



March 21, 2016

Re: Kodiak: Otmeloi Way Rehabilitation - State Project No. 68713  
Subject: Request for Agency Comments

Dear Agency Representative:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has assumed the responsibilities of the Federal Highway Administration under Section 326 of amended Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code (23 U.S.C. 326), and is proposing to reconstruct and pave Otmeloi Way in Kodiak, Alaska. Otmeloi Way is located in Kodiak, Alaska in Section 21, Township 27 South, Range 19 West, Seward Meridian on USGS Quadrangle Map Kodiak D-2 SE (see enclosed Key and Regional Maps, Sheet 1).

### **Purpose of Project**

The purpose of this project is to provide safe passage for the travelling public. This project would reduce air pollution from roadway dust; improve the safety and transport of the local residents as well as pedestrians and bicyclists using these facilities, including those accessing North Star Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood, and improve maintenance efficiency.

### **Project Description**

The proposed project would

- Realign Otmeloi Way to AASHTO standards for a 25 mph road.
- Reconstruct and pave Otmeloi Way 0.8 miles along the existing unpaved road from Monashka Bay Road to E. Rezanof Drive; providing 11 foot lanes and 3 foot shoulders with a 10 foot wide sidewalk along the south side of the road separated by a standard curb and gutter. The proposed project would also include drainage improvements as needed.
- Reconstruct and pave approximately 530 feet of Mallard Way from Otmeloi Way to the existing pavement at North Star Elementary School; providing 11 foot lanes and 3 foot shoulders with a 10 foot wide sidewalk on the school side connecting Otmeloi Way to the existing school sidewalk.

Please see the attached plan and section drawings for additional information. Drawings included with this letter include:

- ✓ Sheet 1, Key and Regional Maps
- ✓ Sheet 2-3, Plan views
- ✓ Sheets 4-5, Typical Sections

### **Project Impacts**

- The proposed project would predominately be located in uplands with a minimal wetland impact of less than 0.1 acres.
- An existing 40-foot long, 24-inch diameter culvert in waters of the U.S. would be replaced with a longer culvert to match the proposed widened road prism.
- There are no known eagle nests; however DOT&PF will be conducting an aerial survey for eagle nesting trees in late April of this year.
- Although no fish streams are cataloged within the project footprint, DOT&PF is working in partnership with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to ascertain whether any resident fish populations may be present in or adjacent to the proposed project.
- Temporary construction impacts may include heavy equipment on the roadway, dust, noise, traffic delays, and controlled blasting at select locations.

### **Cultural and Historic Resources**

The study area and preliminary area of potential effect (APE) is limited to the existing right of way (ROW) and properties more than fifty years old inside or viewable from the project area, and any other 50+ years old structures within the potential view shed. Archival research and a pedestrian cultural resource survey conducted by DOT&PF in August 2015 did not identify any historic or cultural resources within the project footprint.

### **Request for Comments**

We request your comments on the proposed action, particularly regarding potential impacts to resources under your jurisdiction. If you have information that would assist with our environmental analysis, please provide it. We also request the views of applicable agencies on potential effects to bald eagles, threatened and endangered species, or other possible impacts to the environment that might be caused by this project. You are also encouraged to assist us in identifying historic properties and cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed project. Your comments will be included in the project's environmental document. We would appreciate your response by **April 21, 2016**.

## Public Open House

DOT&PF will be conducting a public open house in Kodiak from 5 pm until 7 pm at the North Star Elementary School at 961 Mallard Way on **April 6, 2016**. DOT&PF engineering, and environmental staff will be available to discuss the proposed project and answer questions. The public as well as agency representatives are welcome to attend and provide comments.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for comments. If you have questions or require clarification on any elements of the proposal, please contact me directly at (907) 465-4504 or by e-mail at [john.barnett@alaska.gov](mailto:john.barnett@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



John Barnett  
Project Environmental Coordinator

### Enclosures:

- Sheet 1: Project Location/Vicinity Map
- Sheets 2-3: Project Plan Views
- Sheets 4-5: Project Typical Sections

### Distribution list:

- Matt LaCroix, Alaska Region 10, EPA
- Linda Speerstra, Regulatory Branch, USACE
- Doug Cooper, Branch Chief, USFWS
- Socheata Lor, Anchorage Field Supervisor, USFWS
- Jeanne Hanson, Assistant Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
- Will Frost, Habitat Biologist, ADF&G
- William Ashton, Manager, Division of Water, ADEC
- Bill Roberts, Acting Kodiak Island Borough Manager
- Robert Pederson, Director, Kodiak Island Borough Community Development
- Aimée Kniazowski, Kodiak City Manager
- Mark Kozak, City of Kodiak Public Works Director
- Stewart McDonald, Superintendent, Kodiak Island Borough School District

### Cc:

- Melissa Goldstein, DOT&PF Statewide NEPA Manager
- Hilary Lindh, DOT&PF Southcoast Region Environmental Manager
- Michael Kell, DOT&PF Southcoast Region Archeologist
- Chris Goins, P.E., DOT&PF Southcoast Region Project Manager

Keith Karpstein, P.E., DOT&PF Southcoast Region PD&E Group Chief