



State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Statewide
Design & Engineering Services

**AGENCY SCOPING
REQUEST FOR EARLY COORDINATION**

Project Name: **Parks Highway MP 231 Enhancements**
Project Number (state/federal): **61299 / TE-0A4-4(20)**
Comments Due Date: **June 28, 2013**
Anticipated Level of Documentation: **Categorical Exclusion**

Dear Commenter:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is requesting your comments on a proposed project in preparation for completing the project's environmental documentation. To ensure that all factors are considered in the development of the environmental document we request your comments on the project proposal, project-area resources, and any project-related permits or clearances to be obtained from your agency. Please provide your written comments by **June 28, 2013**.

To ensure that your comments are addressed in the project's documentation, please refer to the project by the above name or number, and send or e-mail your comments to:

Brett Nelson - Northern Region Environmental Coordinator
Attention: Benjamin Storey - Environmental Impact Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Email: benjamin.storey@alaska.gov **Phone: 907-451-2229**

A paper copy of this document can be requested from the above address.

Brett Nelson 5/28/13
Brett Nelson/Regional Environmental Coordinator Date

Attachment: Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity Map
Figure 2. Project Overview
Figure 3. Denali National Park and Preserve Park Development Zone Map

I. Purpose and Need of Project

The purpose of this project is to enhance safety and accommodations for pedestrians and visitors in the MP 231 (McKinley Village) area.

Due to the amount of heavy foot traffic across the highway at two separate locations, individual pedestrian facilities are required to connect each location's opposing termini.

II. Project Description & Alternatives

- Construct pedestrian facility to connect trailheads located north of Nenana River Bridge
- Construct pedestrian facility to connect two business areas south of Nenana River Bridge
- Construct rest area for travelers to safely access the Denali National Park boundary sign that is a frequent photograph attraction and also north of Nenana River Bridge.

Alternatives currently under consideration are build and no-build.

III. Location

The project study area includes a variable DOT&PF right-of-way (ROW) located between the coordinates listed in Table 1. Figure 1 shows the project location and vicinity.

Table 1. Project Location

Township	Range	Section	Meridian	USGS Quad Map	Start Latitude / End Latitude	Start Longitude / End Longitude
14S	7W	36	Fairbanks	Healy (C-4)	63°40'08.59" / 63°38'25.21"	-148°49'42.81" / -148°47'42.44"

IV. Environmental Consequences

A. Right-of-Way (ROW) Impacts:

1. ROW required:

- a. Property required from a state or federal agency.

(1) State Park? **No** Name: **N/A**

(2) State Refuge or Critical Habitat Area? **No** Name: **N/A**

(3) Federal Park? **Maybe** Name: **Denali National Park and Preserve** (DNP&P)

- b. Property required from local government entity.

Type Property: **None**

- c. Business or residential property required.

(1) Residential: (indicate number) **None** (2) Business: (indicate number) **None**

- d. Property required from a Tribe or ANSCA corporation.

Name: **None**

2. Describe:

The majority of project improvements will be built within existing ROW. The proposed rest area/parking lot would most likely need some National Park Service (NPS) land (Figure 2). However this land is also part of the Park Development Zone (PDZ); an area that anticipates future growth of visitor facilities and attractions along the highway corridor directly outside the main preserve areas.

B. Socio-Economic Impacts:

1. Project could affect community cohesion, neighborhoods, or other community facilities. **No**
2. Project could affect economic development, such as established area businesses. **Yes. The project may temporarily impact accessibility to local private businesses located just outside DNP&P and within the study area.**
3. Project could affect travel patterns and accessibility. **Yes. The project may temporarily impact highway users and local residents during construction, but no permanent negative impacts are anticipated.**
4. Project could disproportionately affect minorities or disadvantaged persons (E.O. 12898) **No**

C. Impacts to Historic Properties:

1. National Register listed eligible/potentially eligible historic properties in project area/area of potential effect (APE). **No**
2. Places of traditional religious or cultural importance to Tribes are present in the project area. **Currently, none have been identified**
3. Historic Properties survey may be required to identify if sites are present. **Yes**
4. Possible adverse effect on historic properties. **No**

