

Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project



Cultural Resources



WELCOME!

Welcome to the **Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Cultural Resources Update Meeting.**

The purpose of today's meeting is to provide an update on cultural resources mitigation activities associated with the Project. There are posters around the room highlighting information about the Project's cultural resources efforts.

A presentation will begin at **5:30 p.m.**, followed by a staffed poster session where Project archaeologists and team members will be available to answer questions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

October 2026

What are cultural resources?

Cultural resources are defined as physical evidence of past human activity that are generally 50 years of age or older, including archaeological sites, sacred objects, features, artifacts, landscapes, and structures, buildings, plant and animal remains, sacred sites, items of cultural patrimony, and human remains. Historical properties are a subset of cultural resources that have been listed, or determined eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Why is there information that cannot be made publicly available?

These sites can contain sensitive information or fragile artifacts that need special attention and careful handling. Disclosing the location or contents can put them at risk for improper handling or intentional destruction. Cultural resource site location and other confidential site information is restricted to protect sites from unauthorized disturbance under Alaska state law (*Alaska Statute [AS] 40.25.110*) and under the federal Freedom of Information Act (*Public Law [PL] 89-554*). The restriction of cultural site information is allowed by *AS 40.25.120(a)(4)*, Alaska State Parks Policy and Procedure No. 50200, the National Historic Preservation Act (*PL 89-665, 16 U.S. Code 470*), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (*PL 96-95*).

What are the tents along the Sterling Highway Project corridor, and will there be more?

These tents are active worksites for the archaeological field crews. We anticipate you will continue to see these tents within the Project corridor for at least one more summer season. We thank you for your mindfulness of their work and safety as you pass by.

MORE ON BACK >>>



We respectfully acknowledge the Kahtnuht'ana and other Dena'ina Peoples on whose traditional lands we reside. We honor the Kahtnuht'ana and other Dena'ina Peoples who have and continue to be stewards of Alaska's air, lands, and waters from time immemorial, the Elders who lived here before, the Dena'ina People of today, and future generations to come.

CONTACT

The materials from this meeting and historical Project information are available on our comprehensive website at www.sterlinghighway.net.

For construction updates, go to www.sterling45-60.com. This webpage also provides a link to "My 511" traffic updates.

To communicate with a Project representative from Alaska DOT&PF, please contact:

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Cultural resources monitoring, research, documentation, and recovery will occur throughout the Project's construction. Other planned activities outlined in the Programmatic Agreement include:

- » Additional field surveys if the Project footprint changes
- » A professional publication compiling past and current research on the Sqilantnu District, to be published in a scientific journal
- » An educational booklet on the Sqilantnu Archaeological District
- » A nomination for the Sqilantnu Archaeological District to the National Register of Historic Places
- » Interpretive signs
- » Digitizing Kenaitze Indian Tribe oral histories

Collection and identification of artifacts are only part of the story. Research may be able to answer deeper questions about the lives of the people who lived on the upper Kenai Peninsula since time immemorial.