

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Historical Preservation Commission

Bert Verrall – Chair • Kevin Toothaker – Vice Chair  
Andrew Schweisthal • Karla McBride • Fran Seager-Boss • Janet Kincaid • Vivian Smith  
Paul Clark – MSB Staff

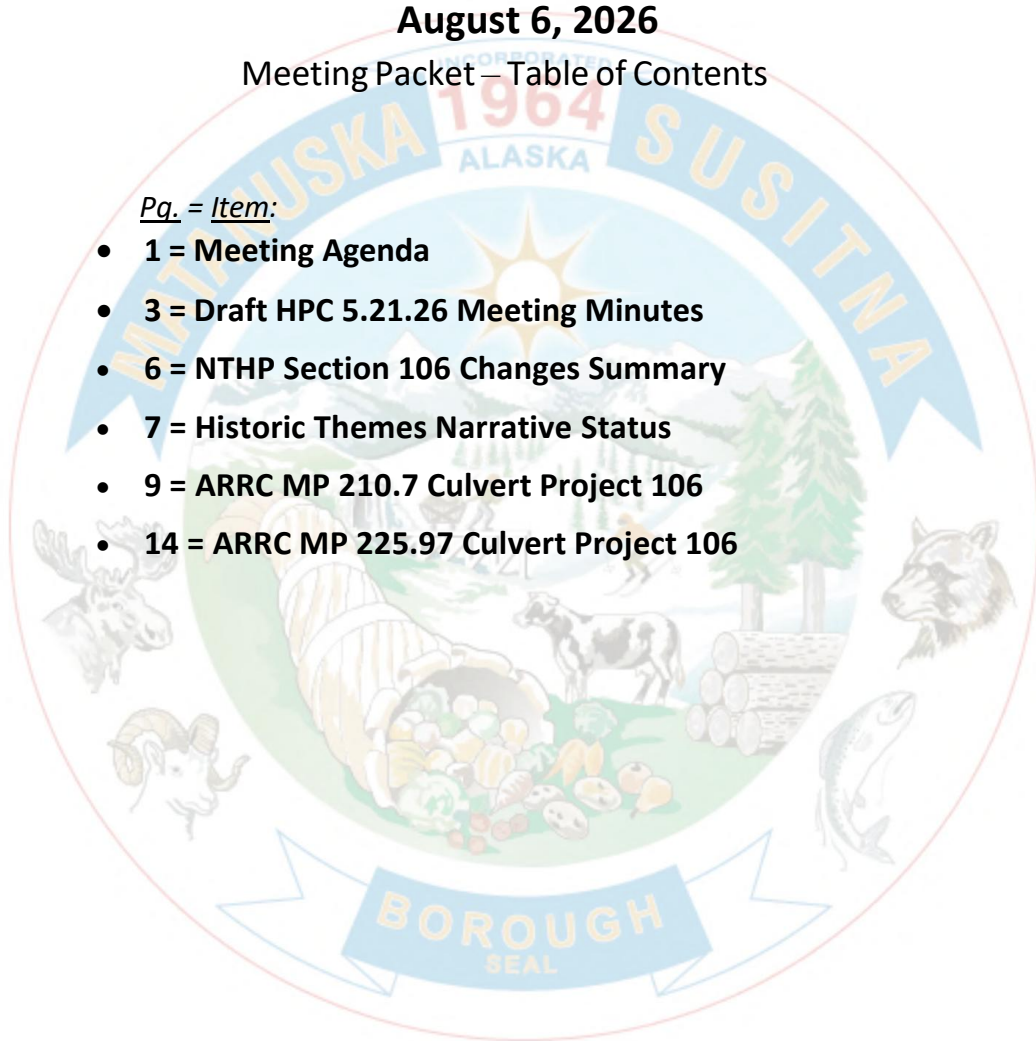
## Regular Meeting

**August 6, 2026**

Meeting Packet – Table of Contents

Pg. = Item:

- **1 = Meeting Agenda**
- **3 = Draft HPC 5.21.26 Meeting Minutes**
- **6 = NTHP Section 106 Changes Summary**
- **7 = Historic Themes Narrative Status**
- **9 = ARRC MP 210.7 Culvert Project 106**
- **14 = ARRC MP 225.97 Culvert Project 106**



