

Programmatic Agreement Annual Report for 2025

Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project

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Prepared for:



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,
Central Region

PREPARED BY

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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 2025 Field Season
Attachment C: Effects Analysis Table
Attachment D: Site Map Book

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AHRS	Alaska Heritage Resources Survey
APE	Area of Potential Effects
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
FCR	Fire-cracked rock
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
Forest Service	U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
HDR	HDR Alaska, Inc.
KIT	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
KPB	Kenai Peninsula Borough
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
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 2.0);
- 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 2025 included:

- Phase 1b: This new stage was awarded to the construction contractor on September 24, 2025. Activities for the 2025 season were limited to tree clearing (~55 acres) and some common excavation. This stage will re-construct ~2 miles of the existing Sterling Highway between MP 45–47. This stage has roughly 1.6 million cubic yards of excavation that is needed to complete the road to Stage 3 and to finally provide access to the Juneau Creek Bridge from the east side. This stage is anticipated to take 3 years to complete.
- Phases 3 – 4 Early Earthwork and Drainage: During the 2025 construction season, these phases were mostly complete; work entailed miscellaneous tasks. This included supporting the Stage 5 geotechnical exploration crew by clearing an additional ~25 acres to support the ongoing pre-construction effort of that stage. The contractor also worked on installing two major structures: the Slaughter Gulch Pedestrian Undercrossing in Stage 3 (East Side) and a Forest Service/Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) vehicle undercrossing in Stage 4. Both structures were completed and a final inspection was carried out on August 27, 2025 to close out this stage of the overall project.
- Juneau Creek Bridge: During the 2025 construction season, this project completed the rebar and concrete in the pier caps. Girders began arriving on site in June. The contractor spent the rest of the summer bolting the girders together, this included all of the crossing bracing, launching nose, and king post installation. The contractor finished off the season by coating the pier shaft casings and installation of the jacks/rollers in preparation to launch the bridge next season.

DOT&PF preconstruction efforts on behalf of the Project in 2025 included:

- Phase 1B: This two-mile section begins at MP 45-47, from the east end of the project and terminates at the eastern highway interchange with the Sterling Highway. The project was certified on 7/15/2025 and funding was approved on 11/18/2025. There is minor design work to complete on this project involving property acquisitions on the east end and west end of the project. The east end is with regard to the geometry of the frontage road, Outfitters Way, and requires small property acquisitions. The west end involves acquiring a drainage easement to accommodate No Home Creek.
- Phase 5: DOT&PF reached a 60 percent milestone for design. DOT&PF performed geotechnical testing and drilling in the fall of 2025 and will be completing the work in 2026. Geotechnical information was necessary to determine the final footprint of the project and determine bridge criteria for the tight diamond intersection.

- Right-of-Way (ROW): DOT&PF is continuing to work on minor ROW acquisitions as well as Temporary Construction Easements from several property owners.

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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 2025 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) 2025-04 from the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.
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.	Pre-construction meetings were held in April and October 2025 prior to construction activities that occurred within Phases 1B, 3, 4, and 5 jointly with the cultural awareness training, as allowed under Appendix C, V.A.3. The pre-construction meetings were attended by DOT&PF, Construction Contractors and their subcontractors, the KIT Lead Cultural Coordinator, and the SAM.

The SAM, Brian Davis (Homestead Consulting), led the archaeological monitoring effort during ground disturbing construction work within Phases 1b, 4, and 5. Project work that Davis monitored included tree clearing activities conducted by Quality Asphalt and Paving, and geophysical survey work

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

conducted by DOWL. During monitoring, KIT Tribal Observers were invited but unable to attend monitoring activities. In accordance with the conditions of SCRIP 2025-04 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 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 May and October 2025 within portions of the Project footprint that had not been previously surveyed. Archaeologists surveyed a total of 5.53 acres between 15 survey parcels (Teeter 2025a; 2025b; 2025c; 2025d). The survey parcels were located on State of Alaska, KPB, Forest Service, and Private lands in Phases 1b, 4, and 5. The 2025 Phase I/II Identification and Evaluation surveys did not identify any archaeological sites, features, or artifacts. Two additional areas were intensively tested around the boundary of the previously identified sites KEN-00214 and SEW-01760.

HDR received SCRIP 2025-31 and Forest Service Permit SEW828 to conduct the 2025 field surveys. 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. DOT&PF will provide the field report to Signatories by March 31, 2026.

