

# **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Chairperson** – Roy Wahl – District 4  
**Vice Chair** – Chris Wilson – District 2  
Pat Owens – District 1  
Jessica Kelsch – At Large 2

John Harris - District 3  
Kenni Linden – At Large 3  
Vacant– At Large 1  
Vacant – At Large 4

Cindy Bettine - District 5  
Nickel LaFleur – District 6  
Thomas Phillips - District 7

## **AGENDA**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Lower Level Conference Room**

**March 22, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
  - A. February 22, 2021
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT
  - A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager
- VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. Avigation Easement Report
  - B. Back Country Horsemen – Pioneer Loop Trail at GPRA
  - C. EBikes
  - D. Lazy Mountain Security Measures
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
- X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS
- XI. CORRESPONDENCE
- XII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIII. NEXT MEETING
  - April 26, 2021
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT

1                                   **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
2                                   **PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD**  
3

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Vacant – District 6  
Thomas Phillips - District 7

4  
5                                   **Draft Minutes**  
6

7                                   **REGULAR MEETING**  
8                                   **Lower Level Conference Room**  
9

**February 22, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M.**

10           I.     **CALL TO ORDER**

11                   Meeting called to order by Mr. Wahl at 6:02 pm.

12           II.    **ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

13           III.   **Members Present: Mr. Wahl, Mr. Wilson**

14                   Members Attending Virtually: Mr. Phillips, Ms. Owens, Ms. Linden, Ms. LaFleur, Ms.  
15                   Kelsch

16                   Members Absent: Ms. Bettine

17           IV.    **Guests: Ms. Hayes, Ms. Nowers, Mr. VanDiest, Mrs. VanDiest**

18           V.     **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

19                   Motion: Mr. Wilson moved to accept the agenda, Ms. Owens, 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

20           VI.    **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

21                   Mr. Wahl led the pledge of allegiance.

22           VII.   **MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

23                   A.   January 25, 2021

24                   Motion: Mr. Wilson moved to accept the minutes as amended, Mr. Wahl, 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in  
25                   favor.

26           VIII.   **BOROUGH STAFF REPORT**

27                   A.   Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager

28                   Mr. Leslie said that the FY22 Budgets were turned in. There will be three public  
29                   meetings coming up in Willow, Wasilla, and Borough building regarding the budgets.

30                   Mr. Leslie stated that there have been break-ins at the trailheads.

31           IX.    **PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person**

32                   A.   Ms. Vogt, with Back Country Horsemen, expressed her concerns regarding EBikes on  
33                   the trails and Back Country Horsemen are opposed to allowing EBikes on non-  
34                   motorized trails due to safety issues, being a danger to pedestrians and animals.

- 35 B. Ms. Gotschall, with Back Country Horsemen, expressed her concerns regarding  
36 EBikes. She stated it is a safety issue. She asked the Board to consider the equestrian  
37 community.
- 38 C. Ms. Hayes, with Back Country Horsemen and a member of the community, is  
39 opposed to EBikes. She would like the Board to keep Ebikes with motorized trails.
- 40 D. Ms. Nowers discussed with the Board that the Borough has submitted a bid for the  
41 2024 Winter Games. She also stated that UAF continues to look at the gravel pit at  
42 Crevasse Moraine and meetings are going to continue to happen.
- 43 X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- 44 A. Avigation Easement Report
- 45 Mr. Wahl stated he will be attending the meeting with HDL and the Borough  
46 regarding the Palmer Airport Avigation Easement.
- 47 Mr. Wahl provided the maps that will be handed out at the meeting along with the  
48 different concepts being discussed.
- 49 Mr. Leslie asked the board what the consensus is and if Board members would like to  
50 attend the March 4, 2021 meeting.
- 51 Ms. Linden, Ms. LaFleur, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Kelsch, and Mr. Wahl expressed desire to  
52 attend the March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting as representatives of the PRTAB.
- 53 B. Back Country Horsemen – Pioneer Loop Trail at GPRA
- 54 Ms. Vogt discussed the parking lot issue at GPRA and trail access issues.
- 55 C. EBikes
- 56 Mr. Leslie state that the State of Alaska will allow EBikes on the trails.
- 57 Mr. Wilson stated he would like the following changes on the MSB rough draft of the  
58 proposed guidelines: remove kind of bells, remove group numbers, add uphill rider  
59 has right of way for safety, add when riding in groups do not negatively affect the  
60 trails or other users.
- 61 Mr. Wahl stated he would like to exclude all EBikes from ADA trails.
- 62 Ms. Owens would like signs posted regarding speeds and being in control.
- 63 Mr. Wilson would like Ebikes that are throttle only not be used on multi use dirt trail,  
64 or earth trails and only peddle assist EBikes are allowed.
- 65
- 66 XI. NEW BUSINESS
- 67 A. PUBLIC NOTICES
- 68 1. MSB006818 – Other
- 69 Mr. Wilson would like to know how the gravel pit will be turned  
70 back into agriculture use area.
- 71 B. Lazy Mountain Security Measures
- 72 Ms. VanDiest, president of the Lazy Mountain Community Council, would like to  
73 propose to use CAP funds to put in an electric gate at the trailhead.