D. Fish & Wildlife Impacts:

1. Project could affect anadromous or resident fishes. **Yes**
2. Problem fish pass culverts within the project area. **No**
3. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) present in the project area. **No**
4. Wildlife Resources:
 - a. Project in area of high wildlife/vehicle accidents. **No**
 - b. Project could bisect migration corridors. **No**
 - c. Project could segment habitat. **No**
 - d. Species of concern to OHMP/ADF&G in the project area. **None known at this time.**
5. Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act:
 - a. Eagle nesting tree(s) in the project area. **None known at this time.**
6. Describe:

The project corridor includes the Nenana River, an anadromous water. The proposed parking facility may be constructed near this waterbody while the proposed pedestrian bridge would include some work within these waters (e.g. pier installation). However, this project does not anticipate negative impacts to fish or wildlife due to these improvements.

E. Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Impacts:

1. Listed T&E species present. **No**
2. T&E species migrate through the project area. **No**
3. Proposed species present in project area. **No**
4. Candidate species present in the project area. **Possibly**
5. Critical habitat in the project area. **No**
6. Describe:

Neither does Federal/State recognized threatened/endangered/candidate species nor critical habitats are known to exist in the vicinity of the project. This project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or adversely modify critical habitat within Alaska.

F. Waters of the U.S. and Water Bodies:

1. Project affects Waters of the U.S. (as defined by USACE), Section 404/10/103. **Yes**
2. Project affects Navigable Waters of the U.S. (as defined by USACE), Sec. 10. **No**
3. Project affects a Cataloged Anadromous Fish Stream (i.e., 41.14.870). **Yes**
4. Proposed river or stream involvement: **Maybe**
 - a. Temporary
Bridge Abutment Riprap Culvert Embankment Fill Relocation Diversion
 - b. Permanent
 Bridge Abutment Riprap Culvert Embankment Fill Relocation Diversion
5. Describe:

The project corridor includes the Nenana River, a navigable water of the US. The proposed parking facility may be constructed near this waterbody while the proposed pedestrian bridge may include some work within these waters (e.g. pier installation). However, this project does not anticipate cumulative negative impacts to these waters beyond the temporary construction impacts.

G. Wetlands Impacts:

1. Project involves wetlands as defined by USACE. **Yes**
2. Wetlands delineated in accordance with DOT&PF/FHWA/USACE Agreement. **Yes**
3. Acres: **Proposed parking facility may incorporate the use wetlands.**
4. Fill: **Not yet determined**
5. Dredge: **Not yet determined**
6. USACE authorization required: **Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit**
7. Describe:

A jurisdictional wetland determination report has been drafted for the Corps of Engineers to review for anticipated Section 404 permit.

H. Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP):

1. Project within the ACMP boundary. **No**
2. Project within a local coastal management district. **No**
3. Describe:

The project does not lie within an ACMP boundary.

I. Hazardous Waste:

1. Known or potentially contaminated sites along the corridor. **No**
2. ROW required from, or extensive excavation adjacent to, a known hazardous waste site. **No**
3. The existing and/or proposed ROW is contaminated. **No**
4. Potential for encountering hazardous waste during construction is high. **No**
5. Describe:

A review of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) contaminated site database was completed on March 22, 2013. No active sites were found to be within the project corridor. The nearest site is located approximately 650 feet west of the highway behind the McKinley Village Lodge. Impacts to this site are not anticipated for this project.

J. Air Quality Impacts (NEPA and Conformity):

1. NEPA (all projects):
 - a. The project is located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area (i.e. CO or PM-10). **No**
If yes, indicate CO or PM-10
 - b. The project is of the type exempt from an air quality analysis per 40 CFR 93.126 (Table 2 and Exempt Projects). **Yes**
2. Conformity (projects in nonattainment areas only):
 - a. The project is identified in the approved STIP. **N/A**
 - b. The project is in the most current air quality conformity (i.e., TIP). **N/A**
 - c. Have there been any changes in the project design concept and scope, as described in the STIP and TIP conformity analysis? **N/A**

3. Describe:

The project is not located in an air quality non-attainment or maintenance area. Also, the project is exempt from analysis since it is a bicycle/pedestrian facility project. Impacts to air quality are not anticipated for this project.

