunters coming to our land. All just a few miles from the village. Extending this road all the way to the Kantishna would increase this exponentially and lead ultimately to a loss of a way of life for the people there.



International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCAL 302 • Washington • Alaska • Idaho • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager & General Vice President*

September 30, 2022

RE: Nenana Totchaket Rd. Public Comment

To Whom it May Concern,

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 represents thousands of members across the State of Alaska, many of those members and their families reside in rural areas. Having economic opportunities in rural Alaska provides jobs for local residents and provides for their families that live in these communities. Not only will the Totchaket Road in Nenana be constructed in accordance with strict environmental and cultural standards required in today's construction, it will increase subsistence opportunities when completed. IUOE Local 302 is supportive of this project, and we look forward to working the awarded contractor to fulfill manpower needs and create opportunities for rural Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Crystal Tidwell

IUOE Local 302, Business Agent

(907)888-0036

ctidwell@iuoe302.org

Sean Jeffries, *President* · Jason Alward, *Vice President*

18701 120th Avenue NE · Bothell, Washington 98011-9514

Telephone: (425) 806-0302 · Toll-free: 1-800-521-8882 · Fax: (425) 806-0030

Washington Branches: Bellingham · Silverdale · Ellensburg · Spokane · Pasco Alaska Branches: Anchorage · Fairbanks · Juneau Idaho Branch: Pocatello

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:43:28 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Atigun Papp <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 12:06:55 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

In addition to everything listed below, I would like to add that this road would not benefit anyone other than the few individuals fortunate enough to acquire property in the area. The people of Nenana have made it very clear that they oppose the road project going through in the manner that is currently underway. The State of Alaska is certainly not going to benefit economically from a boondoggle such as this and one only needs to consult a history of similar projects in the States history to see that. Also, the environmental impacts of this project would not only be damaging but disruptive to an entire ecosystem that we as Alaskans count on for both food and for our way of life.

* * *

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mr. Atigun Papp

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 26, 2022 8:49:57 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Skywalker Payne <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 24, 2022 at 3:44:34 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

I am writing in support of the Nenana Peoples objection to the taking of their traditional lands. Alaska cannot continue to violate the rights of the original peoples in this state.

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

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Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Skywalker Payne



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:44:31 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jasmine Perea <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 9:19:55 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Sincerely,
Ms. Jasmine Perea

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 6:50:34 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alyssa Quintyne <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 3:54:48 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana-Totchaket Road Project**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

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Sincerely,
Mx. Alyssa Quintyne



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana Totchaket road
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:05:36 PM

From: Gayle Ramey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 10:39 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana Totchaket road

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September 1, 2022

Jonathan, I lived in Nenana for 50 years, I own a home there, have children and grandkids there and have part ownership in property in Kantishna.

We already have hunters come from all over the state and even out of state to hunt the moose in our area. We don't need to give anymore access of local moose to these trophy hunters. Due to the flagrant mismanagement of the fisheries resources we have lost our fishing opportunities and this will simply decrease the hunting opportunities for the mostly indigenous people in the interior.

I was opposed to the bridge going in but I'm definitely opposed to extending that road any further. The road should not be extended, the only thing that would accomplish is to destroy subsistence opportunities for the local people, including (but not limited to) the collection of fire wood, trapping and hunting.

Start the agricultural opportunities and see how it goes, put the money into that and quit destroying the livelihood of local people.

The state should try to figure out how to let trophy hunters hunt moose in Anchorage instead of in the interior.

Gayle Ramey
[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:56:29 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

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Sincerely,
Ms. Liz Rangel

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Trascribed comment from Edna Riley
Date: Friday, September 23, 2022 3:01:13 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Edna Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Re: Trascribed comment from Edna Riley

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.

Hello Jonathan., not only opposed bc of the lack
Of upkeep but., the State is getting close to Native Allotments.

On Sep 22, 2022, at 5:31 PM, Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)
<jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov> wrote:

Edna Riley,

Thanks for the call today, 9/22/22, around 4:20 pm.
I will do my best to transcribe your comments here for the record. Please reply to this
email with any changes.

*You are from Minto, and would like to see DOT meet with the community
leaders in Minto regarding the proposed project.*

*You are opposed to the project because you are concerned about a new road in
this area not being property maintained by the State, including no management
of trash that would accumulate from increased public access, much like you
have seen on the Elliot Highway.*

*You are also concerned about the road extension because it extends closer to
Native Allotments in the area.*

*You mentioned the need for more bathrooms or wayside type facilities along
the Elliot Highway.*

You can access a project map at the link below, and share it as you like.

<https://arcg.is/1CS9Pn>

the Project website is here: [Nenana Totchaket Road, Transportation & Public
Facilities \(alaska.gov\)](#)



Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.

Project Manager, NR DOT&PF Rural Transportation Team

907-451-5479 | jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana -Totchaket Road
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:08:51 PM

From: Alissa Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 12:09 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nenana -Totchaket Road

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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.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to protest the extension of the Nenana-Totchaket road. I may be missing some information as it seems not much has been put out about the project. From what I can guess, the road and bridges that are currently there were put in for oil exploration. Oil was a bust and now there is a big bridge and a road that goes nowhere and has no real purpose. The State of Alaska has money to burn on road projects and this one was already proposed. Maybe I am missing pieces but I am happy to be informed if I am wrong.

What is the purpose of a road to the Kantishna River? Who does this road benefit and why? Were local people asking for a road to the Kantishna River? Is this road going to be maintained and ploughed or just another crappy road only used as a last resort?

We have never had a problem accessing that area by boat, snowgo, or dog team. It is not an area with a overabundance of moose and more pressure from hunters will not make things better. Weekend warriors have wrecked the Rex Trail and other roads and trails not too far from Nenana. Giving more urban people easier access to a such a delicate ecosystem seems very unwise. I am tired of seeing the state trashed by Argos and side by sides with no one seeming to care. This land deserves protection so that future generations have places to go to be in touch with nature. It is where many many generations of local people have fished, picked berries, hunted and trapped. Lived off the land. Money can not fix the environmental issues this road will create.