Ms. VanDiest expressed the security issues that are happening at the trailhead.  
Ms. VanDiest stated that they have the funds for the gate but will need to pass maintenance for it off to the Borough.  
Mr. Leslie stated that there is \$50,000 in the budget that could be considered for lighting and help with the gate.  
Mr. Leslie stated that discussion regarding the time the gate closes would need to happen.  
Mr. Phillips stated that he would support the Lazy Mountain Community Council in building a gate, install lighting and a kiosk.  
Ms. LaFleur stated she agrees and supports Mr. Phillips statement.  
Ms. Linden stated she supports with Mr. Phillips statement.  
Mr. Leslie stated that he would work the Lazy Mountain Community Council and Capital Projects to come up with a plan for a gate, lighting, hours, and cost estimate.  
Mr. Wilson states that he supports having a gate at Lazy Mountain Trailhead.

## XII. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

### A. Mike Danz, Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers

Motion: Ms. Owens moved to nominate Mr. Danz, Mr. Phillips, 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor.

## XIII. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## XIV. MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Wahl –Shared email from David Palmer about the Avigation Easement maps.

Mr. Wilson – No comments.

Ms. Owens – Encourages the Board to look at the Jonesville Public Use Plan.

Ms. Kelsch – Noticed that trailheads are being used heavily and supports expanding the parking lots.

Ms. Linden – Looking forward to the Avigation Easement joint meeting.

Ms. LaFleur – Has switched to District 6. Thank you to the guests.

Mr. Phillips - Thanks for all the discussion and would like information regarding the Avigation Easement Meeting.

110 XV. NEXT MEETING

111 • April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

112 XVI. ADJOURNMENT

113 Motion: Mr. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. LaFleur 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

114 Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

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ATTEST:

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Alyssia Jones, Recreation and Library Services Administrative Specialist

123

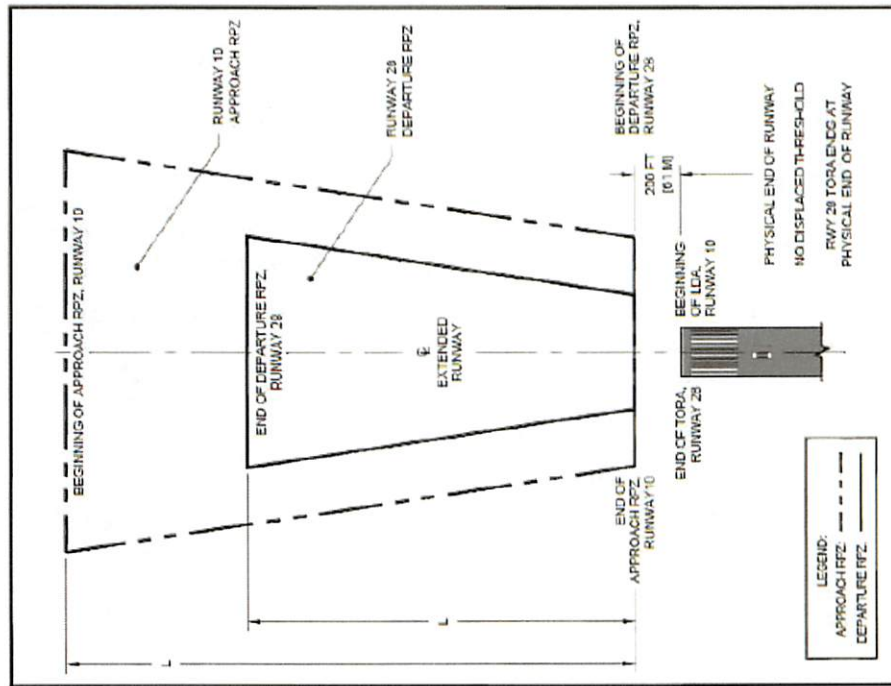
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Roy Wahl, Chairperson