## Talkeetna Public Library

24645 Talkeetna Spur Rd, Talkeetna, AK 99676

Remote Participation: See attached agenda on p. 1

Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division

<http://www.matsugov.us>

[planning@matsugov.us](mailto:planning@matsugov.us)

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Historical Preservation Commission

Bert Verrall – Chair • Kevin Toothaker – Vice Chair  
Andrew Schweisthal • Karla McBride • Fran Seager-Boss • Janet Kincaid • Vivian Smith  
Paul Clark – MSB Staff

## Regular Meeting August 6, 2026, 6:00pm

**IN-PERSON:** Talkeetna Public Library, 24645 Talkeetna Spur Rd, Talkeetna, AK 99676

### REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

[Join the meeting now](#)

**Call-In (Audio only)**

Meeting ID: 298 510 412 203 91

[+1 907-290-7880](#)

Passcode: 54a8R9mQ

Phone conference ID: 813127519#

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. May 21, 2026

#### V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."*

#### VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing)

#### VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

#### VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

##### A. Staff Report

1. NAPC Grant not approved
2. Baseball exhibit at the State Fair + Opening Event
3. ACHP Proposed Rulemaking, to revise Section 106 of the NHPA
4. Mat-Su Historic Themes Study Update
5. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Update
6. Frontiersman Digitization Project

##### B. Chair Report

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IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Draft Historic Preservation Plan comments
  - i. HPC Comments
  - ii. Next Steps

X. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Resolution of Support for Frontiersman Digitization Project**
- B. New Section 106 Consultations
  - 1. **ARRC Culvert Replacements Milepost 210.7 (due August 8)**
  - 2. ARRC MP 225.97 Culvert Replacement (comment period ended July 3)
    - a. Finding of No Adverse Effect
- C. New Borough Project Reviews

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Note: agenda items **in bold** indicate decision items

People needing reasonable accommodation to participate in a Historical Preservation Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8404 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

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# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH Historical Preservation Commission

## Regular Meeting

May 21, 2026, 6:00pm

## MINUTES

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:19

### II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

#### Present

Kevin Toothaker

Janet Kincaid

Fran Seager-Boss

Karla McBride

Vivian Smith

#### Absent

Bert Verrall

Andrew Schweisthal

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Janet Kincaid moved to approve agenda, Vivian Smith seconded, agenda approved

### IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. February 19, 2026 –

**FSB moves to approved minutes, Janet Kincaid seconds, no objections, minutes approved.**

### V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."*

### VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing)

### VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

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## VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Staff Report
  - 1. [America 250 Alaska](#) Celebration in the Mat-Su
  - 2. CAMP Training summary
  - 3. Alaska Historical Commission meeting summary
- B. Chair Report
- C. Re-Awakening Lajat – Fran
  - **“Making Dene people more visible on the landscape” through signage. Wasilla, Knik Tribe, Eklutna, Friends of Palmer Hay Flats are partnering**
  - **Knik Tribe – Great Land Trust partnership at O’Brien Creek for educational purposes.**

## IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Historic Preservation Plan
  - i. **JK – important for the HPC to be there and give testimony about the importance of the plan and historic preservation**
  - ii. **Comments are due no later than July 1**
  - iii. **Have copies at meetings and presentations**
  - iv. **Consider a longer timeline for public participation**
- B. Mat-Su Historic Themes Study
- C. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Update
  - i. **No change, awaiting feedback from State OHA**

## X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Knik Museum CLG Grant Proposal
  - B. New Section 106 Consultations
    - 1. Wasilla Main Street Rehabilitation Project
      - Finding of no historic properties affected – Wasilla Community Hall
    - 2. ARRC MP 152.1 & 152.3 Bridge Replacement Project
      - Adverse effect finding & mitigation strategy
      - Important to track this one
    - 3. West Susitna Access Road Programmatic Agreement
 

**There may be a new RFP coming out for additional archeological survey. Chickaloon is very involved in providing comments, lots of back and forth in the process.**
    - 4. Denali National Park & Preserve 2026 Project List
  - C. New Borough Project Reviews
-

1. Talkeetna Water Systems Upgrade
  - Water storage tank location concerns

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

**Janet Kincaid made a motion to adjourn, Fran Seager-Boss seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm**

DRAFT

# Section 106 Is Under Threat: Please Oppose Regulatory Changes



The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is advancing a sweeping and damaging proposal to rewrite the regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). If implemented, these new rules would dramatically diminish the effectiveness of the NHPA and the current legal protections for historic and cultural places.