It would seem that the current road has already created plenty of opportunity to access new land for agricultural experimentation. If it turns out that this area is amazing for growing crops then the community of Nenana would most likely welcome the opportunity to expand the road when they are ready for such an expansion. Just because the State of Alaska has money to burn does not make this project right. People who live in these areas are not people with a thirst for money above all else.

Those people go to other places chasing the dollar. Alaskans who live in these rural areas do so because they love the land and water. They respect nature and the animals. They manage their traplines and maintain healthy populations of animals. They teach future generations to do the same. Leave it better than they found it.

I just drove the Alaska Highway and it is in terrible shape from Tok to the border. Last year I drove to the Yukon River Bridge. Also not in good shape. The road to Manley Hot Springs is not great and I hear it get worse past Manley towards Tanana. I drove the Richardson this summer and it is very slow going in spots. Our main highways are not good so why do we need to sink money in to a road to a river with no real hunting or fishing opportunities?

20 years ago we took a boat ride down the Tanana River from Nenana to Swan Neck Slough. My elderly grandfather said "In your lifetime you will see many changes. This will all be developed and have houses on it. It happened in the wilderness I grew up on." I didn't believe him. This is way too remote I thought. There is no way this will change and be developed. I thought he was crazy. I was wrong.

It is time the State of Alaska gives the community of Nenana a voice in whether or not this road happens. No one in Anchorage or Juneau is going to be affected by this road. The local tribe needs a say in how their land is treated. This project should be on hold until all of the concerns are heard and permission is granted for a road to go though.

Thank you

Alissa Robinson

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 8:54:03 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 4:58 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mr. Michael Romanovsky

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public comment re Nenana road
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 10:44:59 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tara Colleen <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 29, 2022 at 10:37:55 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Public comment re Nenana road

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.

To Whom it should concern:

I am writing with comments on the proposed road from Nenana to the Kantishna River. I am an affected property owner and live on the Little Nenana River about a half mile from the road.

The proposed road would directly affect my ability to carry out my subsistence lifestyle. This area has traditionally been used for hunting and trapping by myself and the people of Nenana. The proposed use threatens our fish, ducks, bears, moose, beaver (my main food group!), sensitive wetlands and cultural sites, and keeps bull moose away during hunting season. It threatens my subsistence lifestyle (taught to me by my parents) and the livelihood of traditional people who have made use of the area for thousands of years.

There has still not been a cumulative impact study. In Daniel S Sullivan vs REDOIL, the Alaska Supreme Court found that "it is necessary for the State to take a "hard look" at all factors material and relevant to the public interest: this "hard look" necessarily includes considering the cumulative impacts of a project." This entire road, bridge, and agricultural project has been done in bits and pieces with no full public review and comment. While various agencies have pretended that the project is only a temporary bridge here, a temporary road there, etc, the state has neglected to consider the cumulative impacts of what is in reality one big project.

The increased road access has already increased the presence of unskilled, un-local, rude hunters in the area. For example, since the road appeared, people have been cutting each-others tires in competition for road camp spots during moose season, baiting bears unpermitted a quarter mile from my cabin, shooting at those bears without sighting their guns in and wounding bears that then come to my

cabin in a very bad mood, dumping and burning trash such as mattresses, and poaching moose. This is an increasing problem that should be evaluated and addressed by the people creating it.

The road goes through sensitive wetland areas that are currently changing. New springs and seeps are establishing themselves and not just in areas that were burned. It is impossible to measure the impacts on these evolving wetlands.

Due to the wetlands, sand dunes, and bogs, it is unlikely that a road would survive for many years, making the horrible impacts all for nothing anyways.

The public interest and the maximum benefit of the people would be to preserve the sensitive wetlands and cultural sites, and to let the moose and other game in this area continue to be managed by traditional subsistence users.

DOT has not followed due process in notifying actual stakeholders - those whose lives and livelihoods will be severely impacted. This project must not move forward without allowing for comment from stakeholders.

DOT has not acted in good faith:

Notification was sent to the tribe two days before Christmas.

At the September 10th meeting at the Nenana school gym Mr. Hutchinson claimed that DOT had notified adjacent land owners. When I asked how he had notified me, an adjacent landowner, he responded that DOT had posted on its own Facebook page and I should have known to look for it. I don't even have electricity, but I do have more internet access than homesteaders on the Kantishna who likely still have not been notified.

DOT claims that it had a public meeting about the road project during Nenana's AG day in the spring, yet myself and others who were there for the whole event do not remember any meeting, announcement, or information about the road.

DOT chose to have their only actual public meeting about the road September 10th, when many of the most impacted locals were out hunting.

DOT did not announce the meeting until September 7th, allowing only three days for people to check their Facebook page and rearrange their schedule to attend - three days that many subsistence hunters were out looking for moose.

Wetland survey maps released by DOT are clearly wrong and show wetlands testing done on bridge ramps rather than the wetlands beneath them.

DOT claims that the road will "bring additional food security to Alaskans" by supporting the agricultural land sale, but the most commonly grown agricultural crop around Nenana, and the one most likely to be grown in a semi remote location, is peonies. We can't eat peonies (or money).

In addition to not acting in good faith or following due process, DOT has actively fostered a hostile relationship with the tribe and local subsistence users. For example, DOT chose moose season to do their helicopter survey work, buzzing hunters. When someone commented at the meeting that they worried DOT's actions would mean they had no meat that winter, Mr. Hutchinson glibly responded that he is a recreational hunter so he understands the frustration of having a pleasure hunt ruined.

All of these lies to and hostilities against those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the road project have created a rotten and corrupt process that must be stopped. To continue in this manner would be to invite costly legal battles and escalated conflict with residents.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Tara Rupani

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Tochacket extension
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:41:54 PM

From: judd rutledge [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Tochacket extension

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I just want to let you know that I fully support the road extention and all of the benefits that it will bring to Nenana as well as the rest of the state.

