



# FACT SHEET

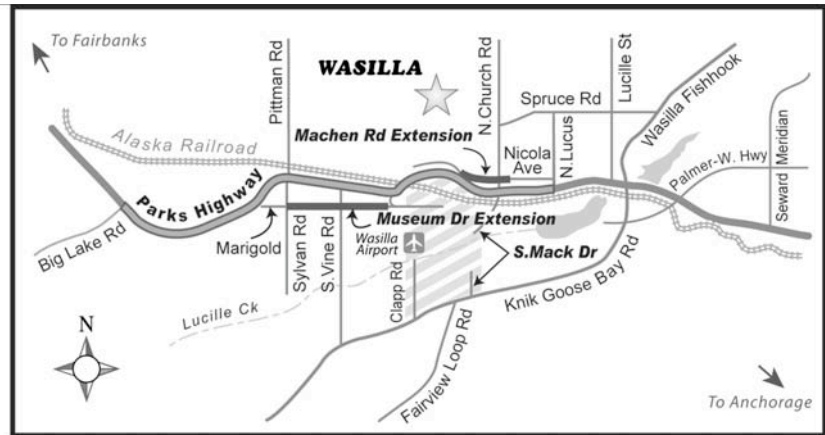
## Parks Highway Connectors Machen Road Extension

MSB Project No. 30090

*If you notice surveyors and other project staff in your area, there is a good reason.* The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, with funding from the state Legislature, has plans to make it easier and safer for you to get around.

### Project Scope

The borough hired the engineering firm Lounsbury & Associates to proceed with engineering and environmental studies to extend Machen Road. The project would extend Machen 1.2 miles eastward to the west end of Nicola Avenue, completing a connection all the way to the Parks Highway. The proposed extension is envisioned as a two-lane road with paved shoulders.



— Parks Highway (MP 44-52) Lucus Road to Big Lake Road      — Parks Highway Connectors  
▨ South Mack Drive Extension Study Area

### Project Description

This area of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has grown rapidly in recent years, resulting in a boom in land development and a corresponding increase in local traffic, and traffic crashes. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has designated the Parks Highway from Lucus Road to the Alaska Railroad Houston crossing as a safety corridor in an effort to reduce crash rates. (For more information, see Web link to safety corridor maps below). ADOT&PF is in the environmental assessment phase of a project to upgrade the Parks Highway from Lucus Road to Big Lake Road, milepost 44-52, to a 4-lane divided highway with limited access. However, available funds to construct the Parks Highway: Lucus Road to Big Lake Road project may be years away, and the project does not include funding to purchase right of way for frontage roads.

The Machen Road extension on the north side of Parks Highway, and the related Museum Drive extension on the south side, is an outgrowth of discussions and cooperation between the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, ADOT&PF, and City of Wasilla. They recognize the need for additional collector roads to be constructed in conjunction with the Parks Highway project to help alleviate traffic congestion, reduce accidents, better distribute local traffic, and improve access to the local community and businesses.

### Project Status and Timeline

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough received funds to design and construct the Machen Road and Museum Drive extensions in 2008. In May 2009, Lounsbury received the go-ahead to begin design and produce bid-ready plans by late 2010. Construction could begin as early as 2011.

## Project Participants

Project Lead:

### Matanuska-Susitna Borough

- Jim Rowland, Project Management & Engineering
- Brad Sworts, Planning and Environmental Manager
- David Heier, Land & Resources Management Chief

Engineering Consultant Team:

### Lounsbury & Associates

- Tom Adams, Project Manager
- Glory Hotko, Project Engineer
- Tim Mullikin, Surveyor

#### Subconsultants

Brooks & Associates, Public Involvement

Shannon & Wilson, Geotechnical  
Solstice Environmental Consulting

## Cost and Funding

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough received \$6 million to design and construct two Parks Highway Connectors: Machen Road and Museum Drive.

## How can you help?

There are several ways you can help:

- Sign up to get more information via US Postal Service or e-mail
- Call our public participation coordinator with your questions or local knowledge that will assist our design team
- Come to an upcoming public meeting and learn more
- Suggest ways to mitigate the impacts arising from this project on local residents, businesses, and property owners
- Mark your calendars and attend the public meetings on these four related projects:
  1. Parks Highway Upgrade: Lucus Road to Big Lake Road
  2. Parks Highway Connectors – Machen Road Extension
  3. Parks Highway Connectors – Museum Drive Extension
  4. South Mack Drive Extension

When: **Thursday, July 23, 2009** (*Save this date, details to follow*)

Where: Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center (formerly Wasilla Sports Center)  
1001 South Mack Drive, Wasilla

## For more information:

Public Participation Coordinator

Anne Brooks, P.E.

Toll-free: 1-866-535-1877

Phone: (907) 272-1877

E-mail: [mycomments@brooks-alaska.com](mailto:mycomments@brooks-alaska.com)

Project Web site: [www.parkshighway44-52.info](http://www.parkshighway44-52.info)

Safety Corridor information: [www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/hwysafety/safety\\_corridors\\_maps.shtml](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/hwysafety/safety_corridors_maps.shtml)