

FINAL Programmatic Agreement Annual Report for 2024 Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project STP-F-021-2(15)/Z530140000



Prepared for:



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,
Central Region

PREPARED BY

HDR Alaska, Inc.
582 East 36th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503

AUTHOR

Sean Teeter, MA, RPA

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The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

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List of Attachments (Redacted)

Attachment A: Revised Sensitive Cultural Resource Area Maps

Attachment B: Material Logs – Materials and Samples Collected During the 2024 Field Season

Attachment C: Effects Analysis Table

Attachment D: Site Map Book

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
AHRS	Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
AME	Alaska Medical Examiner
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AST	Alaska State Trooper
Booklet	soft-cover booklet
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIRI	Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
DOE	Determination of Eligibility
DOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
EU	Excavation Unit
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
Forest Service	U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
HDR	HDR Alaska, Inc.
KIT	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Milepost
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PQI	Professional Qualified Individual
Project	Sterling Highway Milepost 45–60 Project
Publication	Professional Publication
QAP	Quality Asphalt and Paving
ROW	right-of-way
RRLA	Russian River Land Act
SAM	Supervisory Archaeological Monitor
SCRAM	Sensitive Cultural Resources Area Map
SCRIP	State Cultural Resources Investigation Permit
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
Treatment Plan	Data Recovery/Historic Properties Treatment Plan
UAMN	University of Alaska Museum of the North
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 Introduction

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is reconstructing and realigning the Sterling Highway between Mileposts (MP) 45 and 60 (Project). The Project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is therefore considered a federal undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this Project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

DOT&PF and FHWA have found, with concurrence from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), that construction of the Project will have adverse effects on historic properties, including sites associated with Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) site KEN-00156/SEW-00282 (the “Sqilantnu Archaeological District”). DOT&PF and FHWA have prepared a Programmatic Agreement (PA) to resolve those adverse effects (DOT&PF 2018). The PA was executed in March 2018 by the following Signatories: DOT&PF; FHWA; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the Alaska SHPO; the Kenaitze Indian Tribe (KIT); Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI); the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service); and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Signatories amended the 2018 PA in July 2023 (DOT&PF 2023).

HDR Alaska, Inc. (HDR), prepared this document under contract to DOT&PF in accordance with PA Stipulation IX, *Reporting and PA Review*, which requires DOT&PF to submit an Annual Report to the PA Signatories on the progress and implementation of the PA stipulations. Per this stipulation, DOT&PF is required to submit the Annual Report to the Signatories on or before January 31 each year.

This Annual Report fulfills that obligation and addresses the following topics:

- Progress on design and construction of the highway (Section 2.0);
- Progress in archaeological identification and/or construction monitoring (Section 3.0);
- Progress on mitigation measures (Section 4.0);
- Progress in artifact curation (Section 5.0);
- Problems or unexpected issues encountered during the year (Section 6.0);
- Additional evaluations, assessment of effects (table of adversely affected sites), and most current treatment recommendations (Section 7.0);
- Table of contact information for Signatories (Section 8.0);
- Sequence and timeframe of future PA actions not completed in the reporting year (Section 9.0); and
- Changes that DOT&PF believes should be made in the implementation of this PA (Section 10.0).

2.0 Progress on Design and Construction of the Highway

DOT&PF construction efforts on behalf of the Project in 2024 included:

- Phases 3–4: DOT&PF's contractor continued blasting, excavation, drainage, and built wildlife crossings. The scheduled completion date for these activities is late 2025. The MP 58 erosion prevention project was completed.
- Phase 2: DOT&PF's contractor began construction of the Juneau Creek Bridge. Completion date for this stage is scheduled for 2028.

DOT&PF preconstruction efforts on behalf of the Project in 2024 included:

- Phase 1B: DOT&PF reached a 99 percent milestone for design. Constructability reviews with the Construction Manager/General Contractor are ongoing, with an emphasis on utility conflicts. DOT&PF anticipates Final Design in Spring 2025.
- Phase 5: DOT&PF reached a 60 percent milestone for design. DOT&PF is waiting on additional geotechnical information to complete the design.
- Right-of-Way (ROW): DOT&PF is continuing to work on minor ROW acquisitions as well as Temporary Construction Easements from several property owners.