Judd Rutledge
[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana Totchaket Road Project Number: NSHWY00657
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 10:09:56 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Real Alaskan Living with Tallon Shreeve [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 10:08:35 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Nenana Totchaket Road Project Number: NSHWY00657**

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

Good morning

I want to put my comment in about the Nenana Totchaket Road Project Number: NSHWY00657.

I feel the upgrade and expansion of the road is great. I hope to see the road expanded even further in the near future.

I would like to see the road expand all the way to Nome in confusion with the rail road. There is a wonderful new deep water port in nome that could use a road and rail road to make shipping to and from Alaska cheaper and faster than what we have right now.

I do know that there is some push back from Nenana,. I do know that some of there concerns are valid but with proper planning and implementations the road could be a great boost to the community and to the citizens.

Thank you for helping to expand our great state to help us be more self sufficient.

Tallon Shreeve

Coghills General Store
Store Phone Number: 1(907)832-5422
[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:21:35 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2022 9:21 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

I am deeply concerned the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657). I am asking the DOT to delay the Nenana-Totchaket land sale and road until appropriate land analyses and Tribal consultations can be completed.

There have already been serious issues with the public process for this project. There was less than a week of notice for the September 10th meeting, and it took place at a time when many Nenana Tribal members were hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. Furthermore, there are several issues in the EIS that must be addressed. Additionally, there is a lack of transparency about the State's long-term intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Many land analyses must be completed before this project can go forward. These include: completing the update of the Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies. These studies are of paramount importance to protect our state's food security.

This sale, while in the name of Alaskan food security, has the potential to erode local food security by affecting vital subsistence resources. If the state wants to invest in farm land, the first priority should be protecting Mat-Su farmlands from suburban encroachment.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Rebecca Siegel

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana Totchaket Toad
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 4:21:17 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dan Smith <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 4:04:50 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana Totchaket Toad

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi Jonathon,

I am sending this email IN SUPPORT of the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I was present when the Governor dedicated the bridge June 10 in Nenana and feel this is an incredible opportunity for Alaska to advance, not only in producing more of its own food, but opening up entire new tracks of land and possibilities!

Thank you,
Dan Smith

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for the Nenana - Totchaket Road Project
Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022 6:07:01 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Scott Spencer [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 9:27:52 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Support for the Nenana - Totchaket Road Project**

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Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

I am submitting comments before the 11:59pm September 30th deadline, Alaska time, in support of the Nenana - Totchaket Road Project. As the Chief Project Advisor for the InterContinental Railway (ICR), which will link Alaska by rail to the Lower 48 and to Russia and China via the Bering Strait tunnel, I recognize the challenges of a major project to balance its benefits with the concerns and interests of the residents, good environmental stewardship and political and financial constraints.

For years the Nenana - Totchaket Road Project has been carefully evaluated to ensure that it enhances the quality of life of residents and responsibly helps improve access to resources and expanded agricultural opportunities. This is why Governor Dunleavy recognizes the project as vital to enhancing Alaska's food security and independence. I also understand that the project has the support of Nenana Mayor Josh Verhagen and the Doyon Limited native corporation.

Despite the recent opposition to the project that has emerged I would like to suggest that the Alaska DOT consider proceeding with the project in two phases:

Phase 1: Improve the existing 12 miles of road

Phase 2: Build the 20 miles extension of new road only after additional public comment from concerned stakeholders, native corporations and tribes who have

yet given their official approvals. It is important to ensure that such transportation improvement projects reflect the input of those who will benefit. To expedite this process I would suggest an additional public comment phase of 90 days that will include 3 monthly meetings to gather official input, address concerns and answer questions. This will help create a more inclusive process for concerned stakeholders such as the Nenana village native corporation Toghothele Corporation and the Nenana Native Council who have expressed a lack of knowledge about the extension.

For the entire project I would like to propose the following ideas:

1. Ensure that bids for the construction maximize labor training and jobs for local residents
2. Develop a hunting permit system that prioritizes local access to the road and prioritizes subsistence hunting to resolve the concerns that there are too many hunters especially from outsiders.
3. Ensure environmentally responsible agriculture and resource development that is coordinated with commitments by the land purchasers to use an intermodal terminal (that would be jointly financed by the land owners as a co-op) to ship products by the Alaska Railroad and enhance Alaska agricultural export opportunities.
4. Ensure that project management of the Nenana - Totchaket Road Project include adequate representation of native citizens.

Please let me know if you have any questions about my comments and suggestions in support of this project essential for improving the quality of life of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Scott Spencer

--

Scott R. Spencer
Chief Project Advisor
InterContinental Railway
www.InterContinentalRailway.com



From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:04:00 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Daisy Marie Sycks

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Nenana-Totchacket Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 6:39:32 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: MAIL SARVICE [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 5:45:19 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchacket Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Mr. Hutchinson,

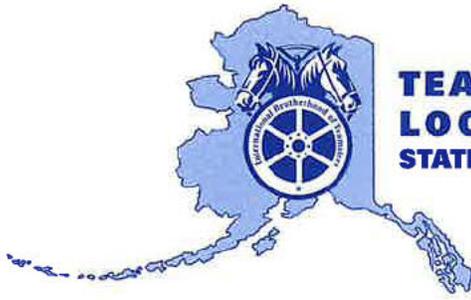
I am writing to support the Nenana-Totchacket Project. The economic development and food security aspect of this project I believe are far greater than most people realize. Land ownership and cultural concerns need to be recognized and addressed but I feel this can be accomplished and still have a successful project. The potential agriculture development of this area has been known about and discussed for decades and will have positive impacts for years to come.

Sincerely,

David M. Talerico

Sent from my iPhone

David M. Talerico



**TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Gary Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

520 E. 34th Ave., Suite 102, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone (907) 751-8500 • Fax (907) 751-8599

10/03/2022,

Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.