Since the enactment of NHPA 60 years ago, Section 106 has been the foundational requirement for federal agencies to “take into account” the effects of their actions on historic properties and places, enabling public participation and comment in the process, empowering state and local governments and tribal communities to have a voice in the process, and often improving the project and enhancing the outcome.

## The ACHP Proposal Would Eviscerate This Process And Principles

These new regulations will lead to more delays and more litigation as federal agencies and applicants try to navigate compliance without the well-known and well-used consultation process, which often leads to negotiated win-win outcomes. The preservation community and our partners across the country are mobilizing to fight this harmful proposal.

Some of the most disturbing aspects of the proposed changes include:

- Federal agencies will no longer be required to try to avoid or minimize damage to America’s historic architecture, neighborhoods, and landscapes.
- State and local governments will no longer have the right to be notified or have the opportunity to comment when federal agencies propose to damage or destroy historic places within their jurisdiction.
- The public’s opportunity to comment on federal historic preservation policies or actions would now be entirely optional, at the discretion of the federal agency.
- The federal government will no longer be required to consult with Native American tribes or seek their expertise regarding their own significant cultural resources.
- Significant cultural landscape features would no longer be considered historic properties, so federal agencies would no longer be required to take into account any adverse effects to significant places such as the Grand Canyon.
- Federal agencies would no longer be required to consider the reasonably foreseeable consequences of their actions on historic properties, other than direct actions that physically damage the properties.
- These regulations are inconsistent with the National Historic Preservation Act and would violate the Council’s own rules and procedures.
- The proposed changes are also internally inconsistent and riddled with errors, likely to cause enormous regulatory confusion and chaos.



## Help Protect America’s Historic and Cultural Heritage

To stay informed on the latest developments, including action alerts, please visit: <https://savingplaces.org/section106>



## Upload - Chapter 7, Commerce

From Gerrit Verbeek <bluemugdata@gmail.com>

Date Tue 7/28/2026 12:31 PM

To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Getting close! [Link to chapter](#), I still need to swing back and make some minor edits based on your comments.

-Gerrit

### **Ancient Archaeological Traditions in MSB**

- |     |                                                  |                               |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.1 | American Paleo-Arctic (14,000 - 5,500 Years Ago) | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 1.2 | Northern Archaic (7,000 – 1,500 Years Ago)       | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 1.3 | Alutiiq/Sugpiaq People                           | Complete / Ready for Approval |

### **The Borough's Indigenous Dene Cultures**

- |     |                              |                               |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2.1 | Overview and Shared Elements | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 2.2 | Ahtna                        | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 2.3 | Dena'ina                     | Complete / Ready for Approval |

### **Change: Contact with Western Cultures**

- |     |                                   |                               |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3.1 | Early Euro-American Contact       | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 3.2 | Russian Orthodoxy                 | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 3.3 | Diseases and Challenges           | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 3.4 | Early American Settlement         | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 3.5 | Western Exploration of the Mat-Su | Complete / Ready for Approval |

Government Exploration

Non-Government Exploration

### **Modern Influences: Patterns of Demography across the Mat-Su**

- |     |                                                       |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4.1 | Population Growth and Formation of Modern Communities | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 4.2 | Native Populations                                    | Complete / Ready for Approval |

|      |                                                                            |                               |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4.3  | Military Infrastructure                                                    | Complete / Ready for Approval |
|      | Economic and Demographic Effects                                           |                               |
|      | <b>[Need Section Title... Subsistence and Agriculture?]</b>                |                               |
| 5.1  | Dene Trade Networks (Dena'ina and Ahtna)                                   | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 5.2  | Hunting and Fur Trading                                                    | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 5.3  | Fur Farming                                                                | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 6.1  | Homesteading                                                               | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 6.2  | Agriculture                                                                | Complete / Ready for Approval |
|      | Early Small Scale-Farming (1900-1915)                                      |                               |
|      | Continued Farming and the U.S.D.A. Matanuska Experimental Farm (1915-1931) |                               |
|      | The Matanuska Colony (1935-1949)                                           |                               |
|      | Commercial Farming and the Palmer (1949 – Present)                         |                               |
|      | <b>Industry</b>                                                            |                               |
| 7.1  | Roadhouses                                                                 | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 7.2  | Freighting                                                                 | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 7.3  | Mining                                                                     | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 7.4  | Commercial Fishing                                                         | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 7.5  | Tourism / Recreation Transportation                                        | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 7.6  | Impact of North Slope Oil / the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)        | Complete / Ready for Approval |
|      | <b>Transportation Networks</b>                                             |                               |
| 8.1  | Trails and Waterways                                                       | Citations Remaining           |
| 8.2  | The Impact of Dog Sledding                                                 | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 8.3  | Private and Government Roads                                               | Citations Remaining           |
| 8.4  | Railways                                                                   | Citations Remaining           |
| 8.5  | Aviation                                                                   | Complete / Ready for Approval |
| 9.1  | <del>Political History</del>                                               | Paused / Removed              |
| 9.2  | Establishment of Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 1964                           | Citations Remaining           |
| 9.3  | ANCSA, ANILCA, and Tribal Governance                                       | Citations Remaining           |
| 10.1 | Geographic Names                                                           | Complete / Ready for Approval |