K. Floodplains Impacts (23 CFR Part 650, Subpart A):

1. Project encroaches onto a 100-year floodplain. **Yes**

2. Project involves a regulatory floodway. **No**
3. Project is located within an area protected by local flood hazard ordinances. **Yes**
4. Flood hazard permit is required from local government. **Yes**
5. Describe:

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program, the project is located within an unmapped region. However the Denali-Matanuska Borough requires that a flood hazard permit be obtained. Potential for negative impacts due to or directed at a floodplain are not anticipated for this project.

L. Noise Impact (23 CFR Part 772):

1. There are noise-sensitive receivers/land uses adjacent to the proposed project? **Yes. Hotels, cabin rentals, camp grounds, and local residents are located within or near the project study area.**
2. The project is located on new location, would result in substantial changes in vertical or horizontal alignment, or would increase the number of through lanes? **The proposed parking facility will be constructed on a new location opposite the river from inhabited areas.**

M. Water Quality Impact:

1. Project could involve a public or private drinking source. **No**
2. Project could result in a discharge of storm water to Waters of the U.S. **Yes**
3. Project could affect a designated impaired water body. **No**
 - a. List name(s) and location(s): **N/A**
4. Is there a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) NPDES permit or will runoff be mixed with discharges from an NPDES permitted industrial facility? **Neither**
5. If extensive dewatering (>250,000 gallons) is anticipated, is the area to be dewatered within 1 mile of a contaminated site? **N/A**
6. Describe:

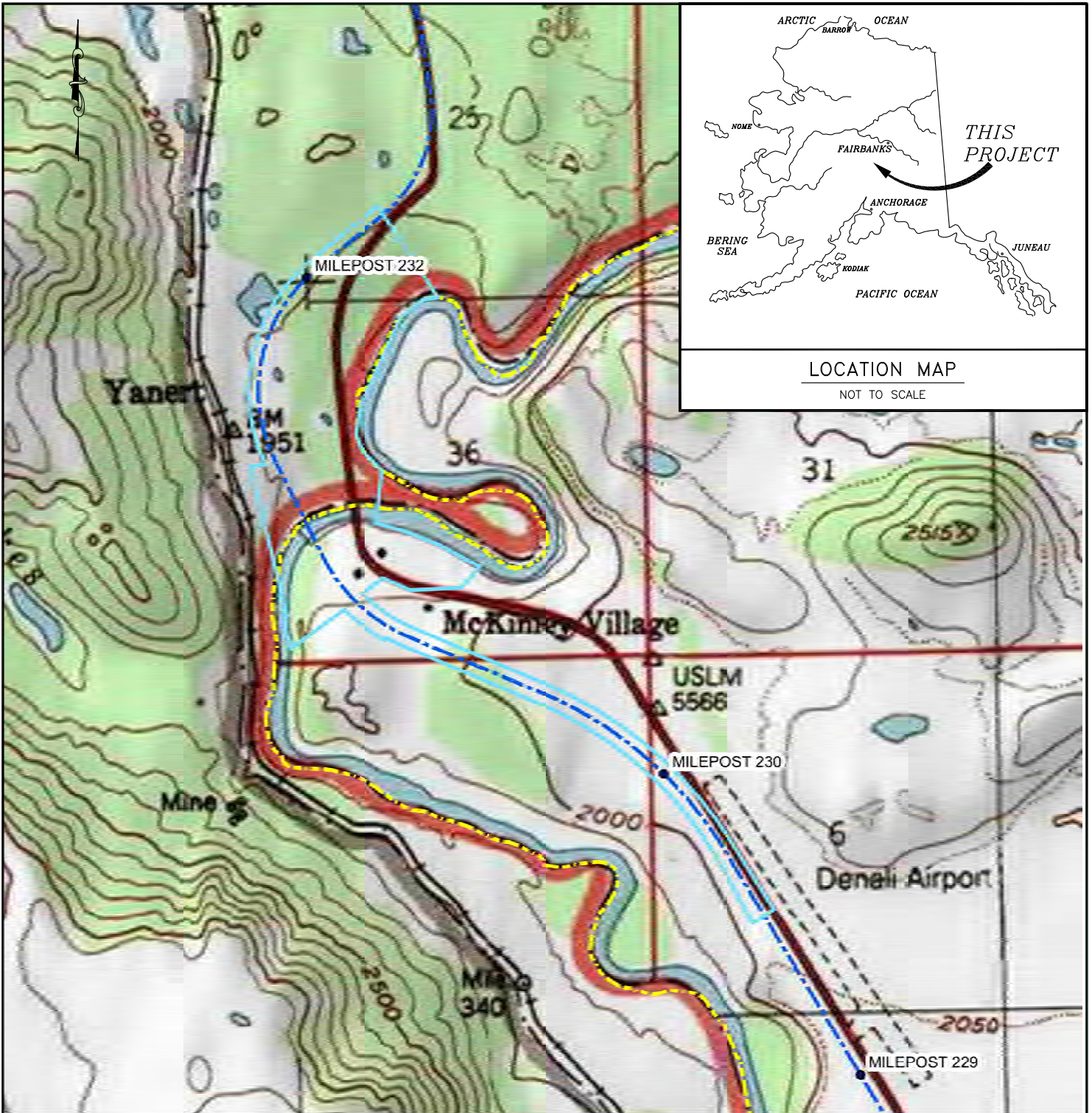
It is anticipated that some storm waters will leave the site and enter waters of the U.S. Consequently, sediment may be transported to down gradient waters during construction of the proposed project. Off-site sedimentation is expected to be minimal and best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented for the purpose of meeting state and federal water quality standards. A project-specific Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) will be developed prior to construction initiation. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed and implemented by the construction contractor. The SWPPP will comply with the Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System (APDES) General Permit for Construction Activities as well as the NPDES GP for any work within the DNP&P boundaries.