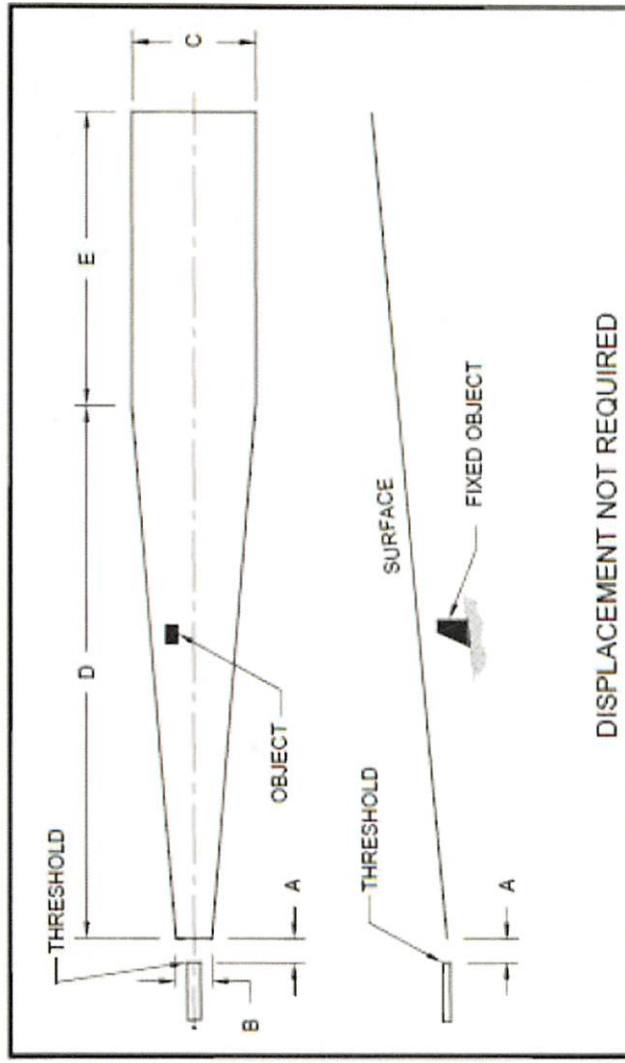


PRELIMINARY BASE MAP

## Runway Protection Zone



## Runway Approach and Departure Surface





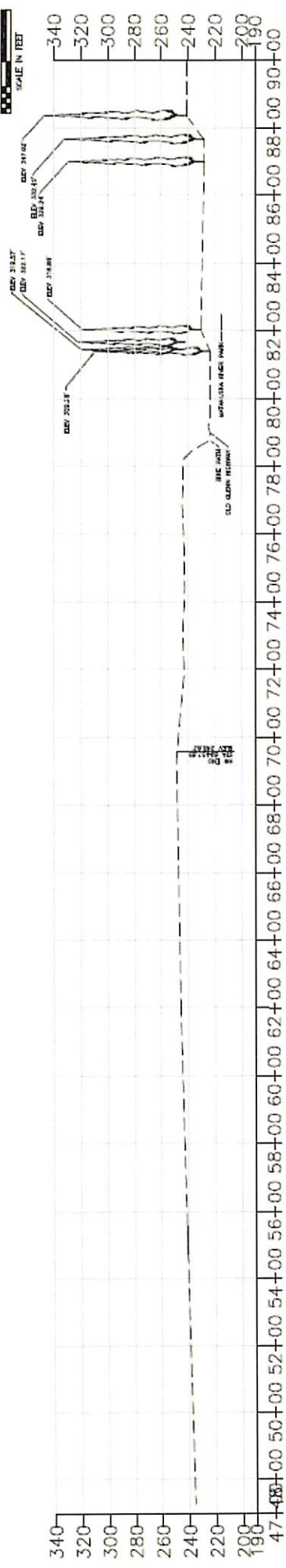
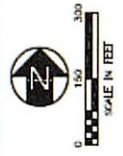
## PRELIMINARY BASE MAP