Engineering Manager, ADOT&PF

2301 Peger Rd

Fairbanks, AK

Re: Letter of Support Nenana Totchaket Road Improvement and Extension

Mr. Hutchinson:

The Teamsters Local 959 fully supports the Nenana Totchaket Road Improvement and Extension project. Since before statehood, Teamsters Local 959 have had a strong hand in the building of Alaska's infrastructure. Roads, bridges, highways, and pipelines have all been build with the help for Alaska Teamsters.

The federal money coming to Alaska for road improvements and infrastructure investment has potential to kick start the Alaskan workforce as we continue to build back from the pandemic. The Nenana Totchaket project will not only provide good jobs with prevailing wages, but also provide access for future agricultural development as well as increased access for hunting and fishing in the area.

It is our hope that this project moves forward, and construction of the new road begins in 2023. We are happy to do anything possible to help with that process.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959

James McMilon

Director of Construction

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:08:46 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 11:17 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Miss Kyla Thompson

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comment on Totchaket Road proposal
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 2:20:13 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mead Treadwell [REDACTED]
Date: September 30, 2022 at 2:04:09 PM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: **Comment on Totchaket Road proposal**

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Jonathan,

In the early 1980's, as a consultant to the Alaska Legislature, I studied the potential of timber as a potential source for a fiberboard manufacturing facility from the proposed Totchaket Agricultural project at the time. Our conclusions then were that timber to be cleared for agriculture could be a feedstock for such a facility.

Since that time, Alaska has put in a bridge and basic road into the region, and I'm still of the belief that value added potential exists with access to these renewable resources. The Department's project to improve and extend that road would help that potential, other agricultural and recreational potential, come to be for Interior Alaska. The need for local building products has only grown. The interest in accessing these lands for recreational potential is as strong as ever.

For those reasons, I support the Department's efforts to improve and extend this transportation link.

Sincerely,

Mead Treadwell

Hon. Mead Treadwell
Treadwell Development
Lt. Governor of Alaska, 2010-2014
[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Totchaket road project
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:47:33 PM

From: Olaf Trettevik [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:37 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Totchaket road project

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

Hello my name is Olaf Trettevik I wanted to make comment for the Totchaket road project, that I believe that it will in the long-term help the local area and that it's a good improvement to this area

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchacket Road
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:38:34 PM

Comment from Sheryl Turner, City Rep.

From: Sheryl Ann Turner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 1:32 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchacket Road

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

Hi, Johnathan. We didn't get a chance to meet this past Saturday at the Nenana presentation at Nenana School Gym.. My name is Sheryl Turner. I am Seat A on the Nenana City Council. I want to commend you and your team for an excellent presentation. The maps, blueprints, and other displays were spot on. I am impressed with your professional response to the accusations, negative comments, and aggressive behavior by those attending. I think some of the comments were totally out of line and definitely inappropriate. I heard a lot of complaints that no one asked what the Tribe and others felt about putting in the Nenana-Totchacket Road. There was also a lot of people who expected a presentation with a question and answer opportunity. Instead they were told to put their comments or questions in writing.

I have given Saturday a great deal of thought.

The Tribe was given the opportunity to voice their concerns and questions. It is interesting that two years ago, when the new bridge was open, everyone was happy and excited. It seems like the majority of those at Saturday's presentation, do not live in Nenana. Those protesting were for the most part from Fairbanks. I heard one lady say she drove up from Anchorage.

I heard most of the local residents talking to each other. The majority had very favorable remarks, but were afraid of speaking out for fear of repercussion. Which brings us to the question and answers that most of those present expected verbally and not having to put their comments and questions in writing.

Please know I am not the spokesman for Nenana City Council. However, personally, I think it is imperative for you or someone who has the detailed information, come to the Nenana City Council Meetings which are held at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. There is a great deal of animosity about whether or not the Nenana-Totchacket should be completed. I would love to have you on our agenda. I think having a representative coming to the Nenana City Council Meetings once a month would be beneficial to you and the community.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or if I can help in any way, please let me know. I can be reached at [REDACTED]

I hope you will join us at the Nenana City Council Meetings. Our next meeting is Tomorrow, Tuesday, September 13th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Take Care,
Sheryl Ann Turner

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:09:24 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 2:53 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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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.

Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

Tanana River Drainage anadromous waters catalog is currently being updated, and this process is as of yet incomplete. This is particularly troubling given last year's collapse in the Yukon River salmon population, and predictions of the same this year. In addition, soil mapping, wildlife areas, and corridor mapping studies all remain incomplete. Moving forward with the sale without this information could reduce our state's food security. It could erode the abundance of local subsistence resources. And it risks serious harm to potential landowners, the State, and the local community.

The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Ms. Liliane Ulukivaiola

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Monday, September 12, 2022 2:04:28 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2022 10:14 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to it's advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Alisha Vasquez

[REDACTED]

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment Regarding The Totchaket Road
Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:08:40 AM

From: Joshua Verhagen <nenanamayor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2022 7:13 AM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Regarding The Totchaket Road

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.

Hi Jonathan,

I am submitting this letter as my official public comment regarding the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project.

This is a project that has been in the works for many decades, a community priority for many decades and continues to be a project that many residents of Nenana and the surrounding area are excited about and in support of.

This does not mean that there is a unanimous consensus and I am fully aware that there are some who are adamantly opposed to the project and I am a firm believer that all voices should be heard and considered and wherever possible we should work to achieve something that is a win-win for as many people as possible as frequently as possible.

I would like to point out that until this year there has been no opposition "movement" or effort to oppose improving access along what has been called the "Totchaket Resource Development Corridor".