3.0 Progress in Archaeological Identification and Construction Monitoring

In accordance with PA Stipulation IV, Archaeological Construction Monitoring, PA Signatories have identified areas where cultural resources are known or have a high potential to exist (PA Appendix C, *Archaeological Monitoring Plan*). DOT&PF shall ensure that a Secretary of the Interior-qualified Supervisory Archaeological Monitor (SAM) will be on-site during earth-moving activities associated with excavation in these areas. Following field observations, the SAM, Tribal Archaeologist, and/or Tribal observer(s), in coordination with each other, may recommend to DOT&PF (in accordance with the *Archaeological Monitoring Plan*) that monitoring at a location is not necessary. The *Archaeological Monitoring Plan* outlines activities to be conducted prior to construction activities (PA Appendix C, *Archaeological Monitoring Plan*, Sections V.A.1–3). These activities are listed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1. Archaeological Construction Monitoring Activities

Construction Monitoring Activities	Progress / Timeframe
As the Project encompasses culturally sensitive and significant cultural resources , DOT&PF has developed maps, in consultation with the PA Signatories, to depict areas of especially high sensitivity . DOT&PF will update the Sensitive Cultural Resource Area Maps (SCRAMS) to incorporate new information regarding the Project footprint, archaeological field surveys, or other information such as the presence of artifacts in areas previously considered low potential. DOT&PF will provide the SAM, archaeological monitors, and Tribal observers with updated SCRAMS prior to commencement of monitoring activities.	HDR updated the SCRAM based on the most recent Project alignment and the results of the 2024 field effort. The revised SCRAM is included as Attachment A ¹ .
Prior to any monitoring activities, DOT&PF or its qualified consultant shall acquire any and all permits necessary for conducting monitoring activities from the appropriate land-managing agency and/or private landowner.	The SAM Brian Davis, Homestead Consulting, acquired State Cultural Resources Investigation Permit (SCRIP) 2024-02 from the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology. Davis acquired Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) permit SEW848 from the Forest Service for archaeological monitoring in Phase 5.
No less than once per year, prior to the initiation of Project construction activities, the DOT&PF Project Engineer, DOT&PF Professional Qualified Individual (PQI), SAM, archaeological monitor(s), and Tribal observer(s) shall participate in a preconstruction meeting with the Construction Contractor, any on-site construction supervisory staff, the resident engineer, and subcontractors. DOT&PF will explain the roles of the SAM, archaeological monitor(s), and Tribal observer(s) and the procedures to follow in the event inadvertent discoveries, discovery of inadvertently affected historic properties, or discovery of human remains are made.	The pre-construction meeting was held on April 12, 2024, jointly with the cultural awareness training, as allowed under Appendix C, V.A.3. The pre-construction meeting was attended by DOT&PF, the Construction Contractor and their subcontractors, KIT Lead Cultural Coordinator, and the SAM.

¹ Signatories can view the SCRAM on the Sterling 45-60 Project Confidential Web Map.

The SAM, Brian Davis (d/b/a Homestead Consulting), led the archaeological monitoring effort during ground disturbing construction work by Quality Asphalt and Paving (QAP) within Phases 1A, 2, and 3. No ground disturbing work was conducted by QAP in other Project area phases.

Davis was assisted by archaeologist Tiffany Curtis from True North Sustainable Development Services, who monitored ground disturbing construction work in portions of Phase 1A, including placement of fill near the completed data recovery excavations near KEN-00092. During monitoring, Davis and Curtis were assisted by KIT Tribal observers, including Lead Cultural Coordinator Robert Bearheart and KIT Tribal Observers Veronica Andrew and Bethany Coghill.

