

Parks Highway MP 99 to 163 Drainage & Culvert Improvements Design Services

State/Federal Project No: CFHWY00592/0A41042

Public Involvement Plan

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Prepared for:

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
4111 Aviation Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99519

Prepared by:

HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC
3335 Arctic Blvd., Ste. 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

COA	Class of Action
DOT&PF	Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Milepost
NOI	Notice of Intent
PIP	Public Involvement Plan
U.S.C	United States Code

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Project Scope

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has assumed the responsibilities of the Federal Highway Administration under 23 U.S.C. 327 and is proposing to improve drainage at select culvert locations on the Parks Highway between milepost (MP) 99 and 163 (Figure 1). The purpose of the project is to maintain the serviceability and functionality of drainage facilities at select locations where the condition of the culvert has been identified as having a risk of failure.

The proposed work may include the following as needed:

- Drainage improvements
- Culvert maintenance, replacement, and installation of new culverts
- Ditch grading
- Digouts and associated resurfacing
- Guardrail
- Signage
- Utility relocations
- Clearing and grubbing

1.2 Project Team

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

4111 Aviation Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska 99519

Tom Schmid, P.E., Design Project Manager, tom.schmid@alaska.gov, (907) 269-0543

Carol Roadifer, P.E., Consultant Coordinator, carol.roadifer@alaska.gov, (907) 269-0525

Ryan Riddle, Environmental Impact Analyst, ryan.riddle@alaska.gov, (907) 269-0545

HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC

3335 Arctic Blvd, Suite 100

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Nick Oliveira, P.E., Design Project Manager, noliveira@hdlalaska.com, (907) 564-2136

Heather Campfield, Environmental Lead, hcampfield@hdlalaska.com, (907) 746-5230

AWR Engineering, LLC

4011 Arctic Blvd. #106

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Janie Dusel, P.E., H&H Project Engineer, jdusel@awr-eng.com, (907) 441-2973