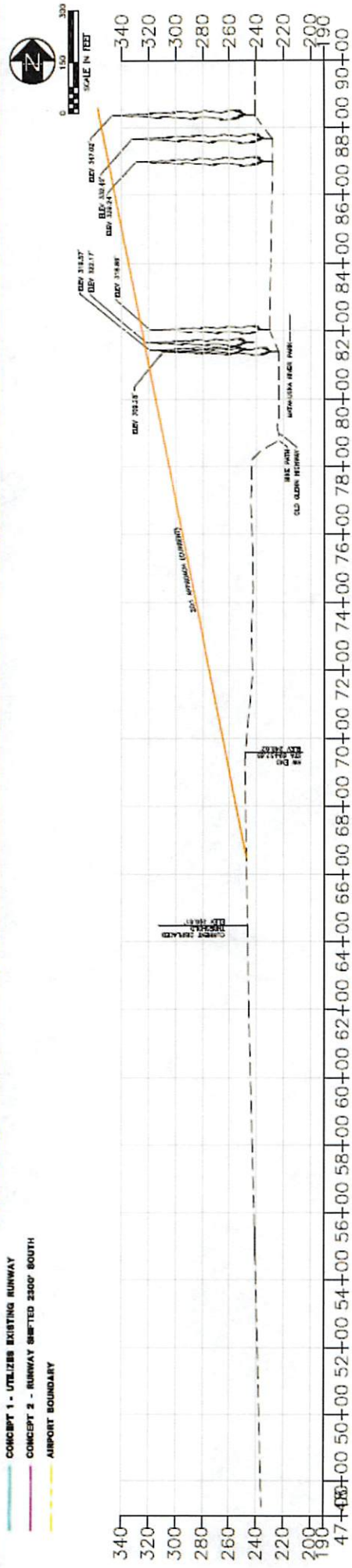
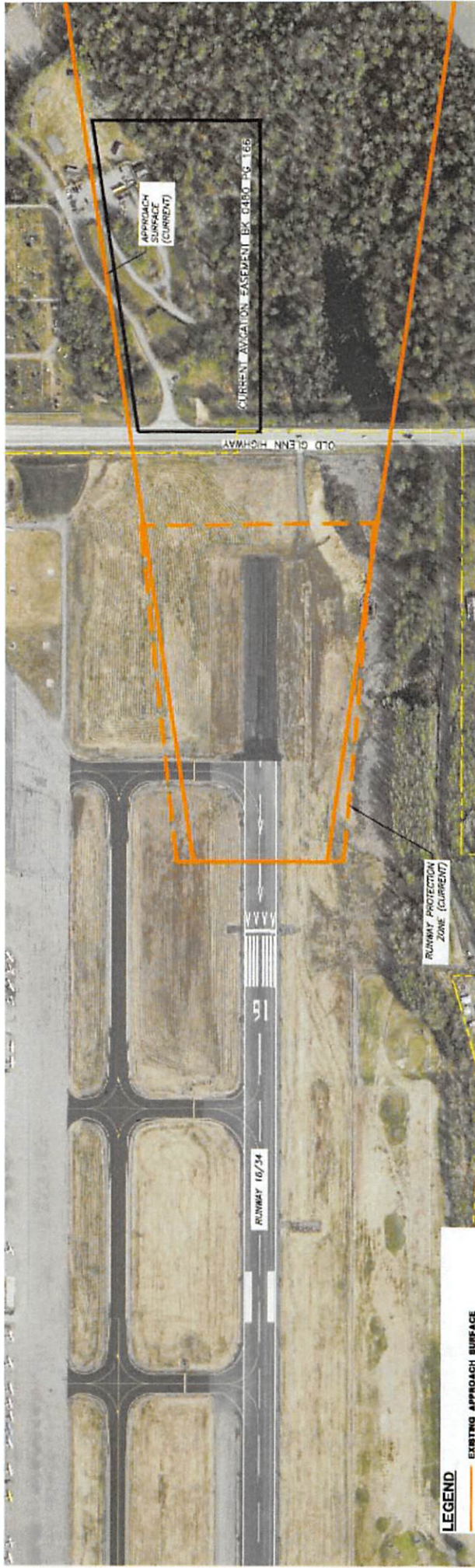


