



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	June 18, 2019
EXPIRATION DATE:	July 17, 2019
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2019-00306
WATERWAY:	Turnagain Arm

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Jason Berkner at (907) 753-5778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at Jason.R.Berkner@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: United States Forest Service, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest 145 Forest Station Road, Girdwood, Alaska, 99587

PROJECT NAME: Twentymile Trail Spur

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 5, T. 8N., R. 3E., Seward Meridian; Latitude 60.8568 ° N., Longitude 149.0015° W.; near Girdwood, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated project purpose is to provide recreational access between the Seward Highway right-of-way and undeveloped upland areas of the Chugach National Forest. This trail spur would later connect to the proposed Twentymile Valley segment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The project would also provide off-road vehicle access to private inholding properties within the Chugach National Forest.

PROPOSED WORK: The project would result in discharges of fill material into a total of 1.42 acres of wetlands adjacent to the Turnagain Arm of the Cook Inlet. Table 1 provides a description of the wetlands that would be permanently filled for the project.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FILL IMPACTS TO WETLANDS AND OTHER WATERS

Wetland Description	Acres
Aquatic Beds, Ponds, and Lakes	0.18
Scrub-Shrub Wetlands (both Estuarine and Palustrine)	0.95
Estuarine Forested Wetlands (trees dead)	0.29
Total Wetland Loss	1.42

The proposed discharges would be for the construction the Twentymile Trail Spur Project. This project would consist of a 0.5-mile-long universally accessible paved trail and associated trailhead parking. The trail would connect uplands within the Chugach National Forest east of the Alaska Railroad Corporation's tracks with the Seward Highway. The trail would have an 8-foot wide paved surface, 2-foot wide gravel shoulders and 3:1 side slopes. The trailhead parking area would provide space for six vehicles. The trail would be designed to accommodate off-road vehicle access to private inholding properties within the Chugach National Forest. The trail would cross the Alaska Railroad Corporation tracks at a designated crossing point identified by the Railroad Corporation.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed sheets labeled POA-2019-00306, Pages 1 - 3.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION STATEMENT: The applicant has proposed the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States (U.S.) from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The trail would cross the Alaska Railroad Corporation tracks at the only available location that meets the project purpose. Within this constraint, we avoided wetlands by aligning the trail and trailhead parking are to use available existing high ground in the marsh between the Seward Highway and the railroad tracks.

b. Minimization: To minimize impacts the trail width is 8-feet, rather than the American Association of State Highway Officials' standard width of 10-feet for multiuse trails.

We used 3:1 side slopes, the steepest slope consistent with user safety, to further reduce the wetland impact. The project addresses indirect effects to wetlands through use of construction-phase best management practices that limit deposition of eroded sediments in water and design features such as appropriately sized culverts that do not restrict flows sufficiently to change area hydrology.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: We will provide mitigation of unavoidable impacts by enhancing and creating wetlands elsewhere in the Turnagain Arm drainage. Wetland impacts would be mitigated by the Chugach National Forest through restoration of wetlands elsewhere in the watershed or as otherwise required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The lead Federal agency, the U.S. Forest Service, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Corps concurs with the U.S. Forest Service's work or documentation. Any comments received regarding historic properties or the 106 process will be forwarded to the lead Federal agency and considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be forwarded to the lead Federal agency and considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within the known range of the Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Chum (*O. keta*), Coho (*O. kisutch*), Sockeye (*O. nerka*), and Pink (*O. gorbuscha*) salmon. Should we find that the described activity may affect the species listed above, we will follow the appropriate course of action under Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Any comments the National Marine Fisheries Service may

have concerning essential fish habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

The lead Federal agency, the U.S. Forest Service, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Magnuson-Stevens Act. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the process has been completed and the Corps concurs with the U.S. Forest Service's work or documentation.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a Public Hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for Public Hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a Public Hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3),

a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) / 401 Certification

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WDAP/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-6285 | EMAIL: dec-401cert@alaska.gov

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice (PN) Reference Number **POA-2019-00306, Turnagain Arm**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