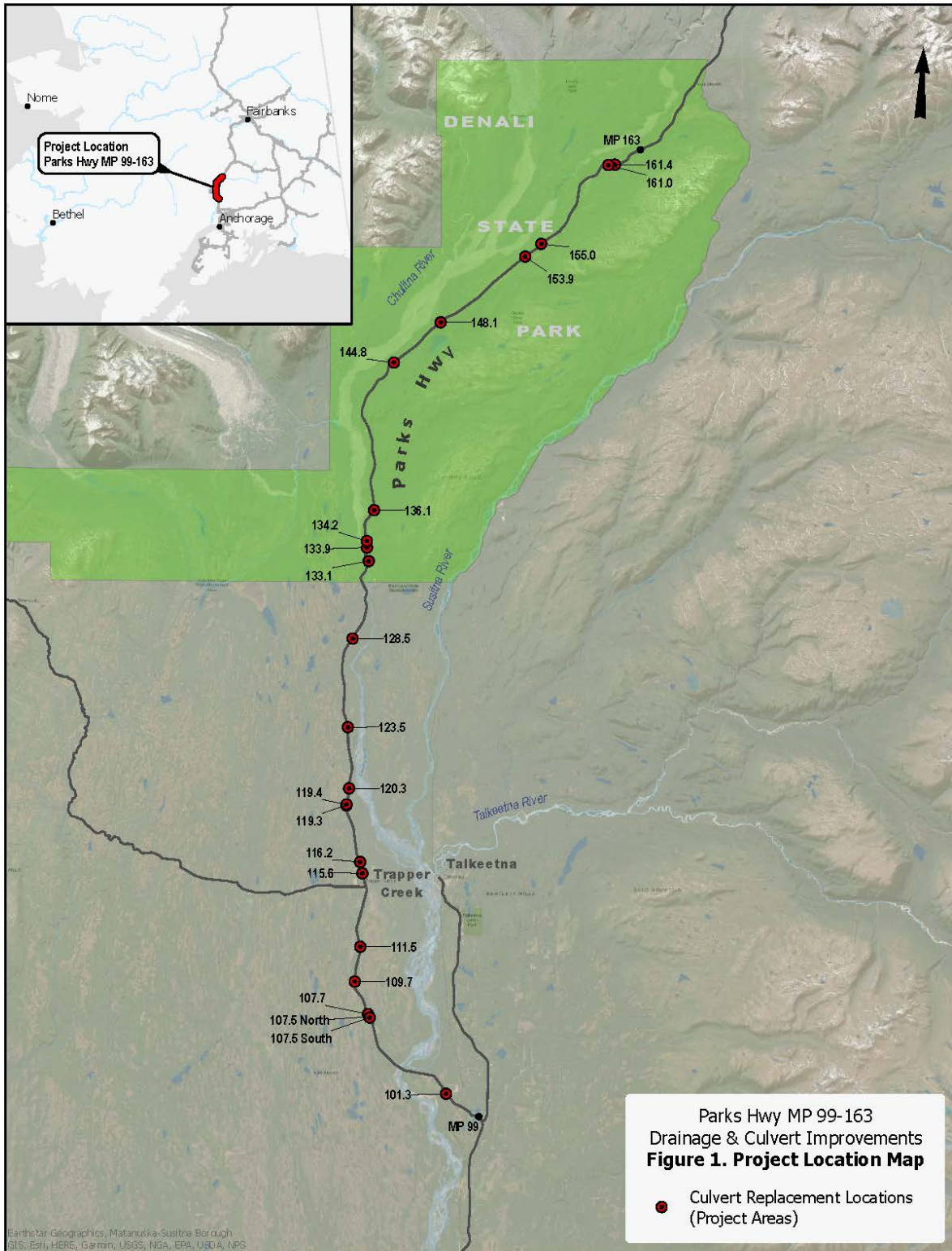


Figure 1: Project Location Map

2.0 PURPOSE OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING

This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) sets forth strategies for communicating and engaging with the public, other interested parties, and regulatory and permitting agencies about the project. The PIP defines the tools, timing, and strategies for obtaining public and agency input. The plan presents a range of strategies that may be used during project scoping and development. The project team will use this document to guide the process of conducting public and agency outreach for the duration of the project.

2.1 Public Involvement Goals

The project team set the following goals for public participation. The project team will:

- Provide timely and accurate information to the public regarding the project through a variety of means, such as public meetings, advertisements, email, telephone, written correspondence, project website, and frequently-asked-questions (FAQs).
- Acknowledge comments and concerns in the format received and provide feedback on how the input influenced project decisions.
- Share information in a transparent way so that members of the public become familiar with the issues and the project team's response to them.
- Clearly outline the project development process.
- Clearly state how, when, and where people can be involved in project decision-making.
- Include a broad group of stakeholders in project decisions.
- Seek out and engage applicable federal, state, and local government entities in project development.

2.2 Plan Development

This PIP was developed in collaboration with HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC and DOT&PF. The methods and procedures presented in this plan assume the Class of Action (COA) for the project will be a Categorical Exclusion. If a different COA is determined to be appropriate, this plan will be updated to reflect the necessary changes. It is anticipated that the project will be designed and constructed in phases; therefore some activities, such as public meetings, will occur for each phase.

3.0 IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

Below is an initial list of stakeholders. These entities will be included in the project outreach/ mailing list. This list will expand throughout the project.

Public

Property owners
Business owners
Residents in adjacent communities/neighborhoods

Government Entities

DOT&PF

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

- Division of Water, Wastewater Discharge Authorization, Stormwater and Wetlands
- Division of Water, Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- Division of Air Quality
- Division of Spill Prevention and Response

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat

Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation

- Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Division of Mining, Land, and Water
- Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer

Federal

National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Native Corporations

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Knikatu, Inc.

Federally Recognized Tribes

Kink Tribal Council

Utility Companies

Matanuska Electric Association
Matanuska Telephone Association
GCI Telecommunications

Other

Area Community Councils (Willow, Susitna, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Petersville)
Road Service Areas (Willow, Caswell Lakes, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek)
Alaska State Troopers
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District (Trapper Creek & Talkeetna Elementary, Su-
Valley Jr/High)
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Emergency Services (Trapper Creek Ambulance)
First Student (Matanuska-Susitna Borough student transportation contractor)
Talkeetna Fire Department
Alaska Trucking Association

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TOOLS

Public outreach will be developed, distributed, and documented per the procedures outlined in the following guiding documents:

- *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Concerning the State of Alaska's Participation in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 327*
- *Alaska Department of Transportation Environmental Procedures Manual (June 2020 or most current version)*
- *Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual (July 31, 2020 or most current version)*
- *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*

Public outreach materials, including the project website shall disclose the following language in a way that is conspicuous to the reader (per subpart 3.2.5 of the MOU identified above):

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

The following table identifies outreach tools proposed to engage the stakeholders or potentially affected interests with project information. The table will be expanded to document public involvement during all project phases.