In 2006 the Nenana Native Association hosted a series of Community Development planning meetings which the City, the School and other entities joined in on. **The goals and objectives of this long term Community Master Plan were based on community meetings and were the result of direct input of community residents.**

Among their 12 goals the first two relate to this project: (Copied directly)

Goal 1. Promote continued development of natural gas in the Nenana Basin and Minto Flats

Goal 2. Promote the development of large-scale agricultural projects in Nenana

Objectives –

- *Collaborate with Toghoththele Corporation in promoting the agricultural potential of the land around Nenana for possible large scale projects*
- *Collaborate with the State of Alaska to foster progress on existing plans for agricultural development within the Totchaket Agricultural area*
- *Select an appropriate site to establish a ten-acre demonstration small scale agricultural project that could be developed and maintained by persons enrolled in different programs and services of the Native Council*
- *On this ten-acre project, build a greenhouse that can also produce high quality end products for sale and for use in different programs.*
- *Develop a brochure for mailing to different agricultural producers highlighting the excellent potential for agricultural production in the Nenana area.*
- *Establish an on-going agricultural committee to ensure community input and community employment in agricultural development.*

Doyon Native Corporation funded most of the construction of the existing roadway along the Totchaket right-of-way in 2009 and improvements and expansions were done in 2015 and 2017. Toghoththele Native Corporation was the sub-contractor who worked with Bryce Construction to build the road.

The City of Nenana was awarded approximately \$6M funding to build a bridge in 2014 and additional funding to extend the Totchaket road another 3 miles in 2015. HC Construction, Goldstream Engineering, the Nenana Native Association, Toghoththele and the City of Nenana all partnered on this project.

Though the \$6M was not sufficient to complete the project, the engineering was mostly completed, the most significant bridge materials were built and shipped to the site, the slough bridge was built, abutments were built and a few pilings driven. Funding and permitting put the project at a standstill for about 5 years. In 2018 the City of Nenana was finally given the last needed permit to complete the bridge.

In 2018 the Nenana Native Association applied for and was awarded a \$9M grant to complete the bridge project. The City and the tribe signed an MOA that authorized the tribe to have temporary site control to complete the construction of the bridge, the ownership to be retained by the City. The two entities worked and partnered together closely and the bridge was completed in 2020.

This was a major achievement and milestone that the community came together to celebrate on July 6th of 2020.

In light of this and many other indicators that the City has had in both long term and recent years as an indicator of what our community wants, I am in support of this project.

Unlike what some have presumed, it is not the state that has an interest in pushing this project on us, it is in fact the state *responding* to the request of our community over the past few years to see this project through.

Roads are crucial infrastructure to help connect people to each other, to connect people to the resources of this abundant state, resources such as agricultural land, resources such as natural gas, oil, rare earth minerals, timber, subsistence, recreation and more.

There are valid considerations that ought to be fully investigated and addressed, and I look forward to working with D.O.T, D.N.R, Doyon, Toghotthele, the Nenana Native Council, the Nenana City School District and all other entities and individuals on this project.

Thank you,

--

Joshua Verhagen

Mayor, City of Nenana

723 A st, Nenana, AK 99760

Office (907) 888-5036 or Cell (907) 888-5037

“Improving Nenana, one day at a time”

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Regarding the Totchaket Road Extension
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:41:32 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sam Verhagen [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2022 at 8:58:54 AM AKDT
To: "Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT)" <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Regarding the Totchaket Road Extension

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Totchaket road improvements and extension. As a life long Alaskan and life long resident of Alaska, I support this project. I feel that growth and development of this state are necessary to provide the residents of Alaska the resources that we need to live healthy and prosperous lives. This road will be a benefit to both locals of the area and the state in general. Providing not only access to much needed resources, but also access to fire crews, forestry, fish and game and other state entities. Although there is opposition to this, those who oppose it currently will be using it after it is built.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: FW: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 8:09:09 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Hutchinson, Jonathan J (DOT) <jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov>
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road Project

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Dear PE Jonathan Hutchinson,

The Sept. 10 meeting on the Nenana Totchaket Road (Project Number: NSHWY00657) is an especially concerning rushed "public process" with less than a week of notice, and while many Nenana Tribal members are hunting on the land and unable to attend. The State must practice respectful process and pause this project immediately as the Nenana Tribal Council has not consented to its advancement. In order to continue, the State must at-least first address multiple issues in the EIS, and provide transparency of the long-term State intentions for the road construction and land sale.

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The public deserves to see a full wetlands report including the site details as many of the supposed upland sites appear to be wet based off of imagery and Indigenous knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,
Mr. Dylan White

[REDACTED]

Comment Responses
9/6/2022 - 9/30/2022

Dear Joeseeph Alexander,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project.

At the September public meeting in Nenana, the Nenana Tribe requested that we involve Minto leadership. We reached out to Minto, and the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation have all agreed to meet with DOT later this month.

With that being said, DOT has also made multiple attempts to meet with the Nenana Tribe, but have been unsuccessful. Please encourage Nenana leaders to engage with DOT so we can discuss detailed concerns and work toward solutions. I worry that avoidance will not allow the Tribe to properly advocate for Tribal goals as it relates to this project.

Please let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders, including Minto, before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely,

NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Laverne Alexander,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project.

At the September public meeting in Nenana, the Nenana Tribe requested that we involve Minto leadership. We reached out to Minto, and the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation have all agreed to meet with DOT later this month.

With that being said, DOT has also made multiple attempts to meet with the Nenana Tribe, but have been unsuccessful. Please encourage Nenana leaders to engage with DOT so we can discuss detailed concerns and work toward solutions. I worry that avoidance will not allow the Tribe to properly advocate for Tribal goals as it relates to this project.

Please let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

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For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely,

NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Mitchell Alexander,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project.

At the September public meeting in Nenana, the Nenana Tribe requested that we consult with Minto leadership. We reached out to Minto, and the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation have all agreed to meet with DOT later this month. Thank you for helping get that arranged.

With that being said, DOT has also made multiple attempts to meet with the Nenana Tribe, but have been unsuccessful. Please encourage Nenana leaders to engage with DOT so we can discuss detailed concerns and work toward solutions. I worry that avoidance will not allow the Tribe to properly advocate for Tribal goals as it relates to this project.