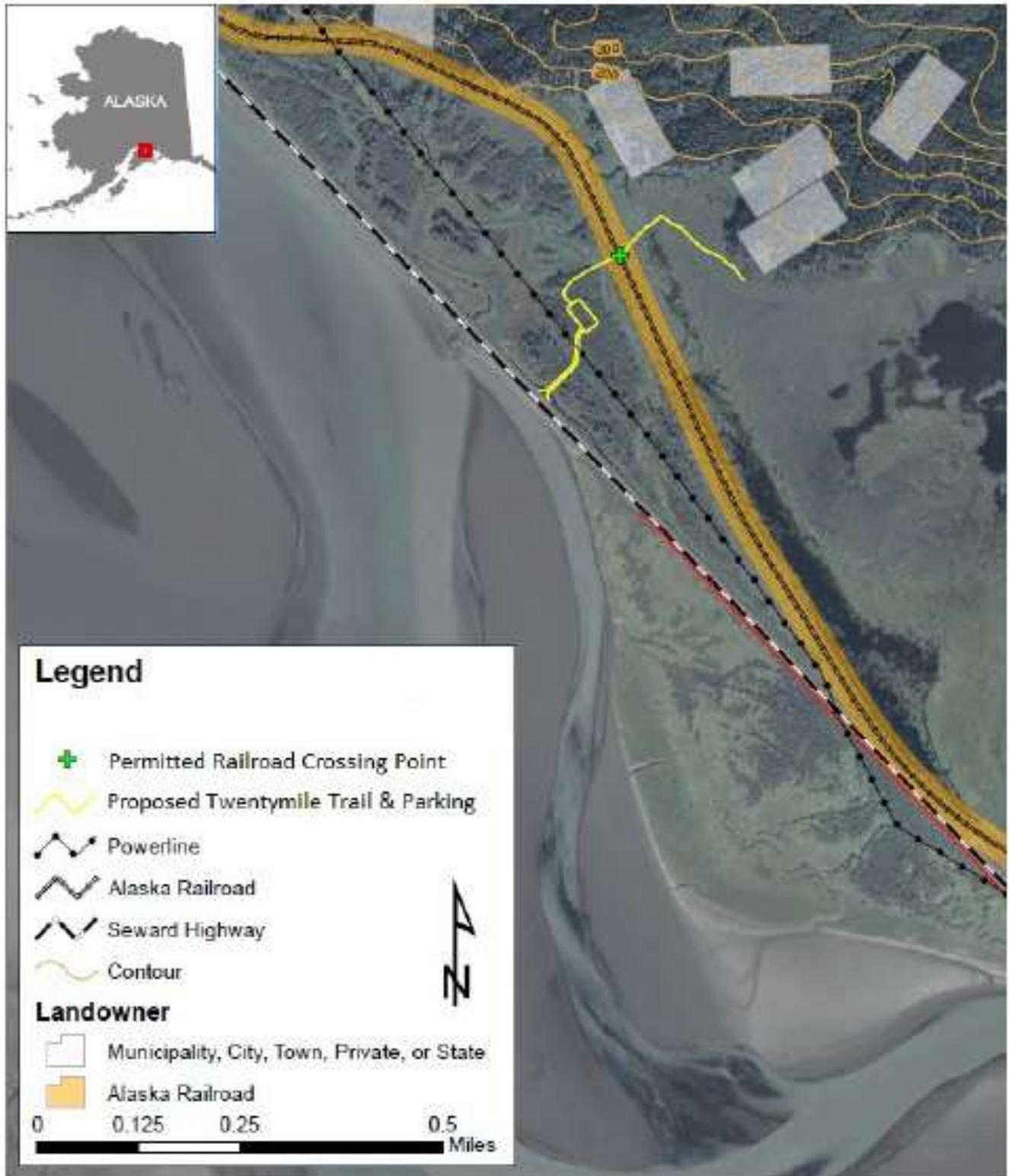
After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

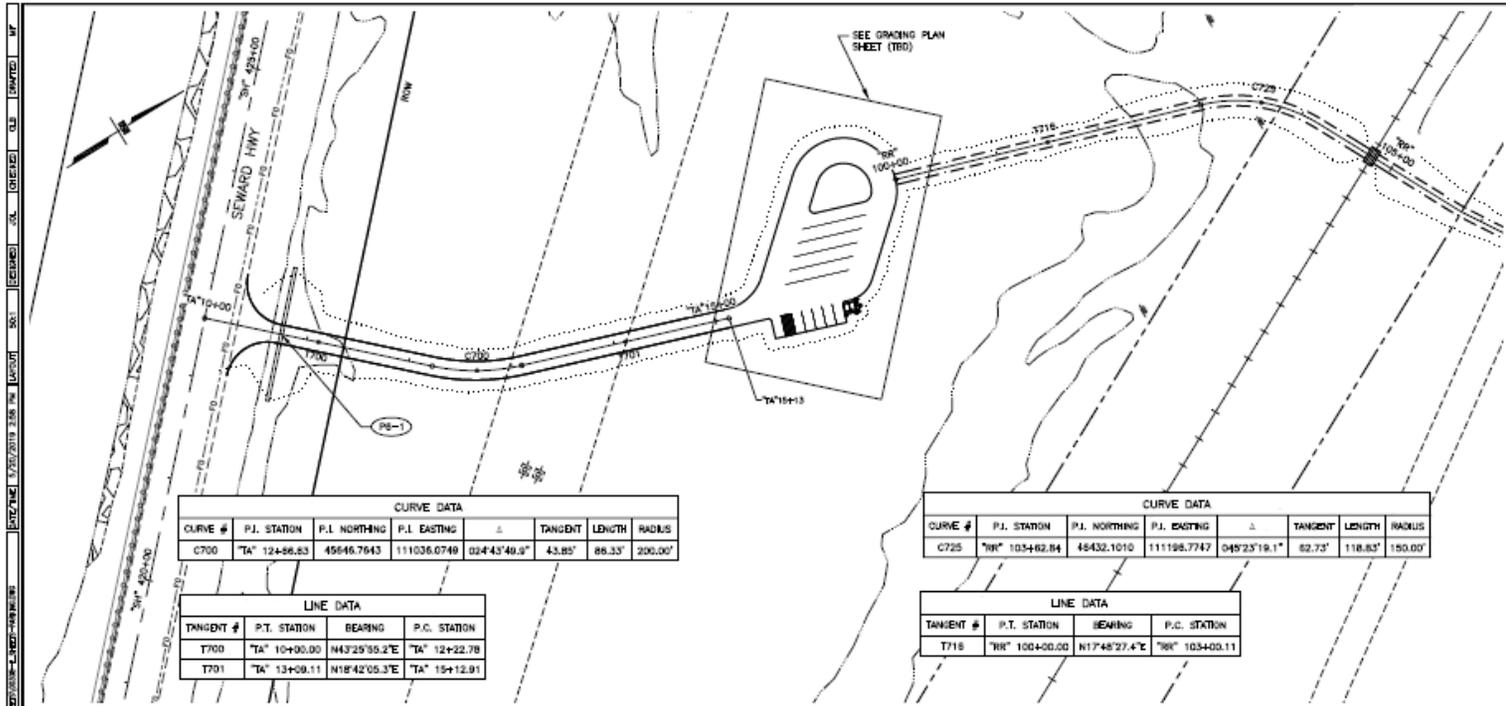
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to dec-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Theresa Zimmerman at 907-465-6171 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Trail Location