Table 1: Public Involvement Tools

Public Involvement Tool	Use of Tool
Mailing/Email lists	To allow the project team to inform interested entities, regulatory and environmental agencies, and the public about the project. The mailing list will be used to distribute postcards and the email list will be utilized to distribute postcards and other project information including newsletters.
DOT&PF Project Website	Develop and maintain a project website that provides updated project information, documents, schedule, and contact information. The website will provide a method for submitting comments and requesting to be added to the mailing/email lists.
General Public Meetings	Public meetings provide an opportunity to share the current status of the project and explain any developments or changes caused by agency, design, or other interaction. Depending on the status of COVID-19 at the time of the meetings, the team will meet with the public in person and/or virtually.
Agency meetings	A meeting specific to resource agencies is not currently planned.
Mat-Su Transportation Fair	The fall 2021 Mat-Su Transportation Fair was cancelled due to the status of COVID-19. The project team will attend future Mat-Su Transportation Fairs.
Informational Postcard	Prepare and distribute to give notice of project information and public involvement opportunities - delivered via postal mailing list, email, and website.
Comment/Response Summary	Provide a comprehensive list of issues brought forth by stakeholders and draft responses for DOT&PF review and distribution.
Newspaper Advertisements	Prepare and distribute for publication required public notices. Advertising will be placed in the Anchorage Daily News and the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman.
Notice of Intent (NOI) to Begin Engineering and Environmental Studies	The NOI will be published on DOT&PF's public notice webpage as well as in the Anchorage Daily News.

4.1 Project Website

The project website will be hosted by DOT&PF. HDL will draft content for the project website. DOT&PF Design Project Manager and Consultant Coordinator will review all draft content and will coordinate directly with the DOT&PF Webmaster to post content. Project related content will include project information, FAQs (if necessary), project schedule, documents, public meeting information, project contacts.

The direct points of contact for public comments will be Tom Schmid, P.E., DOT&PF Project Manager and Heather Campfield, HDL Public Involvement Lead. At the request of the DOT&PF Design Project Manager and Consultant Coordinator Tom and/or Carol, HDL will draft responses to comments received. All comment responses will be reviewed and approved by DOT&PF prior to distribution to the commenter and general public.

4.2 Public Meetings

One public meeting for each construction phase is planned for the project that will take place either in person and/or virtually. Per DOT&PF's June 2020 Environmental Procedures Manual public meetings for Categorical Exclusions are typically commensurate with a project's type, complexity, and potentially affected environmental resources. Meeting notes will be prepared documenting meetings for project records. The records will indicate attendance, meeting materials, and presentations and summarize oral and written comment.

Following each public meeting, documentation of compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 will be developed and supplied to DOT&PF.

4.3 Public Hearing

A Categorical Exclusion does not require a public hearing or the opportunity for a public hearing.

4.4 Mailing List

A postal mail list and an email list will be developed for the project. The postal mailing list will allow the project team to sort by parcel, address, or interested parties. The initial list includes the agencies listed above and property owners, businesses, and others within reasonable limits of the project corridor, as determined by DOT&PF. HDL will work directly with DOT&PF to develop mailing list boundary that is appropriate for the project. The mailing list will include email addresses, as appropriate. The list will be updated throughout the life of the project.

4.5 Summary of Public Involvement

A summary of public involvement activity will be prepared to document comments received during the project and issues raised during meetings. The summary will include the following:

- Summary of each public meeting.
- Meeting materials provided at each meeting including presentation materials.
- A copy of all notifications to the public announcing the public meeting date, time, location, and venue. Notifications could include affidavits of publication in local newspapers, postcard distribution to the mailing list, and transcriptions of public radio announcements.
- Comments received will be included in the summary in their original format. A comment response summary table will be developed documenting DOT&PF's response to each comment received.
- Other public involvement materials distributed as part of DOT&PF's outreach to inform the public will be included in the summary. Other materials could include project fact sheets, newsletters, and emails to the mailing list regarding project updates.