During the 2025 pedestrian survey effort, HDR archaeologists returned to SEW-01760 to conduct boundary delineation testing and gather information to support a DOE. Additional survey and subsurface testing identified no cultural resources in the survey area (Teeter 2025b). DOT&PF provided a letter report summarizing the results of this survey, an updated DOE for SEW-01760, and a findings of effect for Project activities at SEW-01760 to Signatories on July 15, 2025. DOT&PF determined the site was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). SHPO concurred with this finding on July 31, 2025.

HDR archaeologists also conducted intensive testing at MP 55.5 of the Sterling Highway, in proximity to KEN-00214. Field crews conducted subsurface testing on a ridge northeast of the KEN-00214 site boundary, and a terrace below the ridge to the southeast. No cultural material was identified during subsurface testing in these locations (Teeter 2025d).

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>2025 Site Specific Treatment Plan</i> as Attachment B to the Data Recovery/Historic Properties Treatment Plan (PA Appendix D) to Signatories on May, 1 2025, 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 2025 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. Pedestrian surveys were conducted in 2025, and additional surveys may continue into 2026.
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>2025 DRAFT Interim Data Recovery Report</i> to PA Signatories on December 31, 2025.
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>2024 FINAL Annual Data Recovery Report</i> to PA Signatories on September 25, 2025.
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 Sqilantnu 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 July 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.
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.

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Mitigation Measures	Progress / Timeframe
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. DOT&PF continued to work on interpretive signage in 2025. DOT&PF plans to provide an update to Signatories regarding progress on interpretive signage in March 2026.
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, CIRI, and KIT executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on February 19, 2025 regarding the Dena'ina Oral Histories Digitization.
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.	Ongoing 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 Alaska State Parks for development of interpretive 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 Sqilantnu 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 and UAMN 2013) was included in 2025 Field Permits.
All artifacts associated with the Sqilantnu 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. DOT&PF submitted a MOA report regarding artifact collections from 2021 – 2024 to the MOU group on November 11, 2025. DOT&PF provided a MOU report for artifacts collected during 2025 on December 31, 2025.
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 2025 Field Season

Materials² collected from the Project during the 2025 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 2025:

- Excavation efforts at KEN-00744 were halted due to issues with inundation and flooding. Fluctuations with the ground water depth and the repeated flooding of various excavation (EU) created difficulties in excavating and screening sediment, causing delays and complications with the implementation of the 2025 Treatment Plan (Teeter et al. 2025). This became increasingly complicated over the course of the season, as by June the water table had risen above the layer of cultural deposits. DOT&PF provided a sump pump to the site to assist HDR archaeologists with the excavation, however the process of removing water needed to be repeated multiple times each day. Excavation efforts are expected to continue during the 2026 field season with additional consultation from DOT&PF regarding continued mitigation efforts at KEN-00744.
- During the course of the field season, HDR archaeologists noticed that excavations at KEN-00094 were often hindered by the counting of fire-cracked rock (FCR). General excavation protocols stipulate that FCR will be counted and weighed at each level in an EU, then set aside for backfilling later in the season. This caused some delays to excavation efforts, as archaeologists would sometimes end up counting and weighing dozens or hundreds of pieces of FCR, sometimes tallying over 600 in a single level. Following consultation between HDR, DOT&PF, and the PA Signatories, an agreement was reached that the excavation protocols will only require the counting of FCR larger than 2.5 centimeters. This will be reflected in the 2026 Treatment Plan.

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 2019–2025) 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	Kasey Miller, Program Analyst, FHWA Liaison	401 F Street NW, Suite 308 Washington, DC 20001-2637	202-517-6389	kmiller@achp.gov
Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer	Elyse Applegate, DOT&PF Liaison	550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501	907-269-8944	Elyse.Applegate@alaska.gov
	Sarah Meitl, Acting Chief, Deputy SHPO		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		907-288-7730	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	Luke Bowland, Preconstruction Engineer	P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-9600	907-269-0588	Luke.Bowland@alaska.gov
	Laura Mann, Construction Group Chief		907-269-0753	Laura.Mann@alaska.gov
	Julia Hanson, Project Manager – preconstruction		907-269-0753	Julia.Hanson@alaska.gov
	Jonathan Tymick, Project Manager – construction		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
	Douglas Kolwaite, Statewide Environmental Program Manager		907-465-8413	Douglas.Kolwaite@alaska.gov
	Mary Ann Sweeney, PQI, Archaeologist		907-269-6445	Mary.Sweeney@alaska.gov
Federal Highway Administration	Randy Warden, Division Administrator	P.O. Box 21648 Juneau, AK 99802-1648	907-480-8043	Randy.Warden@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	Bernadine Atchison, Tribal Council Chair	215 Fidalgo Avenue, Suite 101 Kenai, AK 99611 150 N. Willow Street	907-335-7200	Batchison@kenaitze.org
	Ruby Willoya- Williams, Cultural Resources Supervisor	P.O. Box 988 Kenai, AK 99611	907-395-7985	Rwilloya-williams@kenaitze.org
	Joel Isaak, Tribal Operations Director	Culture and Stewardship Coordinator		Jisaak@kenaitze.org
	Debbie Corbett, Tribal Archaeologist			Nanutsetheritage@gmail.com
	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	Jeremy Karchut, Regional Archaeologist	1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 3331 Anchorage, AK 99503	907-786-3399	Jeremy_Karchut@fws.gov