In accordance with the conditions of SCRIP 2024-02 and PA Stipulation VI.k.i., the SAM provided daily monitoring reports to the DOT&PF PQI. Pursuant to PA Stipulation IV.k.ii-iii, DOT&PF will provide the Archaeological Monitoring Annual Report for to PA Signatories within 90 days following completion of monitoring for a 90-day review and comment period.

3.1 Archaeological Identification Efforts

HDR archaeologists completed a Phase I/II Identification and Evaluation Survey between June and October 2024 within portions of the Project footprint that had not been previously surveyed. Archaeologists surveyed a total of 5.17 acres between five survey parcels. The survey parcels were located on State of Alaska, Kenai Peninsula Borough, and Forest Service-managed lands along the Bean Creek Trail reroute and at the location of a planned work camp south of Project Station 1490+00.

HDR received SCRIP 2024-11 and ARPA permit SEW849 to conduct the 2024 field survey. Survey methods were designed to locate previously undocumented cultural resources, delineate and verify site boundaries, and gather sufficient information to complete determinations of eligibility (DOEs) for cultural resources identified within the Project footprint. HDR archaeologists prepared a draft technical report to summarize the results and provided it to DOT&PF in December 2024. The report will be provided to Signatories in early 2025.

During the 2024 pedestrian survey efforts, HDR documented three features in the work camp survey area, including an unimproved road, a collapsed structure, and a pile of logs (2024-EDH-001). In-field and post-field analysis indicates that none of these items are historic in age. Archaeologists identified no cultural resources in the survey area at the Bean Creek Trail reroute.

HDR archaeologists also conducted a built environment survey of the Cecil and Helen Rhode Homestead (SEW-01772) to update findings from the 2023 report (Hubbard et al 2024). The amended findings are included in an appendix to the 2024 Field Survey Report (Holman et al. 2024). DOT&PF determined SEW-01772 eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with mid-century homesteading in Cooper Landing and under Criterion B for its association with renowned Alaska wildlife filmmaker Cecil Rhode and his wife Helen Rhode, an accomplished Alaska wildlife photographer.

4.0 Progress on Mitigation Measures

PA Stipulation V, Mitigation, outlines the mitigation measures that have been identified in the PA. Table 4-1 lists each mitigation measure and its progress status or anticipated timeframe for completion.

Table 4-1. Progress in Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures	Progress / Timeframe
Data recovery shall be guided by the identified research design, as outlined in the site data recovery plans found in Appendix D, Treatment Plan.	DOT&PF submitted the <i>2024 Site Specific Treatment Plan</i> as Attachment B to the Data Recovery/Historic Properties Treatment Plan (PA Appendix D) to Signatories on February 15, 2024, for review and comment.
DOT&PF shall complete data recovery fieldwork for historic properties identified in the Treatment Plan in accordance with Appendix D prior to construction actions that will adversely affect them.	Data recovery was conducted in 2024 according to the requirements of the Treatment Plan. Updated Treatment Plans also identify needs for identification surveys based on Project design changes and the adequacy of previous survey coverage. A pedestrian survey was conducted in 2024, and surveys may continue into 2025.
Because DOT&PF anticipates that data recovery will occur over multiple years, DOT&PF shall produce an Interim Data Recovery Report within three months following completion of data recovery for the field season. The Interim Data Recovery Report will include a summary of the work that was completed that field season; how it was done; by whom, where, and with what preliminary results; and preliminary field maps, as appropriate.	DOT&PF submitted the <i>2023 FINAL Interim Data Recovery Report</i> to PA Signatories on April 10, 2024. DOT&PF submitted the <i>2024 FINAL Interim Data Recovery Report</i> to PA Signatories on November 21, 2024.
Within nine months following completion of data recovery for each field season, DOT&PF will produce an Annual Data Recovery Report and submit it to the Signatories. The draft Annual Data Recovery Report shall describe the results of data recovery in more detail than the Interim Data Recovery Report and will document the methods and preliminary findings of the data recovery effort conducted in that calendar year.	DOT&PF submitted the <i>2023 FINAL Annual Data Recovery Report</i> to PA Signatories on December 23, 2024.
DOT&PF shall develop a professional publication (Publication) that compiles and summarizes available ethnographic, archaeological, scientific and other literature, accounts, studies, cultural resources research, and research products associated with the Squalanuu Archaeological District.	The September 2024 PA monthly meeting was dedicated to discussion of the Publication and development of a new document outline and Table of Contents. DOT&PF anticipates sending a revised draft to Signatories in early 2026.
Based on the contents of the Publication, DOT&PF shall also develop a soft-cover booklet (Booklet) intended for the general public, to be approximately 30 pages in length.	DOT&PF will develop a draft of the Booklet once the Publication is completed.