N. Section 4(f)/6(f):

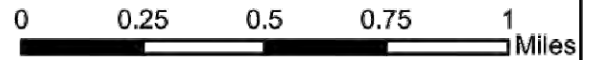
1. There would be a “use” of land from 4(f) properties. Maybe
2. Section 6(f) properties affected by the proposed action. No
3. List agency(s) with jurisdiction: N/A
4. Describe: **The proposed parking facility would require Section 4(f) consultation in order to determine the level of impact the project would have on NPS lands.**

O. Permits and Authorizations:

1. USACE, Section 404/10/103: Yes
2. USCG, Section 9: Yes
3. ADNR, OHMP, Title 41: No
4. Flood Hazard: Yes
5. ADEC 401: Yes
6. ADEC Storm Non-domestic Storm Water Disposal Plan Approval: Yes
7. NPDES GP: Yes, for any work conducted inside DNP&P boundaries.
8. ADNR, OPMP (ACMP Consistency): No
9. ADEC Dewatering: No
10. ADF&G Special Area: No
11. Other. *If “yes,” list.* Compliance with ADEC’s Alaska Construction General Permit (ACGP)



Sections 25, 26, 35, 36 (T14S, R7W)
 Sections 1, 2 (T15S, R7W)
 Section 6 (T15S, R6W)
 Fairbanks Meridian
 USGS Healy (C-4)