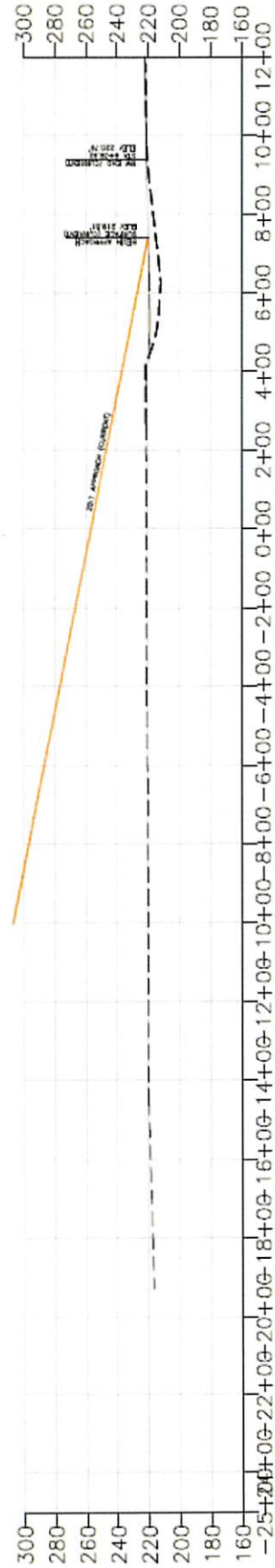


# LEGEND

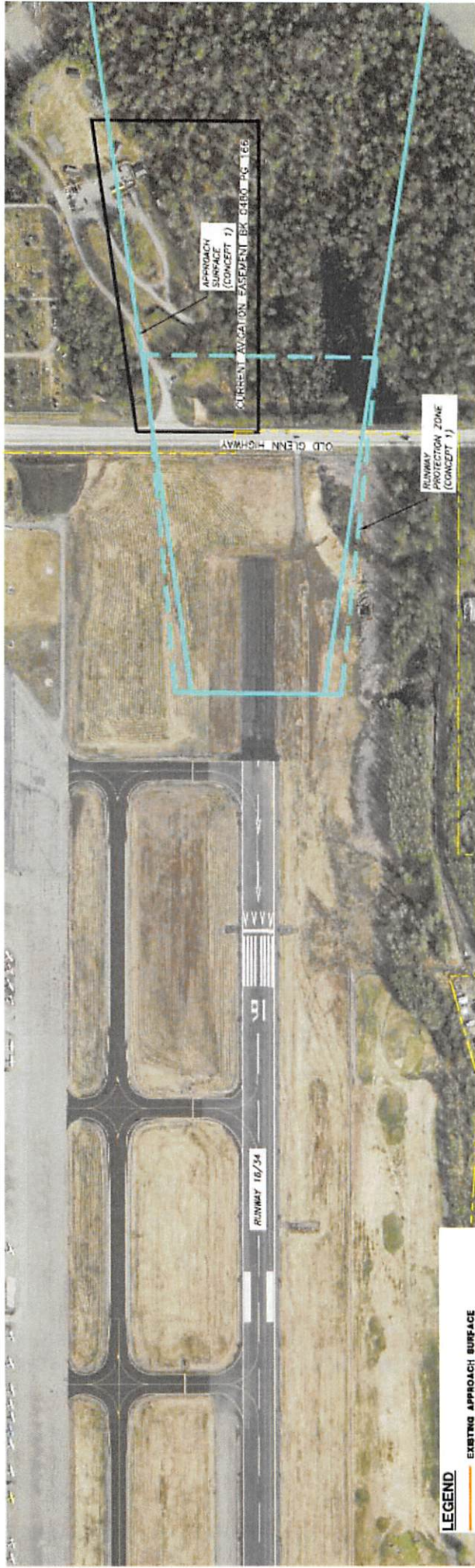
- EXISTING APPROACH SURFACE
- CONCEPT 1 - UTILIZES EXISTING RUNWAY
- CONCEPT 2 - RUNWAY SHIFTED 2300' SOUTH
- AIRPORT BOUNDARY





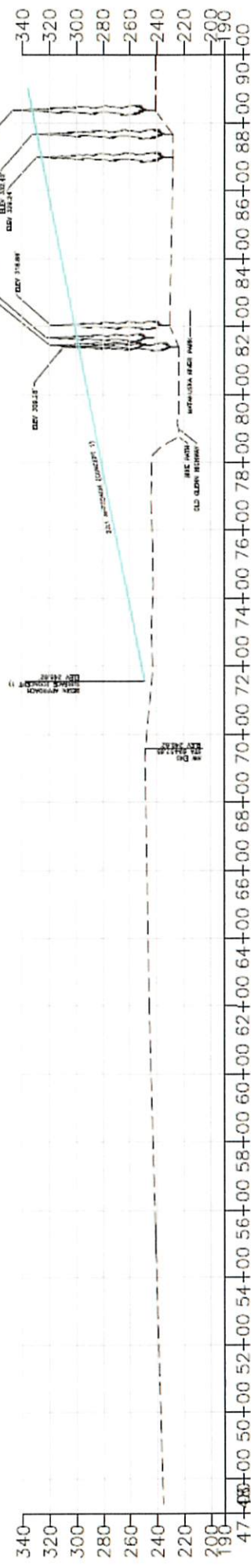


Alternative Descriptions		Concept No. 1		Concept No. 2		Other Concepts?	
Evaluation Criteria		Advantage	Disadvantage	Advantage	Disadvantage	Advantage	Disadvantage
Ability to Serve Community's Needs							
	Medevac						
	Meets General Aviation						
	Emergency Response						
	Economic Development						
Safety, Engin. & User Considerations							
	User Function/Level of Service						
	Long-term Stability						
	Construction Considerations						
	Airspace						
	Avigation Easement						
	Protection Zone (RPZ)						
	Approach Obstructions						
Environmental Considerations							
	Biological Resources						
	Wetlands						
	Section 4(f) Resources Matanuska River Park & Historic Sites of Significance						
	Historic, Architectural, & Cultural Resources						
	Socioeconomics (housing & business relocations/changes in traffic patterns, etc)						
	Visual Character (assesses impacts to visual character of an area)						
	Farmlands						
	Land Use						
	Noise & Compatible Land Use						
Cost							
	Maintenance & Operations						
	Right-of-Way						
	Construction						
	FAA Funding Eligibility						