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Mitigation Measures	Progress / Timeframe
DOT&PF shall prepare a formal NRHP nomination for the Sqilantnu Archaeological District based on the results of the Publication.	DOT&PF will develop the NRHP nomination once the Publication is completed.
DOT&PF will work with PA Signatories during design to identify locations and content for appropriate signage (e.g., notification that travelers are entering an historic district, interpretive signage at pull-outs or trailheads) and will erect agreed-to signage during construction.	In Summer 2024 Alaska State Parks conducted 3 site visits with DOT&PF, archaeologists, and other agencies and conducted a sign survey of the original highway. Stakeholder interviews regarding signage began in Fall 2024. Next steps are to complete stakeholder interviews and develop Project themes.
DOT&PF will coordinate with KIT and CIRI to locate, identify, collect, digitize, translate, transcribe, and publish the existing corpus of relevant oral histories and associated documentation in written and recorded formats for the Dena'ina Oral Histories Digitization .	Work began on the Dena'ina Oral Histories Digitization in 2021 which included an inventory of previous archival work. DOT&PF is currently working with KIT to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to document the plan for completion of this work.
DOT&PF shall re-investigate the adversely affected segment of the Bean Creek Trail located in the Direct Area of Potential Effects (APE), the segment located at the temporary trail crossing, and the trail segment that would be permanently rerouted.	Completed during the 2020 field survey (Teeter et al. 2021).
DOT&PF shall ensure public access to and the continued usability of the Bean Creek Trail during construction.	To be conducted during construction.
DOT&PF shall reroute Bean Creek Trail, in coordination with the Forest Service, to the west of its current location to pass under the Juneau Creek Bridge near its eastern abutment. The alignment of the rerouted trail is subject to an archaeological survey to ensure that no archaeological sites would be impacted.	HDR first surveyed the rerouted trail alignment during the 2020 field season. A revised reroute of the trail was defined in 2023 and was subject to pedestrian survey during the 2023 field season (Teeter et al. 2021; Hubbard et al. 2024).
DOT&PF shall provide an interpretive display with a historic mining theme at a trailhead to be built west of the Juneau Creek Bridge for the Resurrection Pass Trail and along the Bean Creek Trail at a location determined by the Forest Service.	Display panels are to be installed at the time of trail and trailhead construction. DOT&PF will work with PA Signatories during design to identify locations and content for appropriate signage. DOT&PF is currently working with ADNR for development of interpretative signage.

5.0 Progress in Artifact Curation

PA Stipulation VIII, Curation, outlines the curation guidelines for artifacts collected during the Project. The *Curation Plan* is included as PA Appendix H. The *Curation Plan* describes the general procedures to be followed for the curation of cultural resource materials, and the clarification of material ownership, collected as part of cultural resources investigations for the Project. These procedures apply to all materials collected from lands owned or administered by federal, state, and local agencies, as well as collections from the Squalan Archaeological District that are owned by CIRI. Table 5-1 summarizes the procedures outlined in the Curation Plan.