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION X  
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,  
Washington

915 Second Avenue  
Federal Bldg. Suite 3192  
Seattle, WA 98174-1002  
206-220-7954  
206-220-7959 (fax)

July 9, 2026

Bert Verrall  
Chair  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Historic Preservation Commission  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

**Subject: Alaska Railroad Corporation  
MP 210.7 Culvert Replacements Project  
National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106  
Consultation Initiation**

Dear Mr. Verrall:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), is proposing a culvert replacement project at ARRC milepost (MP) 210.7 (Project) to maintain safe operation of the railroad. ARRC intends to apply for federal funds administered by FTA for the Project, making it an undertaking subject to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. This letter initiates Section 106 consultation, and requests feedback on the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) and proposed preliminary investigations.

**Project Location and APE**

The Project is located at ARRC MP 210.7, approximately 15 miles south of Talkeetna, Alaska. The proposed APE for the Project encompasses all potential areas being considered for project activities. The 44.85 acre proposed APE is located within the ARRC right-of-way (ROW), and a section line easement across privately owned land managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Attachment A shows the Project location and proposed APE.

July 9, 2026

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### **Preliminary Investigations**

To help inform preliminary engineering of the Project, ARRC proposes to conduct site investigations, including geotechnical investigations, wetlands delineation survey, cultural resource investigations, and other surveys within the APE:

- Geotechnical drilling would include the excavation of up to 3 geotechnical boreholes within the APE, each of which would have a nominal diameter of 6 to 8 inches and a depth of 10 to 150 feet. Boreholes would be concentrated in the existing railroad embankment in the area surrounding the existing culverts, as shown in Attachment A.
- The wetlands delineation survey would include shovel digs, photos, and data gathering. Typical holes for the majority of soil types are proposed to be 6-10" in diameter and 20" in depth, with shallower holes wherever bedrock is present under 20" depth and deeper holes up to 40" in soil types with extensive organic soil depths.
- Cultural resources investigation would include background research, a pedestrian survey, and subsurface testing, as appropriate.
- ARRC proposes to conduct other survey-level analysis work as necessary. These other studies would not involve ground disturbing activities and have no potential to cause effects to historic properties

### **Identification of Resources**

In support of FTA's regulatory obligations under Section 106, ARRC conducted a desktop analysis to identify potential historic properties within the proposed APE. Sources consulted include the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) database, reports from previous cultural resource investigations, Alaska's Digital Archives, the Revised Statute 2477 trail (RST) database, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) online database, traditional placename data, LiDAR imagery from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, historic aerial imagery, and U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. Three potential resources were identified within the APE:

- The Alaska Railroad (SEW-00029): The U.S. government constructed the Alaska Railroad from Seward to Fairbanks between 1915 and 1923. As a whole, it is treated as a historic district and is assumed to be eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A. The proposed preliminary engineering studies would have no adverse effect on this resource.
- Trail: Recent aerial photographs show a trail partially within the APE south of the slough at ARRC MP 210.7, as shown in Attachment B, Figure 1. This waterbody is sometimes known locally as "Pete's Slough." The trail begins on the eastern edge of the ARRC ROW and meanders eastward to the Parks Highway opposite Montana Creek Road. The trail is visible in a 1974 aerial photograph as well as the original 1917 township survey. It may be associated with Goose Creek Road (TAL-00207/RST 1506), which was previously determined not eligible for the NRHP. The preliminary engineering studies will avoid any ground disturbance within the vicinity of the trail.
- Possible Roadbed: LiDAR imagery from 2011 shows a curvilinear feature extending from the western edge of the APE near ARRC MP 210.7, as shown in Attachment B, Figure 2. Although not described in the AHRs records, it may be associated with sites TAL-00169 or TAL-00190, which are west of the ARRC ROW and outside of the APE. The preliminary engineering studies will avoid any ground disturbance within the vicinity of this feature.