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Agency / Entity	Name and Title	Address	Phone	Email
	Jacob Adams, Archaeologist		907-786-3491	Jacob_Adams@fws.gov
	Sabrena Camp, Oil and Gas Liaison, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge			Sabrena_Camp@fws.gov
	Steve Miller, Deputy Refuge Manager		907-260-2805	Stephen_A_Miller@fws.gov

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 Squalantnu 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 2025, DOT&PF continued to consult with signatories on the development of the Publication. In 2025, HDR, on behalf of DOT&PF, continued to work on a revised draft of the Publication, and contracted Adam Dunstan, Ph.D. (AK Anthropology LLC) to complete portions of the Publication. DOT&PF anticipates sending a revised draft of the Publication to Signatories by July 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 Squalantnu Archaeological 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 following the drafting and completion of the Professional Publication. 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 following the completion of the final draft of the Professional Publication in 2026.

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 its 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, which began in Fall of 2024 with meetings with the Cooper Landing Community Group, DOT&PF, and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. DOT&PF continued to work on interpretive signage in 2025 and plans to provide an update to Signatories by March 2026.

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).

A MOA documenting the plan to complete this work was executed by CIRI, KIT, and DOT&PF on February 19, 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 2026 that reflect the most current Project footprint and treatment plans.

In January 2025, DOT&PF continued monthly Signatory meetings to discuss updates to the Project and PA-related topics. Dates and topics of monthly meetings include:

- January 15: Updates to Project and DOE for Historic-Era Sites, Review Next Steps
- February 18: Review of 2025 Construction and Design Updates
- March 26: Annual PA Meeting
- April 16: Review of 2025 Treatment Plan and Pedestrian Survey/Testing
- May 21: Review Project Updates and 2025 Field Schedule, Staff, and Training
- June 18: Project and Field Updates
- July 16: Signatory Field Visit
- August 20: Signatory Field Visit
- September 17: Updates to the Project, Fieldwork, and the KEN-00744 Treatment Plan
- October 15: SEW-01760/Rhode Cabin and 2025 Field/Site Updates
- November 19: Treatment Plan Discussion/Recommendations for KEN-00744 and KEN-00094
- December 19: In lieu of a December meeting, HDR, on behalf of DOT&PF, provided an email with information on Project footprint updates, reporting, and upcoming 2026 Signatory meetings.

11.0 References Cited

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

- 2018 Final Section 106 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., Anchorage for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.
- 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., Anchorage for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the University of Alaska Museum of the North Fairbank (UAMN).

- 2013 Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and The University of Alaska Museum of the North Fairbanks. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Anchorage, and the University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks.

Hubbard, Elliot, Liam Hodgson, and Ann Keen

- 2024 Final – 2023 Cultural Resources Field Investigations Report. Report prepared by HDR Alaska, Inc., for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Anchorage.

Teeter, Sean, Kris Farnen, Kaitlin Hosken, Robyn Miller, Hollis Reddington, and Travis Shinabarger

- 2021 2020 Cultural Investigation Report DOT&PF Sterling Highway MP 45 – 60 Project. Report prepared by HDR, Alaska, Inc. for Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Anchorage.

Teeter, Sean, Robyn Miller, Tamara Holman, and Josie Olivia

- 2025 Attachment B – Site Level Testing and Data Recovery Plan for the DOT&PF Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project. Prepared by HDR Alaska Inc., for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.

Teeter, Sean

- 2025a Cultural Resources Field Survey Findings at Forest Service Ramps, Kenai Peninsula Borough Lands. Prepared by HDR Alaska Inc., for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.
- 2025b Cultural Resources Field Survey Findings at SEW-01760. Prepared by HDR Alaska Inc., for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.
- 2025c 2025 Cultural Resources Field Survey Findings at MP 45, Phase 1B. Prepared by HDR Alaska Inc., for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.

2025d 2025 Cultural Resources Field Survey Findings at MP 55.5, State Lands. Prepared by HDR Alaska Inc., for DOT&PF Central Region, Anchorage, Alaska.

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