Table 5-1. Artifact Curation Procedures

Curation Procedures	Progress / Timeframe
Collections from State lands will be curated under the Alaska DOT&PF's MOU curation agreement with the University of Alaska Museum of the North (UAMN) .	The UAMN and DOT&PF MOU Curation Agreement (DOT&PF 2013) was included in 2024 Field Permits.
All artifacts associated with the Squalan Archaeological District as defined in the Russian River Section 14(h)(1) Selection Agreement are under CIRI's direct control and ownership in conformance with the terms set out in the Russian River Land Act (RRLA) and related agreements and will be temporarily housed at UAMN under the MOU among CIRI, DOT&PF, and UAMN.	DOT&PF developed a MOA among the UAMN, CIRI, and KIT regarding artifacts collected within the RRLA. The MOA was signed in January 2023 and will be in effect for five years.
Collections associated with lands under management of the Forest Service or the USFWS that are not under jurisdiction of the RRLA will remain under the stewardship of the respective federal agencies.	

5.1 Materials Collected During the 2024 Field Season

Materials² collected from the Project during the 2024 field season are listed in Attachment B. To use Project time and funds more efficiently, DOT&PF intends to store these artifacts in their current location so that they may be available for analysis and testing. Upon conclusion of analysis, the materials will be accessioned by UAMN in a single transfer of custody with other artifacts expected to be recovered during later field seasons.

² Materials include artifacts, faunal remains, soils, and radiocarbon samples.

6.0 Problems or Unexpected Issues Encountered During the Year

The following unexpected issues were identified during 2024:

- [REDACTED]
- DOT&PF identified a possible inadvertent effect of the Project when it learned that the Project had constructed a temporary pedestrian pathway, the Juneau Creek Falls Trail, over an area that was not previously archaeologically surveyed due to a GIS data management error. The trail is on Forest Service-managed land and is located outside of the Sqilantnu Archaeological District. The temporary Juneau Creek Falls Trail was constructed in October 2023 after the Project believed the trail had been archaeologically surveyed by HDR. The trail was cleared of vegetation with a 130 excavator. There was no mulching or major ground disturbance during vegetation clearing. The geotechnical crew used the path to transport their drill rig from the parking area to the Juneau Creek Falls overlook, which was the location of geotechnical testing. The following year, from June 24 through June 27, 2024, the Project modified the temporary trail for pedestrian use by laying separation fabric on the ground surface and adding fill material on top of the fabric. In August 2024 when HDR conducted a cultural field survey of the Juneau Creek Falls Trail, archaeologists documented that the trail was already constructed. HDR notified DOT&PF and the Forest Service on August 27, 2024. The Project notified the Signatories of the construction on September 18, 2024. To identify where the problem originated and take measures to prevent reoccurrence, DOT&PF and HDR created a timeline of events, reviewed previous Project archaeological surveys in the Juneau Creek Falls Trail area, Project design updates, and GIS data management to identify where the problem originated. DOT&PF and HDR identified two quality assurance measures to prevent future errors, including collaboration between survey crews and DOT&PF during the pre-construction meeting and verification of current engineering design within one week of all archaeological surveys.
- Due to a contractor spatial data error, HDR archaeologists inadvertently surveyed an area where no Project related ground disturbing activities will occur. HDR archaeologists inadvertently excavated two shovel tests on ADNR-managed lands. No cultural resources were identified because of this work. The Office of History and Archaeology provided an after the fact permit amendment.

7.0 Additional Evaluations, Assessment of Effects, Cumulative Effects, and Most Current Treatment Recommendations

The Effects Analysis Table is included as Attachment C to this report. This table includes current DOE status and treatment recommendations for each site within the Project's Direct APE.³ The PA was established to govern the resolution of adverse effects due to anticipated complex Project situations [36 CFR 800.14(b)]. Although the sites listed in the Effects Analysis Table are subject to change throughout the life of the Project, effects on historic properties are similar and repetitive. As such, the finding of adverse effects for the Project as a whole remains unchanged and the PA will continue to be used to mitigate adverse effects.

Cumulatively, the Project has an adverse effect on historic properties (as defined in 36 CFR 800.5(a): *"Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative"*). DOT&PF is continuing to mitigate adverse effects to historic properties through avoidance and data recovery. Itemized effects to sites will be updated annually in the Effects Analysis Table and will be included in the PA Annual Reports.