# LEGEND

- EXISTING APPROACH SURFACE
- CONCEPT 1 - UTILIZES EXISTING RUNWAY
- CONCEPT 2 - RUNWAY SHIFTED 2350' SOUTH
- AIRPORT BOUNDARY

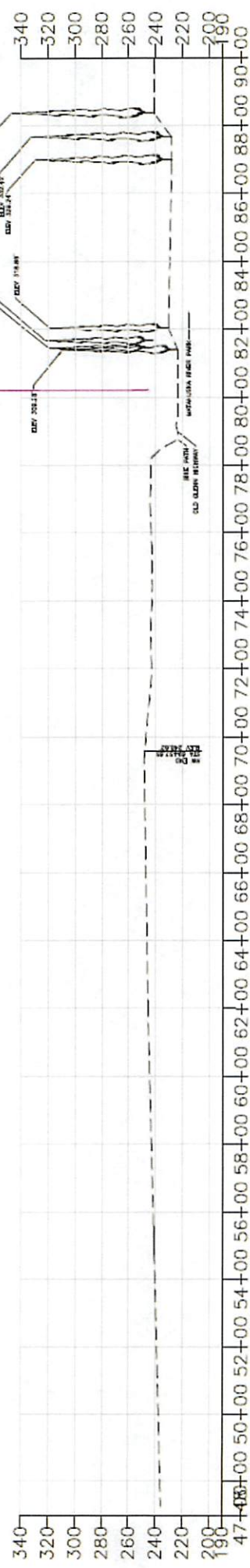


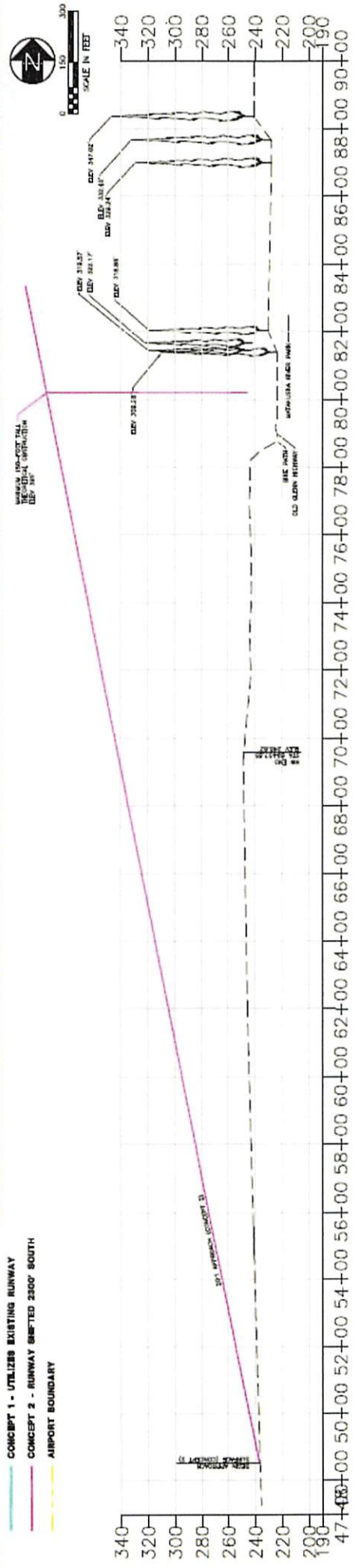
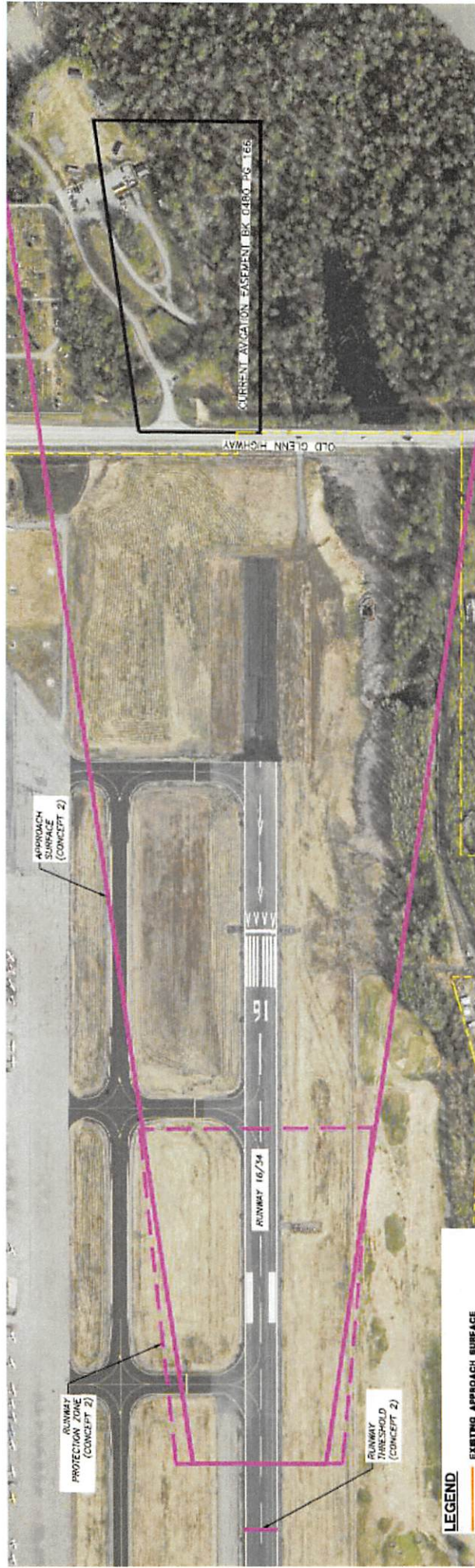


