



*Welcome! Please Sign In*

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project

Public Open House Meeting

April 7, 2011

Evangelo's Restaurant

Wasilla, Alaska

[www.portmacrail.com](http://www.portmacrail.com)





# Why Mac Central, Houston South?

The following reasons have been identified by the Office of Environmental Analysis as to why Mac Central to Houston South would most effectively avoid, minimize, and reduce potential environmental impacts:

- Flat topography needing little cut and fill.
- 1 of 2 alternatives with the fewest overall crossings and proposed drainage structures.
- A comparatively low level of both floodplain acres and floodplain crossings.
- Third-lowest amount of wetland and water acreages disturbed.
- Second-lowest amount of habitat acreage disturbed.
- 1 of 4 alternatives with the fewest fish-bearing stream crossings.
- 1 of 2 alternatives with the fewest anadromous (salmon) stream crossings.
- Lowest number of known cultural resources potentially affected and a low probability for cultural resources.
- Only 1 structure and no businesses taken within the 200-foot right-of-way (ROW).
- A moderate number of officially recognized trails crossed and a low number of Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District contributing trails crossed.
- Does not cross state recreation or refuge areas.





# Project Team

Alaska Railroad Corporation.....Applicant

Matanuska-Susitna Borough.....Project Sponsor

HDR Alaska, Inc.....Environmental Consultant

Hanson Alaska, LLC.....Engineering Consultant





# Surface Transportation Board

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) is the Lead Federal Agency that has the final decision-making authority. On March 25, 2011 the STB published the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This study was conducted independent of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Alaska Railroad and recommends the Mac Central and Houston South Project Area.

Issuance of the Final EIS completes the STB's environmental review process. The STB will now produce a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is expected at least 30 days after the Final EIS.

Please contact the STB for additional information and/or comment:

David Navecky  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**General information:** 202-245-0245

**Web Address:** <http://www.stb.dot.gov>

[www.portmacrail.com](http://www.portmacrail.com)