The 2018 PA identified 12 historic properties as being adversely affected by the Project, of which 10 were contributing properties to the Sqilantnu Archaeological District (DOT&PF 2018). The total approximate acreage of the historic properties subject to adverse effects by the Project was 15 acres. The current Project footprint has been refined based on Project development and environmental factors. New site boundaries and new discoveries have resulted in adverse effects to additional historic properties (see further discussion below). The current footprint adversely affects approximately 4 acres of 21 historic properties

Following implementation of the 2018 PA, DOT&PF continued sponsoring archaeological identification level surveys within areas of the Project's footprint that had not been previously subjected to survey. The results of these surveys (between 2019–2024) include⁴:

- Site boundaries modified/refined by high-precision GPS devices in the Direct APE: KEN-00068, KEN-00081, KEN-00091; KEN-00092; KEN-00094; KEN-00133; KEN-00212, KEN-00213, KEN-00214, KEN-00215, KEN-00216, KEN-00247, KEN-00248, KEN-00249, KEN-00250, KEN-00282, KEN-00319; KEN-00320, KEN-00396, KEN-00402, KEN-00405, SEW-00363, SEW-00973, SEW-01198, SEW-01218, SEW-01262, SEW-01270, SEW-01439, and SEW-01629.
- Newly identified historic properties documented: KEN-00734, KEN-00736, KEN-00737, KEN-00738, KEN-00740, KEN-00741, KEN-00742, KEN-00743, KEN-00744, KEN-00746, KEN-00755, KEN-00756*, KEN-00757, KEN-00758, KEN-00759, KEN-00760, KEN-00761, SEW-01631, SEW-01755*, SEW-01756*, SEW-01757, SEW-01758, SEW-01759*, SEW-01760*, and SEW-01761, SEW-01772.

³ Signatories can view AHRs sites in relation to Project data on the Sterling 45-60 Project Confidential Web Map.

⁴ Asterisks denote sites with a DOE pending.

8.0 PA Signatory Contact Information

Table 8-1 provides contact information for Signatories. The PA Signatories are asked to review this table and provide corrected information (or names of additional individuals who need to be added to the distribution list) to DOT&PF.

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Table 8-1. PA Signatory Contact List

Agency / Entity	Name and Title	Address	Phone	Email
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Rachel Mangum, Assistant Director	401 F Street NW, Suite 308 Washington, DC 20001-2637	202-517-0214	rmangum@achp.gov
	Emily Choi, Assistant Program Analyst		202-517-0207	echoi@achp.gov
Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer	Judith Bittner, SHPO	550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501	907-269-8715	Judy.Bittner@alaska.gov
	Elyse Applegate, DOT&PF Liaison		907-269-8944	Elyse.applegate@alaska.gov
	Sarah Meitl, Coordinator		907-269-8720	Sarah.Meitl@alaska.gov
Chugach National Forest, U.S. Forest Service	Jennifer Youngblood, Forest Supervisor	161 E. 1st Avenue, Door 8 Anchorage, AK 99501	907-743-9500	Jennifer.k.youngblood@usda.gov
	Ruth D'Amico Seward District Ranger			ruth.damico@usda.gov
	Timothy Marshall, Heritage Program Manager		907-789-6230	timothy.marshall@usda.gov
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.	Chait Borade, Director of Land and Resources		907-263-5553	cborade@ciri.com
	Michelle Schmidt, Land Manager		907-263-5527	mschmidt@ciri.com
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	Sean Baski, Highway Design Chief	P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-9600	907-269-0566	Sean.baski@alaska.gov
	Joshua James, Project Manager		907-269-0459	Joshua.James@alaska.gov
	Brian Shumacher, Project Manager		907-269-0432	Brian.Schumacher@alaska.gov
	Jonathan Tymick, Project Manager		907-269-0453	Jonathan.Tymick@alaska.gov
	Erik Hilsinger, PQI, Archaeologist		907-269-0534	Erik.Hilsinger@alaska.gov