LOCATION & VICINITY MAP

STATE OF ALASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES




PARKS HIGHWAY MP 231 ENHANCEMENTS
 PROJECT NO. NH-TEA-0A44(020)/61299

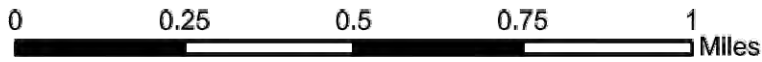
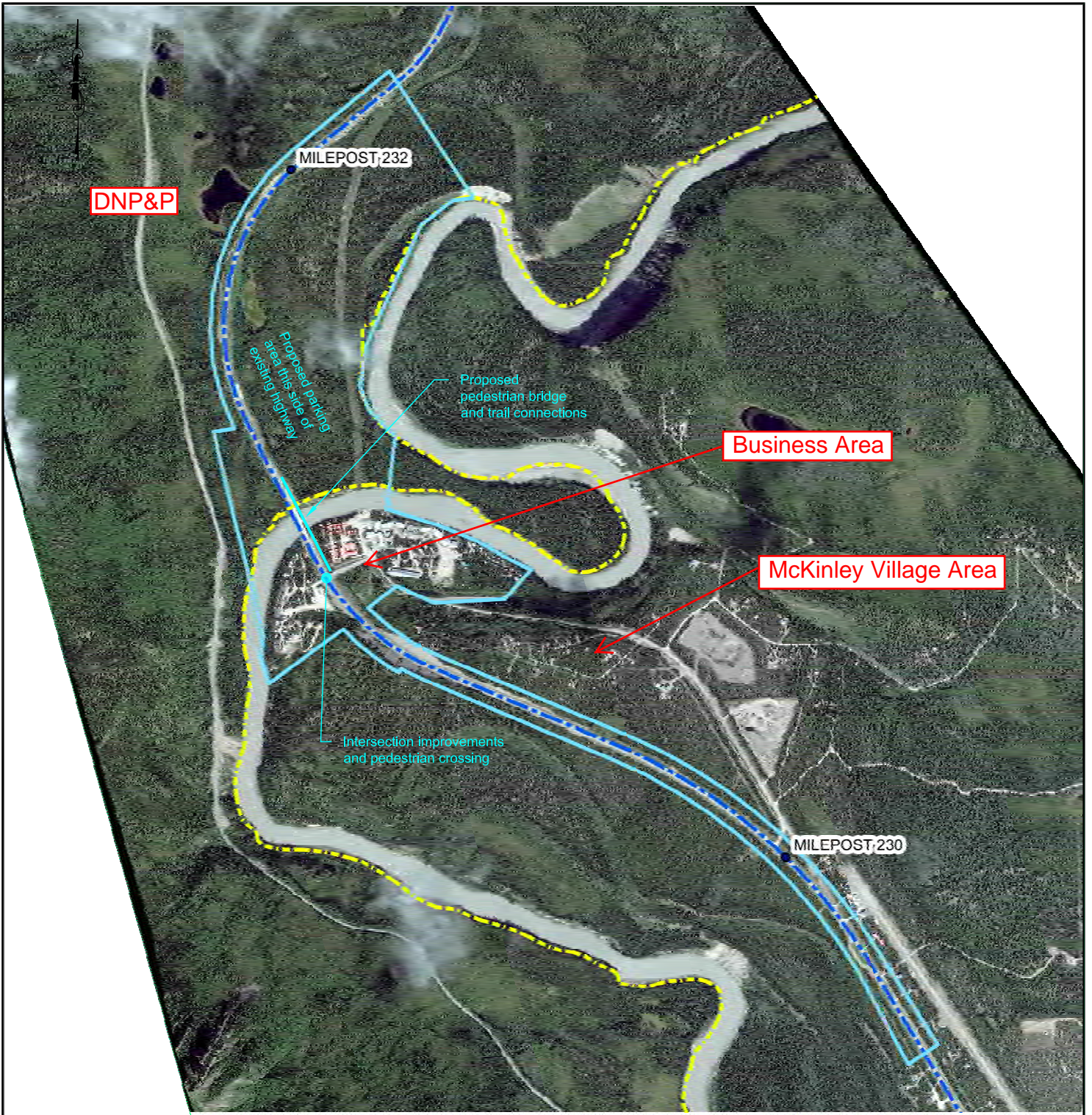
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FIGURE 1

Legend

-  Project Study Area
-  Existing Centerline
-  Denali National Park Boundary



Legend

- Project Study Area
- - - Existing Centerline
- - - Denali National Park Boundary

PROJECT OVERVIEW

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

PARKS HIGHWAY MP 231 ENHANCEMENTS
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FIGURE 2

Figure 3. DNP&P Park Development Zone Map