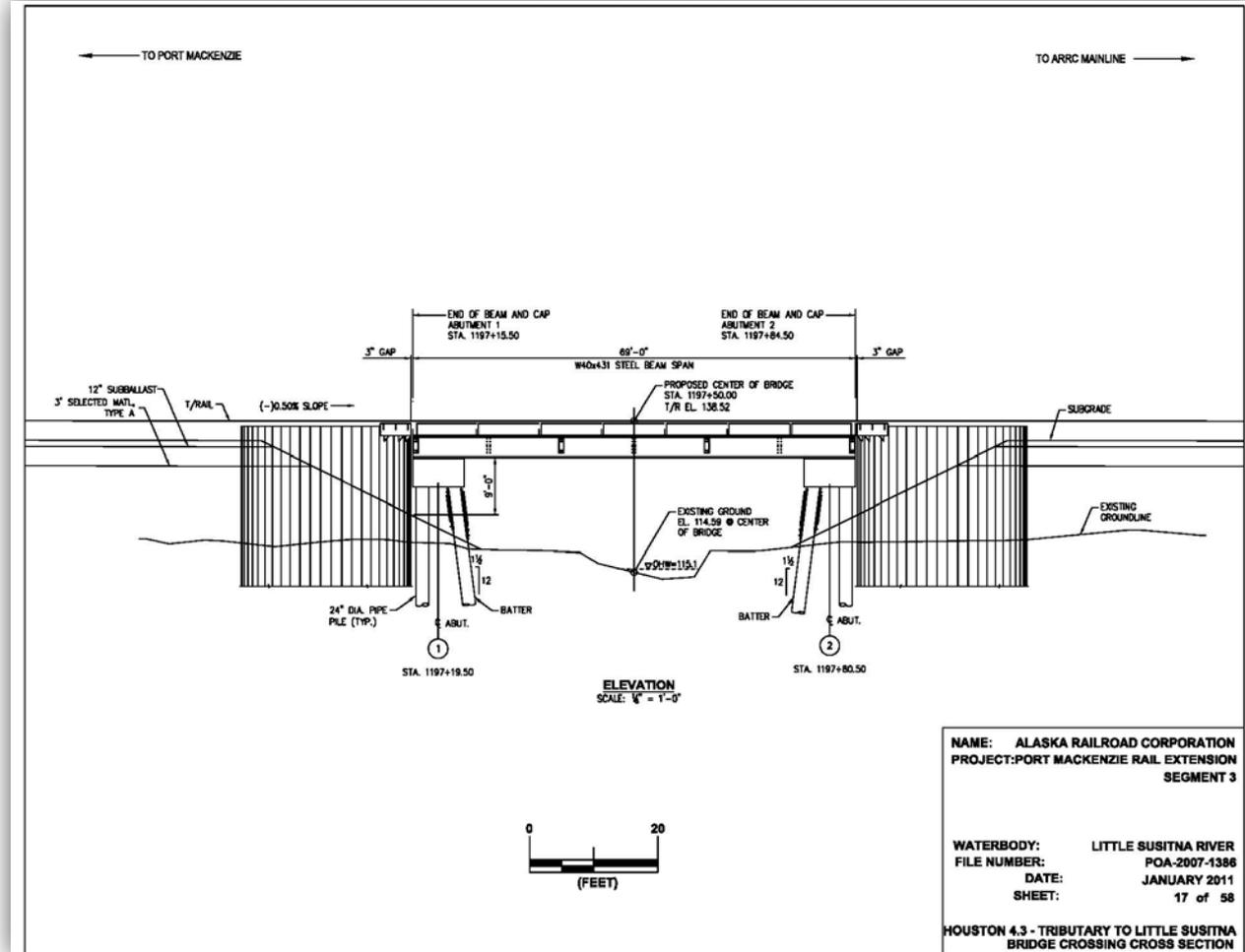
# Project Schedule



- March 25, 2011 – Release of Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Spring 2011 – Permit Applications are submitted to State and Federal agencies and MSB for review and comments
- Summer 2011 – STB provides Record of Decision
- Construction is scheduled to begin in Summer 2011 and be constructed in *segments*
- *Construction is dependent on funding*

# Bridge Crossings

- Used for fish crossings
- 6 total bridge crossings
  - 2 single span
  - 4 triple span bridges
- No piles in active channels
- Length varies between 69 feet and 210 feet



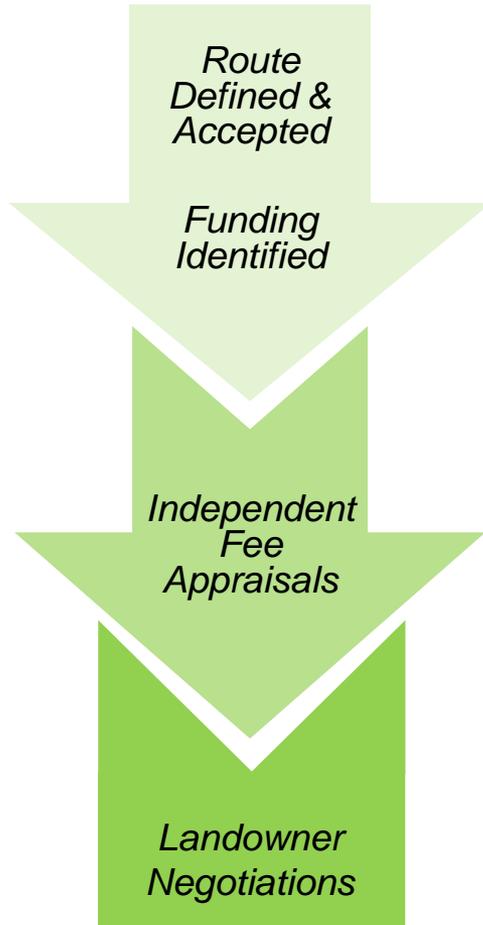
# Right of Way Acquisition Process

Actual right-of-way acquisition would be achieved through a series of steps, including good faith negotiations with the property owners. At that stage, the MSB right-of-way team would contract with an independent and impartial qualified appraiser to conduct appraisals.

Property owners are entitled to receive just compensation for any acquired property rights. By definition, just compensation may not be less than the property's fair market value. Eligible displaced owners and tenants may also be entitled to displacement or relocation benefits.

The MSB's right-of-way acquisition process would be conducted in accordance with the **Uniform Relocation Act**—a Federal law that requires the equitable treatment of persons displaced from their homes, businesses, or farms by Federal and federally assisted programs. To see the Act's language in its entirety, go to:

<http://uscode.house.gov/download/pls/42C61.txt>





# For more information

## Please contact:

*Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Office of Public Affairs  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
Phone: (907)745-9577  
E-mail: [patty.sullivan@matsugov.us](mailto:patty.sullivan@matsugov.us)*

*Stephenie Wheeler, Corporate Communications Officer  
Alaska Railroad Corporation  
327 West Ship Creek Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 265-2671  
E-mail: [wheelers@akrr.com](mailto:wheelers@akrr.com)*

**Visit: [www.portmacrail.com](http://www.portmacrail.com)**

[www.portmacrail.com](http://www.portmacrail.com)