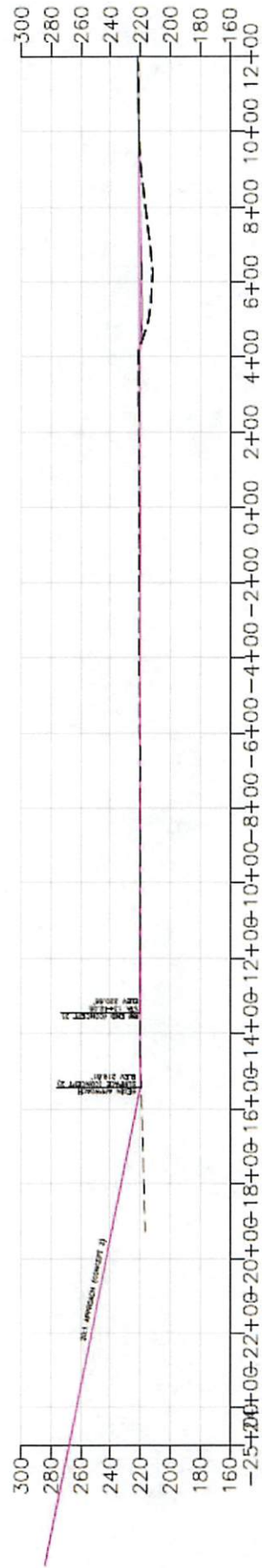
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- EXISTING APPROACH SURFACE
- CONCEPT 1 - UTILIZES EXISTING RUNWAY
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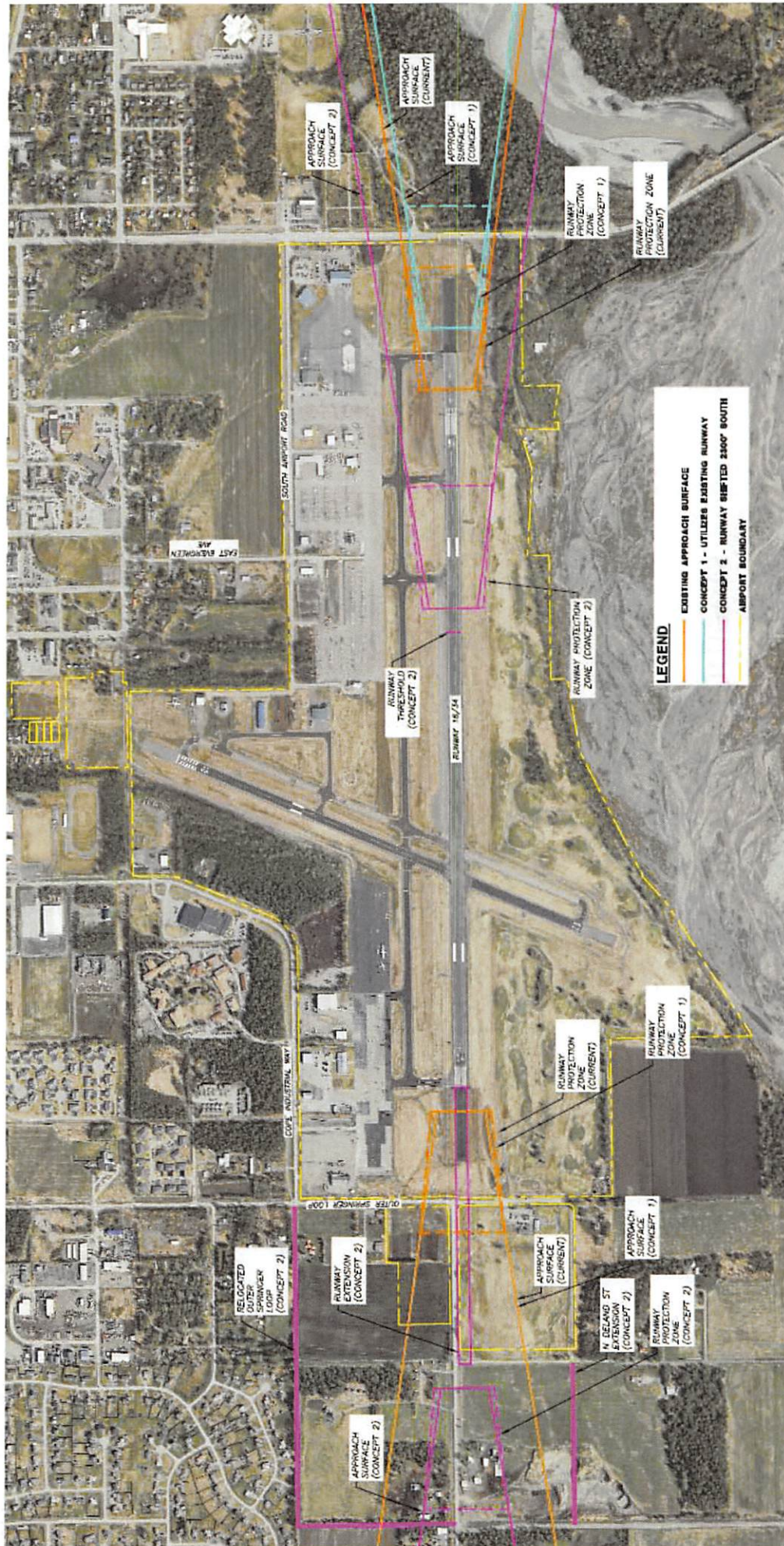
WETLAND 100-FOOT TALL  
WETLAND 100-FOOT TALL  
ELEV 301'