In the unlikely event that preliminary investigations encounter previously unidentified cultural resources, ARRC will implement an Inadvertent Discovery Plan that establishes the appropriate

July 9, 2026

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procedures and points of contact. A copy of the draft Inadvertent Discovery Plan is enclosed for review as Attachment C.

**Request for Feedback**

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, FTA invites your comments on the proposed APE and proposed investigation methodologies within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Should you require additional information or have questions, please contact Barney Remington at [barney.remington@dot.gov](mailto:barney.remington@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

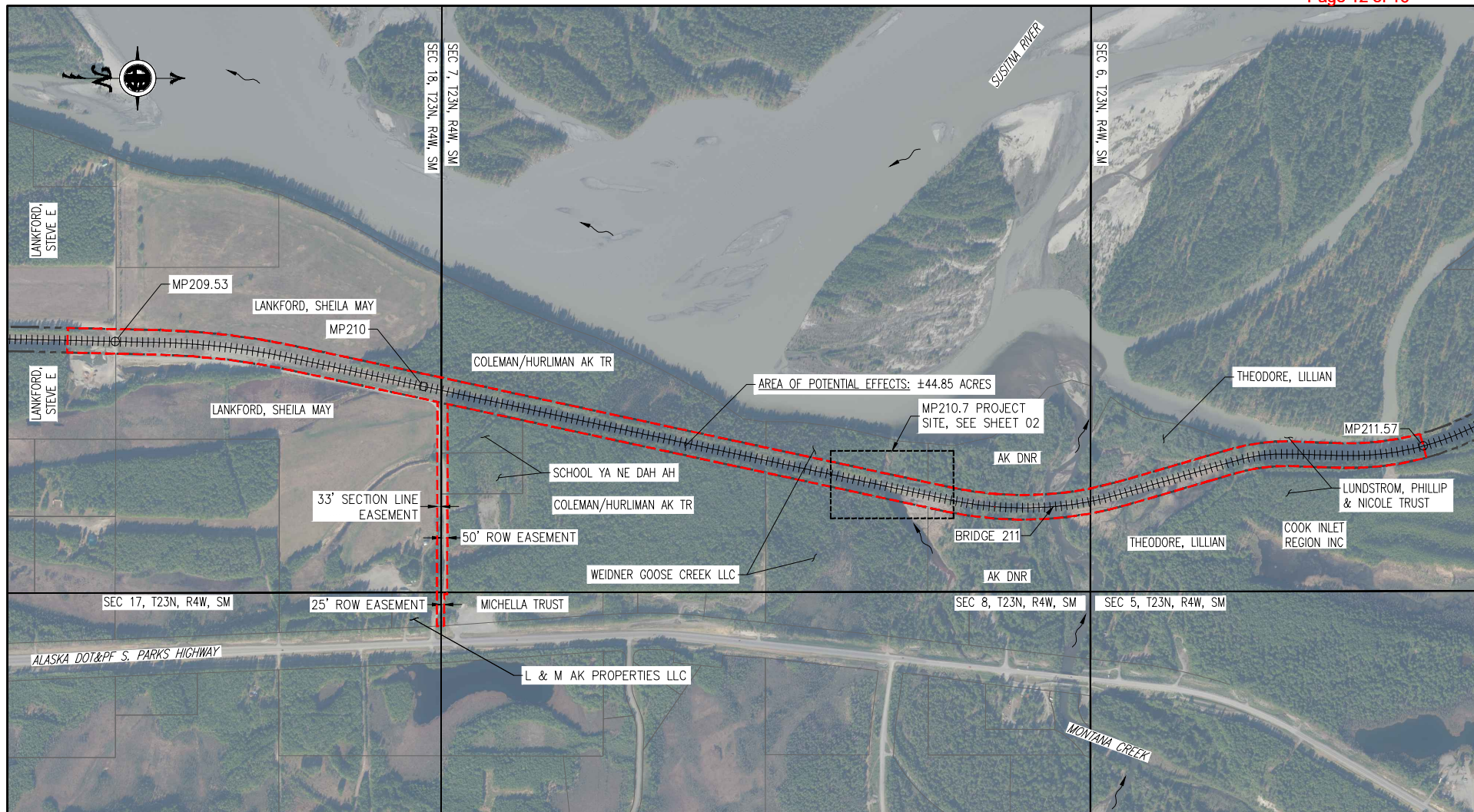
Susan K. Fletcher, P.E.  
Regional Administrator