Please let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

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For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely,

NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Gerald Babcock,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would look forward to setting that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

To address some of your concerns: Regarding project funding, this project is entirely state funded therefore it does not rely on federal funding sources. The \$15 million you refer to in your comment will fund the project through the design and construction phases, though more may need to be requested to complete all the planned improvements. I'll point out that most roads in Alaska were not built in one phase, nor funded all at once. It wasn't until 1961 that Nenana was connected by road to Clear, and 1968 before you could drive across the Tanana River to Fairbanks. Then 1971 before you could drive all the way to Anchorage on the completed Parks Highway! Those roads created many changes to the region and the way we interact with each other and the land, in complicated ways. Many people from Nenana live and hunt all over Alaska, for instance.

Construction of the bridges and road that make up Totchaket Road were an effort by Doyon along with the Nenana Native Village and Toghoththele in order to open up the area to natural resource exploration. This road project is intended to further support that goal. The road is meant to benefit all Alaskans, the locals of Nenana, and the agencies with land rights in the area. The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Gerald Babcock,

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First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk one-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would look forward to setting that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

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Construction of the bridges and road that make up Totchaket Road were an effort by Doyon along with the Nenana Native Village and Toghoththele in order to open up the area to natural resource exploration. This road project is intended to further support that goal. The road is meant to benefit all Alaskans, the locals of Nenana, and the agencies with land rights in the area. The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Coy Family,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

Construction of the bridges and roads that make up Totchaket Road were a long term and collaborative effort by Doyon, the Nenana Native Village, Toghothtele, and the City in order to open up the area to natural resource exploration. The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase public access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

Regarding maintenance, DOT and the City are in active discussions regarding future road maintenance responsibility. Regarding your statement that the money used to build this road should be used to support the roads already built and maintained by the State: The majority of public road improvements are made using Federal funds. This project is entirely State funded with money set aside specifically for the goal of improving access to future agricultural lands and to provide improved access to public resources.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Wilma David,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I want you to know that we hear you and respect your comments. DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders, including Minto, before advancing.

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Sincerely,

NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Aaron Dey,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

To address some of your comments: The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one.

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Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Joseph T Forness,

I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Your perspective on emergency response funding is unique and one that we should meet to discuss in more detail. The State is in active discussions with the City over maintenance responsibility. Nothing has been decided yet, but we'd like to connect and better understand the issues and possible solutions.

DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Gerrid Greenwood,

I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

This road project has been a priority for state and local leaders since the 1980's, though public comment shows there is a wide range of perspectives on support or opposition to the project.

DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Brandon Hill,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

To respond to your comment that the State has not contacted Toghoththele Corp or the Nenana Native Council - Both organizations were sent scoping letters to which they had a comment period to state any concerns they may have had with the proposed project. In addition, a second round of letters were sent to the agencies in order to coordinate locating potential culturally significant locations in the area. DOT then held the public meeting in Nenana because we understand the importance of public comments. With that being said, we heard loud and clear at the meeting that we need to be doing more.

DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

As a State funded project, this project is using the State Environmental Checklist in order to assess potential environmental impacts involved with the project. The document is being worked on and will be made publicly available prior to new road construction. As a part of this document, impacts to wetlands must be permitted through the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A part of the permitting process through USACE includes delineation of wetlands in accordance with guidance provided in the *USACE Wetland Delineation 1987 Manual* and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Alaska Region, 2007 Supplement Version 2.0* [2007 Supplement]. DOT completed a wetland delineation of the project area and has made the wetland report and data publicly available for review on the project website. Additionally, DOT has provided the wetlands report and data to the Tribe and Corporation for their review and comment when concerns were brought up regarding the accuracy of the field study.

To address the portion of your comment regarding impact to fishing. The proposed road extension does not encounter any stream features capable of supporting resident or anadromous fish populations until reaching the Kantishna River where the road is proposed to terminate at a parking area with a ramp to ordinary high water. All proposed water crossing designs are coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and Fish Habitat Permits will be obtained prior to construction.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Chuck Hugny,

I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

First, to address your first question as to whether State funds are being used to best benefit the citizens of the State as well as your suggestion to look towards the Mat-Su Valley for agriculture development. Decades ago, the Nenana-Totchaket area was planned as a farming project, but limited access to the region stalled progress. Since then, renewable resources like agriculture, have become more viable as growing seasons are changing in an evolving Arctic environment. Extending Totchaket Road is intended to support food security from Alaska's own soils. With large tracts of open State land readily available in this area, it makes the valley west of Nenana an ideal location for agricultural development.

Regarding your concerns about permafrost and wetlands, the majority of the proposed road extension will be constructed in upland areas predominated by free draining sandy soils, including sand dunes. Permafrost is present and discontinuous within the project area, however, the proposed road will be constructed with best practices for minimizing and avoiding impacts to permafrost, when it is encountered. Compared to other areas in the Alaskan interior, the ground is well suited for road construction, though it lacks gravel.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

Regarding road maintenance - DOT and City are in active discussions regarding future road maintenance. Regarding funding, this project is entirely State funded, no Federal funds are being used to rehabilitate or extend Totchaket Road. Federal funds set aside to improve and repair the existing highway system will not change as a result of this project.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension,

we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Kari Irish,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

To respond to your comment that the State has not contacted Toghoththele Corp or the Nenana Native Council - Both organizations were sent scoping letters to which they had a comment period to state any concerns they may have had with the proposed project. In addition, a second round of letters were sent to the agencies in order to coordinate locating potential culturally significant locations in the area. DOT held the public meeting in Nenana because we understand the importance of public comments. With that being said, DOT heard loud and clear at the meeting that we need to be doing more.

DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

To respond to your other concerns, the land within the existing City of Nenana right-of-way easement is primarily comprised of free-draining sandy soils and uplands, suitable for road construction. While the road will be built through some wetland features, best management practices will be followed in order to ensure that the road will hold up to settling and to minimize any impact occurring from construction of the road.