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Agency / Entity	Name and Title	Address	Phone	Email
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Continued)	Douglas Kolwaite, Statewide Environmental Program Manager		907-465-8413	Douglas.Kolwaite@alaska.gov
	Molly Proue, NEPA Program Manager		907-451-5497	Molly.Proue@alaska.gov
	Mark Rollins, PQI, Archaeologist		907-269-0527	Mark.Rollins@alaska.gov
	Mary Ann Sweeney, PQI, Archaeologist		907-458-6881	Mary.Sweeney@alaska.gov
Federal Highway Administration	Cole Carnahan, Central Region Area Engineer	P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648	907-586-7429	Cole.Carnahan@dot.gov
	Emily Haynes, Acting Division Administrator		907-586-7464	Emily.Haynes@dot.gov
	Christina Mounce, Environmental Program Manager		907-586-7430	Christina.Mounce@dot.gov
Kenai Natives Association, Inc.	Vernon Stanford			kna@alaska.net
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	Chelsea Hendricks, Interim Executive Director	215 Fidalgo Avenue, Suite 101 Kenai, AK 99611 150 N. Willow Street P.O. Box 988 Kenai, AK 99611	907-335-7200	chendricks@kenaitze.org
	Bernadine Atchison, Tribal Council Chair		907-335-7200	Batchison@kenaitze.org
	Robert Bearheart, Lead Cultural Coordinator			rbearheart@kenaitze.org
Kenaitze Indian Tribe (Continued)	Joel Issak, Cultural Resource Supervisor			jisaak@kenaitze.org
	Debbie Corbett, Tribal Archaeologist			nanutsetheritage@gmail.com

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Agency / Entity	Name and Title	Address	Phone	Email
	Roseanne Darby NAGPRA Coordinator			rldarby@kenaitze.org
	Sasha Jackson, Executive Assistant			Sjackson@kenaitze.org
	Ronette Stanton, Tribal Council Secretary			Ronette.Stanton@kenaitze.org
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office	Stephen Miller, Deputy Refuge Manager	1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 3331 Anchorage, AK 99503	907-260-2805	Stephen_A_Miller@fws.gov
	Jeremy Karchut, Regional Archaeologist		907-786-3399	Jeremy_Karchut@fws.gov
	Jacob Adams, Archaeologist		907-786-3491	Jacob_Adams@fws.gov
	Stephanie Sterling, Archaeologist			Stephanie_Sterling@fws.gov
	Sabrena Camp			Sabrena_Camp@fws.gov

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9.0 Sequence and Timeframe of Future PA Actions Not Completed in the Reporting Year

9.1 Professional Publication

DOT&PF shall develop a professional publication that compiles and summarizes available ethnographic, archaeological, scientific, and other literature, accounts, studies, and research products associated with the Sqilantnu Archeological District (PA stipulation V.b.i.1.a-d).

DOT&PF provided the first draft of the Publication to Signatories in January 2021 for review and comment. At that time, work on the Publication was tabled until the 2018 PA was amended. In October 2023, DOT&PF re-distributed the 2021 Publication to all Signatories for review, in consideration that there were new PA participants that may not have had the opportunity to review the 2021 Publication. The Publication was the topic of the November 2023 monthly PA Signatory meeting.

In 2024, DOT&PF continued to consult with Signatories on the development of the Publication. In August, HDR, on behalf of DOT&PF, submitted a revised Table of Contents to the Signatories for review and comment. The September 2024 PA monthly meeting was dedicated to discussion of the Publication and development of a new document outline. DOT&PF anticipates sending a revised draft of the Publication to Signatories in early 2026.

