

# STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL

4111 Aviation Drive  
P.O. Box 196900  
Anchorage, Alaska 99519--6900  
(907) 269-0542 Phone  
(907) 243-6927 Fax

December 8, 2004

Re: Parks Highway MP 44-52  
Project No. IM-OA4-1(23)/57178

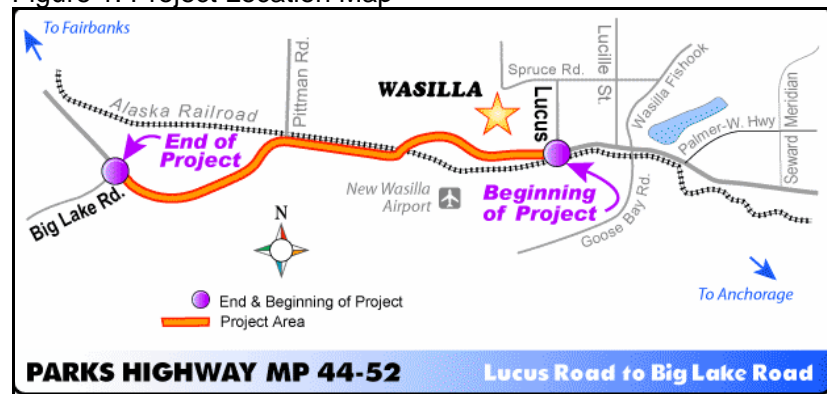
Subject: Agency Scoping Letter

Ms. Cynthia Zuelow-Osborne  
ADNR, Office of Project Management and Permitting  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1660  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Ms. Zuelow-Osborne:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is requesting comments and information on a proposal to upgrade the Parks Highway from Milepost 44, Lucus Road, to Milepost 52, Big Lake Road. The ADOT&PF hired the local Engineering Consulting firm Hattenburg Dilley & Linnell (HDL) to begin environmental and preliminary design activities for this rapidly developing corridor (reference Figure 1. Project Location Map). Improvements on the Parks Highway may include safety and capacity features, road surface and subbase improvements, drainage, pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Figure 1. Project Location Map



To date HDL has conducted field studies of wetlands, Phase I contaminated sites, and local cultural resources; and has executed studies of existing conditions regarding noise, fish and wildlife, traffic and safety. To ensure that all possible factors are considered in the proposed project, HDL held a series of scoping meetings on Thursday, October 28, 2004 in Wasilla, including meetings with local government planners, agencies, utilities, emergency services, and the public. Information obtained during initial studies was presented to each group while requesting comments, questions, and sources of additional information from each group. The scoping meetings ended successfully with a large amount of information gathered and many issues raised.

A project website ([www.parkshighway44-52.info](http://www.parkshighway44-52.info)) shows the project location and will be updated regularly to provide information collected from project studies and public comments. In addition, the website may be used to provide comments. Information gathered to date includes development plans, Parks Highway and neighboring road improvement ideas, trail suggestions, utility companies

plans, emergency services needs, research data available and required, and a need to identify potential borrow sites for construction.

Information gathered from preliminary research is summarized in an attached appendix. The information specific to your agency follows:

Coastal Zone Management (CZM): The Parks Highway, Lucus Road to Big Lake Road project area falls within the coastal zone boundary, as depicted on the maps found in the Alaska Coastal Management Program website. We will coordinate with state and borough agencies to determine if plans for the project are consistent with state and local coastal management plans.

If you have comments or questions about the project, contact Ellen Green, the project Environmental Task Lead and Agency Coordinator, via telephone at 743-0988 (Anchorage) or via email using [egreen@ak.net](mailto:egreen@ak.net). Please provide your responses by January 10, 2004 to be included in the project's preliminary scoping summary report. We look forward to hearing from you and will follow up this letter with a call.

Sincerely,

Jerry O. Ruehle  
Environmental Coordinator

Enc: Preliminary Research Appendix

Cc: Miriam Tanaka, P.E., Project Manager  
Dennis, Linnell, Hattenberg Dilley & Linnell  
Ellen Green, Green Engineering