Attachment A – *MP 210.7 Culvert Replacements Project APE*

Attachment B – *MP 210.7 Culvert Replacements Project Identified Resources*

Attachment C – *Inadvertent Discovery Plan – FTA-ARRC*

DRAWING LOCATION: P:\PROJECTS\01 PROJECTS\02 TRACK\COMPLEX CULVERTS\210.7\01 ENGINEERING\07 DESIGN\APE\MP210.7\_APE\_R4.DWG

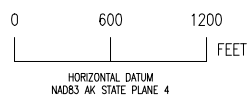


**ALASKA**  
RAILROAD

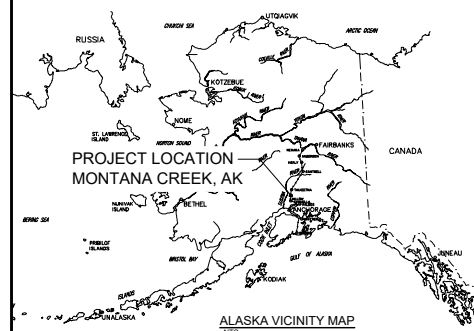
MP 210.7 CULVERT REPLACEMENT

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS - OVERVIEW

LAT: 62.1004° N, LONG: 150.0690° W



- |  |                           |  |                       |
|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|  | AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS |  | ARRC RIGHT OF WAY     |
|  | SECTION LINE              |  | ARRC TRACK CENTERLINE |
|  | PROPERTY LINE             |  |                       |



APPLICANT: ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING NEPA FIGURE

WATERWAY: SUSITNA RIVER / MONTANA CREEK

LOCATION: SECTIONS 5-8, 17, AND 18;  
T23N, R4W, SM

SHEET 01 OF 02

DATE: April 16, 2026

DRAWING LOCATION: P:\PROJECTS\01 PROJECTS\02 TRACK COMPLEX CULVERTS\210.7\01 ENGINEERING\07 DESIGN\APE\MP210.7\_APE\_R4.DWG

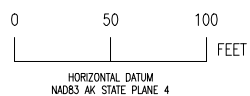


## ALASKA RAILROAD

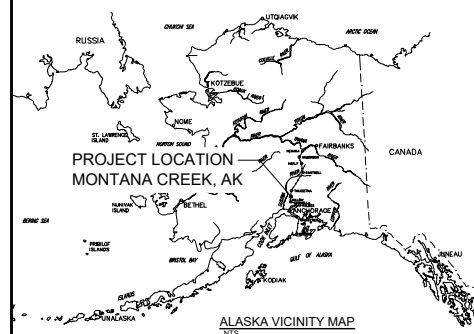
MP 210.7 CULVERT REPLACEMENT

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS - PROJECT SITE

LAT: 62.1004° N, LONG: 150.0690° W



- |  |                           |  |                       |
|--|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|  | AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS |  | ARRC RIGHT OF WAY     |
|  | PROPERTY LINE             |  | ARRC TRACK CENTERLINE |
|  | PROPOSED BORE HOLE        |  |                       |



APPLICANT: ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING NEPA FIGURE

WATERWAY: SUSITNA RIVER / MONTANA CREEK

LOCATION: SECTION 7, T23N, R4W, SM

SHEET 02 OF 02

DATE: April 16, 2026



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION X  
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,  
Washington

915 Second Avenue  
Federal Bldg. Suite 3192  
Seattle, WA 98174-1002  
206-220-7954  
206-220-7959 (fax)

June 3, 2026

Bert Verrall  
Chair  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Historic Preservation Commission  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

**Subject: Alaska Railroad Corporation  
Milepost 225.97 Culvert Replacement Project  
National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106  
Effects Determination Consultation**

Dear Mr. Verrall:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), is proposing the Milepost (MP) 225.97 Culvert Replacement Project (Project). The Project would replace the existing culverts at ARRC MP 225.97 and under South Royal Blue Loop in Talkeetna, Alaska to enhance the stability of the track, protect critical state infrastructure, improve safety for the ARRC and its customers, and maintain the integrity of the railroad. ARRC intends to apply for federal funds administered by FTA for the Project, making it an undertaking subject to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. This letter initiates Section 106 consultation, and requests your feedback on the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE) and with the proposed finding of no adverse effect for the undertaking.