9.2 Public Education Booklet

Based on the contents of the Publication, DOT&PF shall also develop a Booklet intended for a public audience approximately 30 pages in length. DOT&PF shall develop the structure and contents of the Booklet through consultation with the Signatories, the KIT Educational Committee, and the Alaska Humanities Forum, as appropriate. DOT&PF anticipates the Booklet to cover management and current use of Kenai Peninsula rivers and education on natural, historic, and cultural resources. The Booklet will also cover more recent history, such as Russian influence and mining activity in the area, history of the Sterling Highway, and ongoing and current activities to preserve and document the Sqilantnu Archeological District and Native culture such as ongoing research projects and KIT Susten Camp efforts. Following initial consultation and preliminary research, DOT&PF shall develop a Table of Contents of the Booklet and provide it to Signatories for review (PA stipulation V.b.i.2.a-d).

DOT&PF anticipates development of the Booklet will begin in 2025. Initial development of the Booklet may include the development of an outline for Signatories to review.

9.3 National Register of Historical Places Nomination

DOT&PF shall prepare a formal NRHP nomination for the Sqilantnu Archaeological District based on the results of the Publication and provide it to the Russian River Land Act MOU Group and other Signatories (PA stipulation V.b.i.3.a-b).

DOT&PF anticipates that initial development of the NRHP nomination will begin in 2025.

9.4 Installation of Interpretive Signage

DOT&PF is working with PA Signatories to identify locations and content for appropriate signage (e.g., notification that travelers are entering an historic district, interpretive signage at pull-outs or trailheads) and will erect agreed-to signage during construction (PA stipulation V.b.i.4.a-b).

The Master Interpretive Plan is in early stages. In Summer of 2024, Alaska State Parks conducted 3 site visits with DOT, archaeologists, and other agencies. Alaska State Parks also finalized a sign survey of the original Sterling Hwy route in Fall of 2024. The next stage of the project is stakeholder interviews. The stakeholder interview process began in Fall of 2024 having met with Cooper Landing Community Group, DOT, and Kenai NWR prior to the new year. Next steps are to complete stakeholder interviews and Project Themes.

9.5 Dena'ina Oral Traditions Digitization

Organization and inventory of the Kenaitze archives began in January 2021. This task has been previously attempted but not successfully completed and no inventory, collection guides, or transcripts of those efforts have been identified. KIT archives thousands of hours of language information, cultural events, elder interviews, and tribal meetings in multiple media formats. A complete inventory is underway to identify materials for the archive project, determine the scope of the archives, coordinate with other KIT departments to avoid duplication, and to work with the IT department to create a layered archive to control access to the materials (PA stipulation V.b.i.5.a-b).

The MOA documenting the plan to complete this work has been submitted for signature. Inventory and digitization will begin in early 2025.

10.0 Proposed Modifications to the Implementation of This PA

As of the timing of this report, DOT&PF does not propose any modifications to the implementation of this PA. DOT&PF will be submitting revised appendices to PA Signatories in early 2025 (including Appendix A, APE, and Appendix D, Treatment Plan) that reflect the most current Project footprint and treatment plans.

The following is a summary of the Signatory meetings and consultation that occurred in 2024:

In January 2024, DOT&PF continued monthly Signatory meetings to discuss updates to the Project and PA-related topics. Dates and topics of monthly meetings include:

- January 17: Treatment Plan Discussion, KEN-00215 and SEW-01758 Field Plan
- February 21: Review of 2024 PA Appendix D and Attachment B
- March 28: Annual Meeting
- April 17: PA Appendices
- May 15: Review 2023 Field Survey Report
- June 20: Signatory Field Visit
- July 15: Signatory Field Visit
- August 21: Review 2024 Field Effort
- September 18: Professional Publication
- October 16: 2023 Annual Data Recovery Report

11.0 References Cited

DOT&PF (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities)

2013 Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the University of Alaska Museum of the North Fairbanks, Alaska. Updated January 31, 2019.

2018 Final Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the DOT&PF Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project. Project No. STP-F-021-2(15)/Z530140000. March.

2023 First Amended Programmatic Agreement for the DOT&PF Sterling Highway Milepost 45–60 Project: Project No. STP-F-021-2(15)/Z530140000. Prepared by HDR Alaska, Inc., for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.

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