The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Rick Irish,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would be happy to set that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

Regarding your statement that the money used to build this road should be used to support the roads already built and maintained by the State: The majority of public road improvements are made using Federal funds. This project is entirely State funded with money set aside specifically for the goal of improving access to future agricultural lands and to provide new access to portions of the Tanana Valley State Forest.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Sandra Johnson,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would look forward to setting that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Amy Lee,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would be happy to set that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

Regarding your concerns about burial grounds, as part of this project, cultural resource surveys have been completed in accordance with the Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AHPA) and project construction is being coordinated with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of History and Archaeology in order to ensure that no sites of cultural significance are disturbed, directly or indirectly. In addition, as a requirement for all projects completed by Alaska DOT&PF, letters regarding efforts to identify culturally significant sites are sent out to Alaska Native Corporations and agencies local to the project area. These letters serve as an open line of communication between these agencies and DOT, encouraging the agencies to contact DOT with cultural history information to ensure projects do not disturb any culturally significant sites. No known burial sites exist within the project area, nor have any consulting parties brought any to our attention.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Kat McElroy,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I know you are a respected community leader and we would benefit from understanding your perspective in more detail. If it works for you, we'd like to connect one-on-one to talk through some details. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

DOT&PF will also continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe and Toghothtele to discuss their concerns. Unfortunately we have not been able to secure a formal meeting with either entity after repeated and consistent efforts to do so. We have had great conversations with individual members of both organizations and hope to get something formal scheduled soon. At the request of the Nenana Tribe, we have also reached out to the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation and have secured a meeting with them at the end of this month.

Regarding your comment about constructing roads through areas with permafrost, while the first few miles of the **existing** road do traverse through quite a few wetlands and soft ground that might be comparable to "snot bottom way", the majority of the proposed road extension consists of free-draining sandy soils and uplands, very suitable for road construction. Render me surprised. What the area does lack is gravel. Yes, the road will be built through some wetland features, but considering the prevalence of wetlands in interior Alaska, the Totchaket area is remarkably dry. It reminds me a lot of the area between Northway to the Canada Border, where any relatively higher ground is predominated by clean sand dunes beneath a couple feet of overburden.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Christine McGuigan,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would be happy to set that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Charlie O'Brien,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would be happy to set that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities, as well as section 2A of the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear David Poppe,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

Regarding our previous outreach efforts -- Local agencies, including Toghoththele, Nenana Native Association, and City of Nenana were sent scoping letters to which they had a comment period to state any concerns they may have had with the proposed project. In addition, a second round of letters were sent to the agencies in order to coordinate locating potential culturally significant sites in the proposed project area. DOT held the public meeting in Nenana because we understand the importance of public comments. With that being said, we heard loud and clear at the meeting that we need to be doing more.

DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

DOT&PF's main focus for Phase 1 of this project is to move forward with rehabilitation of the existing road and ensure that access for agricultural and other local users is improved from current conditions. The initial \$15 million in funding is currently being used for existing road upgrades, replacement/rehabilitation of the bridge crossings, and design/field studies for the whole of the project area.

DOT&PF is currently in talks with the City of Nenana about road maintenance to better understand practical levels of seasonal maintenance and the most appropriate party to take on that responsibility.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Gayle Ramey,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

First, DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, and we would look forward to setting that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

As a long time resident of Nenana, you have seen the area change drastically. As you probably know, it wasn't until 1961 that Nenana was connected by road to Clear, and 1968 before you could drive across the Tanana River to Fairbanks. Then 1971 before you could drive all the way to Anchorage on the completed Parks Highway! Those roads created many changes to the region and the way we interact with each other and the land, albeit in complicated ways. People from Nenana live and hunt all over Alaska, for instance. This is one example of a road opening up opportunities for more Alaskans, while also improving the livelihood of local Nenana residents.

The crash in the salmon population in the Yukon Drainage is startling, though this proposed road project is not anticipated to impact fish habitat in a negative way.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Edna Riley,

It was a pleasure talking to you over the phone, and I thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project.

At the September public meeting in Nenana, the Nenana Tribe requested that we involve Minto leadership. We reached out to Minto, and the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation have all agreed to meet with DOT later this month.

With that being said, DOT has also made multiple attempts to meet with the Nenana Tribe, but have been unsuccessful. Please encourage Nenana leaders to engage with DOT so we can discuss detailed concerns and work toward solutions. I worry that avoidance will not allow the Tribe to properly advocate for Tribal goals as it relates to this project.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Alissa Robinson,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

Before diving in, I'll ask for some help. DOT has made multiple attempts to meet with the Nenana Tribe, but have been unsuccessful. Please encourage your local leaders to engage with DOT so we can discuss detailed concerns and work toward solutions. I worry that avoidance will not allow the Tribe to properly advocate for Tribal goals as it relates to this project. At the public meeting, the Nenana Tribe requested that we involve Minto leadership. The Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation have all agreed to meet with DOT later this month.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would look forward to setting that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

To address some of your comments:

Construction of the bridges and road that make up Totchaket Road were an effort by Doyon in partnership with the Nenana Native Village, City, and Toghotthele in order to open up the area to natural resource exploration. The proposed road is meant to benefit all Alaskans, the locals of Nenana, and the agencies with land rights in the area by opening access to additional public resources.

Your concerns about increasing public access to the public resources in the Kantishna River are shared by others, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often times safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

Regarding your statement that the money used to build this road should be used to support the roads already built and maintained by the State: The majority of public road improvements are made using Federal funds. This project is entirely State funded with money set aside specifically for the goal of improving access to additional public resources and agricultural development opportunities.

Going back a bit in time -- It wasn't until 1961 that Nenana was connected by road to Clear, and 1968 before you could drive across the Tanana River to Fairbanks. Then 1971 before you could drive all the way to Anchorage on the completed Parks Highway! Those roads created many changes to the region and the way we interact with each other and the land, in complicated ways. Many people from Nenana live and hunt all over Alaska, for instance.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Heather Rubio,

Thank you for your comments on the Nenana Totchaket Road Project. I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

I'll start by asking for some assistance. DOT has made multiple attempts to meet with Toghhotthele and the Tribe, but have been unsuccessful. As a member of Toghhotthele, please encourage them to have a meeting with DOT so we can discuss detailed concerns and work toward solutions. We will continue to keep trying as we value your comments and concerns. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Please also let us know if you would like to talk on-on-one with members of the Project Team to address some of your concerns about the project, we would look forward to setting that up. You can contact the Project Manager, Jonathan Hutchinson, P.E., at jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov, and 907-451-5479.