#### **Project Location and APE**

The Project is located at the ARRC Talkeetna Depot within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. This area falls within Section 25, Township 26 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian. Attachment 1 shows the Project location and APE. The 1.49-acre APE for the project encompasses all areas of proposed ground disturbance for the project, including culvert

replacement activities and channelization work. The APE is within the ARRC right-of-way (ROW) and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) ROW.

### **Project Activities**

The Project include replacement of the existing culverts at MP 225.97 and at South Royal Blue Loop, which are approaching the end of their useful lifespans. At MP 225.97, the project would replace the existing 36-inch diameter, 30-foot-long corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert and timber headwall with a 60-inch diameter, 67-foot-long smooth steel pipe (SSP) culvert. At South Royal Blue Loop, the existing 36-inch diameter, 60-foot-long CMP culvert would be replaced with a 60-inch diameter, 52-foot-long SSP culvert. Minor channelization between the two culverts will be required for proper drainage.

Culvert replacement and channelization work would require excavating approximately 1,344 cubic yards of material. In replacing the culverts, ground disturbances would extend up to approximately 12 feet below the railroad embankment for the culvert at MP 225.97, and approximately 11 feet below the road surface for the culvert at South Royal Blue Loop. The channel between the culverts would measure approximately 4 to 14 feet wide by 45 feet long, with up to 1.25 feet of material excavated and backfilled to match the embedded depth of the new culverts. Exact dimensions of the rehabilitated channel will be determined during final design. Depending on the time of year and other environmental factors, dewatering or site isolation activities may be required.

Two existing staging areas (the ARRC Talkeetna Depot and South Royal Blue Loop) may be used to support construction activities and site access. Up to 0.77 acres of vegetation clearing and grubbing within uplands may be required, depending on contractor means and methods. Temporarily disturbed areas will be stabilized prior to project completion.

### **Identification of Historic Properties**

ARRC conducted a desktop review of cultural resources data to identify potential historic properties within the APE. Sources consulted include the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey database, reports from previous cultural resource investigations, Alaska's Digital Archives, the Revised Statute 2477 trail database, the online NRHP database, the Web Atlas of Alaska Native Traditional Place Names, historic aerial imagery, and U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. As a result of this research, ARRC identified one (1) cultural resource, the Alaska Railroad itself, within the APE. As a whole, the Alaska Railroad is treated as a historic district and is assumed to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

FTA considers the Project activities within the ARRC ROW to fall under the 2018 Program Comment to Exempt Consideration of Effects to Rail Properties within Rail Rights-of-Way (2018 Program Comment). Exempted activities within the ARRC ROW include the following:

- Activity A(1): Track and trackbed maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrades within the existing footprint (i.e., existing subgrade, sub-ballast, ballast, and rails and crossties).
- Activity G(4): Maintenance, repair, or replacement of pre-cast concrete, cast iron, and corrugated metal culverts that lack stone or brick headwalls.
- Activity G(7): Corrections to drainage slopes, ditches, and pipes to alleviate improper drainage or changing alluvial patterns.

- Activity J(3): Maintenance of access roads and laydown areas.

The 2018 Program Comment does not apply to project activities within the DOT&PF ROW. These activities would have no adverse effect on the nearby Alaska Railroad.

### **Eligibility and Effect Determinations**

Based on the aforementioned documentation, FTA has made the following determination:

- The APE for the project includes 1.49 acres as shown in Attachment 1 and is sufficient for determining potential effects of project activities.
- The Project activities within the ARRC ROW would be exempt from consideration of effect.
- The undertaking would have **No Adverse Effect** on Historic Properties.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, FTA requests your feedback on the above determinations within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Should you require additional information or have questions, please contact Barney Remington at [Barney.Remington@dot.gov](mailto:Barney.Remington@dot.gov).

Thank you for your consultation on the Project.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Fletcher, P.E.  
Regional Administrator

Attachment 1    *MP 225.97 Culvert Replacement Project APE and Site Locations*