

**State of Alaska**  
**Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**



**CLASS OF ACTION CONSULTATION FORM**  
*(NEPA Assignment Program Projects)*

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by the applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been carried out by the DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

**I. Project Information:**

**A.** Project Name: AMATS: Fish Creek Trail Connection

**B.** Federal Project Number: TBD

**C.** State Project Number: CFHWY00587

**D.** Primary/Ancillary Project Connections:

N/A

**E.** List of Attachments:

Potential Routes Map

**F.** Project Scope *(Use STIP Project Description)*

STIP Need ID 6460: AMATS CTP Program Allocation. See AMATS TIP for projects.

AMATS TIP Need ID NMO00002: This project will construct a connection of the Fish Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail

**G.** Project Description:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to construct a multi-use pathway between Northern Lights Boulevard and the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail in the vicinity of Fish Creek in Anchorage, Alaska. The proposed project would include:

- Constructing approximately 0.85 mile of new non-motorized pathway
- Installing new roadside hardware
- Installing new lighting
- Improving drainage
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge
- Utility relocations
- Vegetation clearing and grubbing

**H.** Provide a brief discussion of probable impacts, including discussion of any unusual circumstances (23 CFR 771.117(b)), and 23 CFR 771.117(e) constraints satisfaction, if applicable:

ROW:

The project proposes to parallel the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) tracks and utilize ARRC ROW and Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)-owned lands to the maximum extent practicable. However, a minor amount

of right-of-way acquisitions or permanent easements may be required, and some TCEs and/or TCPs may be necessary during construction.

Wetlands:

A review of the MOA wetlands mapper on July 27, 2020 indicated that wetlands are located within and adjacent the proposed project corridor. The project would likely require fill placement and excavation within the Fish Creek Estuary, which is classified as Class A wetlands by the MOA. A USACE Section 404 permit would be required prior to construction. No significant or adverse impacts to wetlands are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

Waterbodies and Anadromous Streams:

The proposed project corridor crosses Fish Creek, which is a catalogued anadromous stream (AWC# 247-50-10046), providing rearing habitat for coho salmon. Work below ordinary high water at Fish Creek would require an ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit prior to construction. No significant or adverse impacts to waterbodies or anadromous fish streams are anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

Cultural and Historic Resources:

A review of the Alaska Historic Resources Survey database on July 27, 2020 showed no documented cultural or historic resources are located within the vicinity of the proposed project. A cultural resources survey may be conducted as part of the Section 106 process to identify undocumented resources.

Section 4(f):

Reviews of the MOA Department of Parks and Recreation Parks and Facilities Mapper on July 27, 2020 indicated two Section 4(f) resources located within or adjacent the proposed project area: Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and Fish Creek Estuary. The project is anticipated to qualify for the exception to Section 4(f) per 23 CFR 774.13(g), which exempts certain transportation alternatives projects from Section 4(f) approval.

- The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, one of five major greenbelts throughout the Municipality of Anchorage, is located at the northern terminus of the proposed project area. The approximately 11 mile long facility stretches from downtown to Kincaid Park and is owned and managed by the MOA Department of Parks and Recreation. The Coastal Trail features a paved multi-use pathway, lighting in select locations, and several rest areas with features such as benches and bike racks. Access is available from several locations along its length and the facility is maintained year round.
- Fish Creek Estuary is located at the northern end of the proposed project area, adjacent the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. The conservation easement on the 33 acre property is shared between the USFWS, DNR, and Great Land Trust, while the overall title is held by the MOA Department of Parks and Recreation for use as a public natural park. Access is available year round via the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, though the estuary does not have any developed facilities given the nature of the park. Fish Creek Estuary is the last remaining undeveloped estuary of the seven original salmon streams in Anchorage.

Floodplains:

Review of the MOA floodplain and FEMA FIRM mappers on July 27, 2020 indicated portions of the proposed project corridor would encroach upon the Zone A floodplain located along the Fish Creek estuary. The proposed is not anticipated to alter base flood elevations and the project will be developed in accordance with all local, state, and federal flood hazard regulations. Work within the mapped Zone A floodplain will require an MOA Flood Hazard Permit.

**II. Project Funding Information:**

- A. Is the project funded with Federal-aid Highway Program Funds? If No, do not complete ☒ Yes ☐ No

this form.

- B. Is the project funded with federal funds other than Federal-aid Highway Program funds ☐ Yes ☒ No (FTA, FAA, BIA, etc.)? If yes, list other sources:

III. **Class of Action Determination:**

Based on the information available, the DOT&PF has determined that the appropriate Class of Action for the project is selected as follows (provide justification for the determination in III.D). Additional Information, below:

**Check only one box**

A. **Categorical Exclusion (CE)**

1. **23 CFR 771.117(c)** Identify the applicable “c” list action: **23 CFR 771.117(c)(3)** ☒
2. **23 CFR 771.117(d)** Identify the applicable “d” list action: **23 CFR 771.117(d)( )** ☐
3. **Other CE:** This action is not specifically listed on the “c” list or in the “d” list examples, but qualifies as a CE. ☐

B. **Environmental Assessment** ☐

C. **Environmental Impact Statement** ☐

D. **Additional Information:**

Recommended by:

*Brian Elliott*

[Signature] Regional Environmental Manager

Date: 7/28/2020

Brian Elliott

[Printed Name] Regional Environmental Manager

Concurred by:

*Matt Dietrick*

[Signature] NEPA Program Manager

Date: 7/28/2020

Matt Dietrick

[Printed Name] NEPA Program Manager

AMATS: Fish Creek Trail Connection - CFHWY00587  
Northern Lights Blvd to Tony Knowles Coastal Trail  
Potential Routes