**PRELIMINARY BASE MAP**



## Questions and Comments

Please provide written comments by March 3, 2021

Email to

tanderzen@hdlalaska.com  
hcampfield@hdlalaska.com

## Proposed Guidelines for electric bikes on Matanuska-Susitna Borough maintained trails.

### Definitions;

#### There are three classes of electric bikes;

In order to modernize electric bicycle law in the United States, PeopleForBikes the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association devised a three-class system to categorize electric bicycles and properly regulate them based on their maximum assisted speed. The class system creates the following categories of electric bicycles:

#### **Class 1 electric bike**

A “class 1 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

#### **Class 2 electric bike**

A “class 2 electric bicycle,” or “low-speed throttle-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle, and that is not capable of providing assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

#### **Class 3 electric bike**

A “class 3 electric bicycle,” or “speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle,” is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour, and is equipped with a speedometer.

### Use of electric bikes on Matanuska-Susitna Borough Trails \*

Trail etiquette is the same for e-bikes as it is for traditional bikes. Trail etiquette practices are based on a general concept of consideration of all other trail users, and protection of the trail as well as the surrounding natural resources. Trail use rules are as follows;

- Only Class 1 ~~and Class 2~~ (per CW) Electric Bikes are allowed on Borough Trails. **Throttle assist bikes are not allowed on any Borough trail(new)**
- Follow all posted trail rules and signage such as speed limits, directional travel, or yielding suggestions
- **Uphill riders have the right of way(new)**
- Protect the trail by staying off of the trail during Spring Break up, wet or muddy conditions and other trail closures as mandated by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Openly communicate with other trail users with typical communication devices such as calm voice and ~~non-obtrusive~~ (per CW) bells
- The use of helmets is strongly recommended
- Use passing techniques that are considerate of other trail users and that do not result in trail widening
- **When riding in groups, (new)** ~~Ride in group numbers that~~ (per CW) do not negatively impact other trail users experience or degrade the soil.

- Electric Bikes are not allowed on ADA trails

\*Borough Trails include all trails actively maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough including Jim Creek, Government Peak Recreation Area, Borough Lands in the Crevasse Moraine Trails System, Matanuska River Park Campground, Alcantra Sports Complex Trail, Palmer Rail Trail, Talkeetna Lakes Park