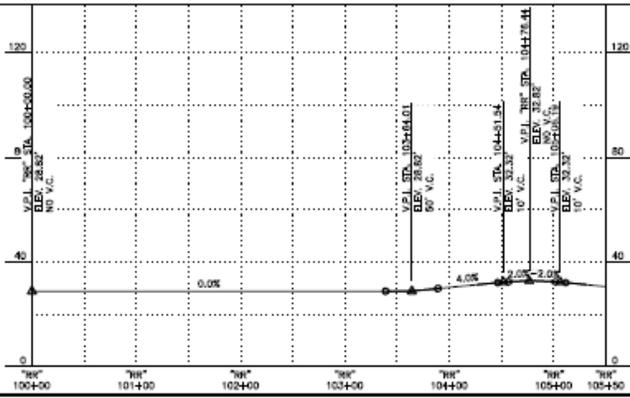
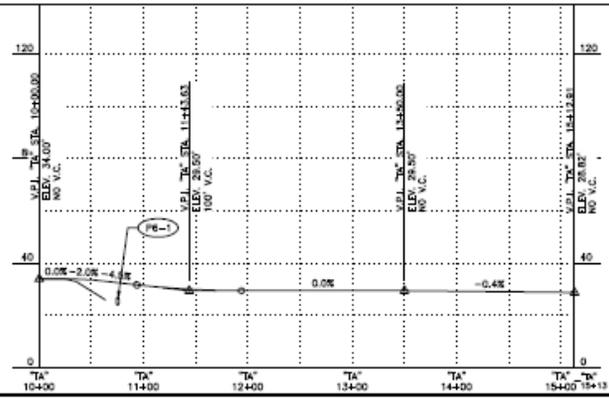


CURVE DATA							
CURVE #	P.I. STATION	P.L. NORTHING	P.L. EASTING	Δ	TANGENT	LENGTH	RADIUS
C700	TA' 12+86.83	45646.7643	111036.0749	02°43'49.3"	43.85'	86.33'	200.00'

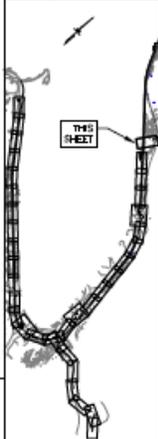
LINE DATA			
TANGENT #	P.T. STATION	BEARING	P.C. STATION
T700	TA' 10+00.00	N43°25'55.2"E	TA' 12+22.78
T701	TA' 13+09.11	N18°42'05.3"E	TA' 15+12.91

CURVE DATA							
CURVE #	P.I. STATION	P.L. NORTHING	P.L. EASTING	Δ	TANGENT	LENGTH	RADIUS
C725	TR' 103+62.84	48432.1010	111198.7747	049°23'19.1"	82.73'	118.83'	150.00'

LINE DATA			
TANGENT #	P.T. STATION	BEARING	P.C. STATION
T718	TR' 100+00.00	N17°48'27.4"E	TR' 103+00.11



TRD NO.	F39
TRD SHEET	F39
STATE	AK
YEAR	2019
PROJECT DESIGNATION	
AK FS CNF 164(1)/CFHWY00308	
NO.	REVISION
DATE	
NO.	REVISION
DATE	
NO.	REVISION
DATE	



STATE OF ALASKA
INTEGRAL
 2019
 STATE OF ALASKA DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 1111 NORTH BROADWAY
 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
 (907) 263-3000

STATE OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 AND PUBLIC SAFETY
 INH-T-PORTRAGE CURVE
 MULTWOODAL CONNECTOR
 PLAN AND PROFILE
 TWENTY MILE PARKING
 ACCESS