I hope this has addressed some of your concerns regarding the project. We encourage you to reach out to connect with the Project Team one-on-one. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

Dear Tara Rupani,

I would like to reach out to address some of your concerns about the project based on the public comment you submitted.

DOT&PF will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe to discuss some of the concerns you have raised. DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Regarding your comment about DOT's timing of the public meeting: I will own that the timing was not ideal, though I want to explain the reason behind it. I will say that the circumstances, availability of helicopter, need to beat the winter season to perform the studies properly, and desire to inform the public that we were inevitably going to be out there making noise, is what led to the decision. Ultimately, the meeting had a strong showing and folks were heard, and we have received a lot of great comments. I will also say that I personally ATV'd over 9 miles past the existing road to identify hunters and let them know of our plans and when to expect a helicopter to plan accordingly. We ran into only one group of hunters in that entire 9 miles, and they ended up bagging three moose, which I was relieved to hear.

The issues you have been having with uneducated and inconsiderate hunters is unfortunate and I am sympathetic to your predicament. I am not certain what the right solution is there, beyond signage education and enforcement -- But don't lay that on this road project! People riding snowmachines, boats, and ATVs are still subject to the same inherent behaviors as people that road hunt. You may already know, but Construction of the bridges and road that make up Totchaket Road were an effort by Doyon in partnership with the Nenana Native Village, City, and Toghoththele in order to open up the area to natural resource exploration.

Going back a bit in time in Nenana history – It wasn't until 1961 that Nenana was connected by road to Clear, and 1968 before you could drive across the Tanana River to Fairbanks. Then 1971 before you could drive all the way to Anchorage on the completed Parks Highway! Those roads created many changes to the region and the way we interact with each other and the land, in complicated ways. People from Nenana live and hunt all over Alaska, for instance.

I think you have a particularly unique perspective and we'd benefit from connecting with you one-on-one if you're willing and able. DOT will be performing improvements to the existing 12 miles of Totchaket road beginning this Fall through early this Winter. For the proposed road extension, we completed environmental studies over the summer and will continue to consult with stakeholders before advancing.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>.

Sincerely, NR DOT&PF Project Team

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#); [Williams, Kaitlin L \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road, Response to your comment
Date: Monday, October 17, 2022 6:49:11 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to submit a comment on the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project. The formal comment period closed on September 30th, though comments are still welcome and being accepted for consideration.

For those that submitted individually unique written/email/verbal comments, DOT has prepared individual responses and is providing opportunities to connect with those folks one on one. For the remainder of comments, we have consolidated a response which you will find below. If you have additional interest -- reach out anytime to me directly.

First a little bit of background. Construction of the existing road and bridges that make up Totchaket Road were originally a multi-year effort by Doyon along with the Nenana Native Village, City, and Toghothle in order to open up the area to natural resource exploration. This road project is intended to further support that goal. The road is meant to benefit all Alaskans, the locals of Nenana, and the agencies with land rights in the area. The proposed road extension is intended not only for future agricultural development, but to increase access to additional public resources, including hunting and fishing opportunities and the Tanana Valley State Forest, a large piece of State land that is conventionally inaccessible by the general public.

DOT&PF values the input of its local Stakeholders, and will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe, Toghothle, and the City to discuss some of the concerns raised. At the request of the Nenana Tribe, DOT has also agreed to meet with the Minto Tribe, Seth De Ya Ah Corporation, and Minto Development Corporation to discuss the project.

Many local residents raised concerns about increasing public access to the Kantishna River, though we have also heard comments from locals, including residents of the Kantishna River area, that improved access would be welcome because transportation by car is often safer than a boat or snowmachine. There is certainly a difference of opinion between the folks that wish to keep the remote places in Alaska remote and effectively more difficult to access, and those that wish to see access be more accessible to more members of the public. Not everyone can afford, or have the strength to travel by boat or snowmachine to access the Kantishna River. It is not DOT's role to speak directly on these issues, but I will say that we will be having these conversations with local stakeholders and ADF&G to better understand how the proposed road might be advanced in a way that respects both viewpoints.

DOT recently completed multiple weeks of cultural and wetland studies this past summer and will continue to consult with the key stakeholders moving forward. While DOT continues the environmental and stakeholder engagement process for the proposed road extension, DOT is moving forward with construction of improvements to the existing Totchaket road this Fall. This work on the existing road will begin near the end of October and continue through January 2023.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>

Regards,



Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.

Project Manager, DOT&PF Rural Transportation Team

907-451-5479 | jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov

From: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
To: [Hutchinson, Jonathan J \(DOT\)](#)
Cc: [Sexton, William J \(DOT\)](#); [Williams, Kaitlin L \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: Nenana-Totchaket Road, Response to your comment
Date: Monday, October 17, 2022 7:08:20 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for taking the time to submit a comment in general support of the Nenana-Totchaket Road Project.

The formal comment period closed on September 30th, though comments are still welcome and being accepted for consideration.

Several comments were received both in support, as well as in opposition to the project. For those that submitted comments in opposition, the DOT Project team has submitted individual responses, and are providing opportunities for those folks to connect with the project team one-on-one. DOT&PF values the input of its local Stakeholders, and will continue reaching out to the Nenana Tribe, Toghoththele, and the City to address some of the concerns raised.

While DOT continues to consult with local Stakeholders on the proposed road extension, we are moving forward with construction of improvements to the existing Totchaket road this Fall. This work on the existing road will begin near the end of October and is expected to continue through January 2023.

For more information on this proposed project please visit: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/nenana-totchaket/>

or reach out directly to me.

Regards,



Jonathan J. Hutchinson, P.E.

Project Manager, DOT&PF Rural Transportation Team

907-451-5479 | jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov