



# Meeting Notes

Subject	Historic Preservation Plan Working Group	Sheet	1	of	5
Project Number	21132 – 003				
Meeting Date	August 9, 2005	Meeting Location	HDR Alaska, Inc. 4 <sup>th</sup> floor conference room		
Time	9:05 am – 10:20 am				
Notes by	Rosetta Alcantra	Office			

<b>Attendees</b>		Henry Springer, Executive Director, KABATA	Edrie Vinson, Federal Highway Administration Stephan R. Braund, Stephan R. Braund & Associates
Judy Bittner, Director, ADNR/State Historic Preservation Office	Stefanie L. Ludwig, DNR/State Historic Preservation Office	Doug Gasek/DNR/ State Historic Preservation Office	Marc Lamoreaux, Native Village of Eklutna
Dale Paulson, KABATA/DOT	Laurie Mulcahy, DOT	Steve Braund, Stephan R. Braund & Associates	Richard Stern, Stephan R. Braund & Associates
Elizabeth Grover, Stephan R. Braund & Associates	Rosetta Alcantra HDR Alaska	Michael Allwright, HDR Alaska	

Edrie Vinson, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) began the meeting by going over the purpose of the meeting: to get an update from Stephan R. Braund & Associates (SRB&A) about the preliminary findings in the Lower Knik Arm and to discuss 4(f) properties.

Steve Braund, Stephan R. Braund & Associates (SRB&A), passed out draft copies of the Lower Knik Arm Preliminary report. There was a brief discussion regarding the report contents. Laurie Mulcahy, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF), reminded the attendees that the document has not been reviewed internally and the information it contains is not for public distribution.

Edrie Vinson stated that the material in the report was gathered from the State Historic Preservation Office database and literature reviews. The document only contains public information and there should not be anything that the Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) would call confidential. Ms. Vinson encouraged the attendees to treat this document as a draft.

Marc Lamoreaux, NVE, expressed his appreciation for being invited to the meeting and indicated that this meeting was an appropriate place for NVE to be involved.

Mr. Braund began the update by providing background information. The report is preliminary information on Government Hill and Ship Creek preliminary and contains probability mapping.



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This information is based on literature reviews and not fieldwork, and operated using site cards from the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). FHWA and AKDOT&PF reviewed the site cards.

Mr. Braund gave a brief update on the work conducted to date with the area tribes. He said that each tribe has been contacted regarding historic properties information. The Native Village of Chickaloon did an inventory of people of tribal people and recommended that SRB&A contact the Theodore family in Knik. The Native Village of Tyonek is having a meeting to discuss possible locations and determine who SRB&A could meet with to gather information. Mr. Braund will be following up with Tyonek. The Knik Tribe is working with the village corporation (Knikatnu, Inc.) and compiling names. In addition, they will be publishing a newsletter to solicit information from tribal members. Mr. Braund indicated he would be following up with them at the end of the month. Mr. Braund indicated there would be different arrangements made with NVE.

Mr. Braund indicated that last week they received the alignment mapping for the Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB). SBR&A has survey dates scheduled for 8/15 or 8/22. HDR Alaska, Inc. would prefer 8/15 and SBR&A will try to meet the schedule, however there are unexploded ordinances (UXO) in the area, which does create an issue.

Ms. Vinson moved the discussion to the determination of eligibility (DOE). Ms. Vinson stated that if a site was found in the right of way, SBR&A needed to contact Mr. Reich. The crew should be testing while continuing the survey. Ms. Vinson concluded the information needs to be gathered in order for an eligibility call to be made. There was a discussion on the timing of findings and how it could impact the schedule. Ms. Mulcahy asked that the information be sent to both AKDOT&PF and FHWA. Mr. Braund said he will give the information to HDR Alaska and they would deliver it. There was consensus with the attendees that this protocol would be appropriate.

Ms. Mulcahy asked if the report would be comprehensive for entire alternative, including Anchorage and who would be drafting the findings for SHPO. Mr. Braund indicated that SBR&A would be doing the recommendations. Ms. Vinson asked if the field results and the comprehensive report would be done by August 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Braund said the report would not be done by the 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Mulcahy said that they would wait until SRB&A got into the field before they developed a strategy. Mr. Braund indicated that they would be focusing on Ericson Street and Degan Street on Government Hill and then making DOEs. He said that Richard Stern will be laying out the strategy in a two-volume approach. Volume I is the historical background on Government Hill and Volume II will include the DOE for all sites within the alignment.

Mr. Stern said they have been collecting information through interviews and letters. Mr. Stern also indicated the people in the area have been generally cooperative and there is a level of interest in the project.

Mr. Stern said Volume I will help to set a historical context of Government Hill from 1915 to present, this will be similar to Ship Creek and the work with the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC). Mr. Stern said it would be helpful with narrowed corridors and how far adjacent. Mr.



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Stern passed out data sheets for the participants to review and for comments. He concluded his comments by saying that Government Hill and the ARRC have a good deal of historic information available.

Mr. Braund explained that the DOE example for Volume II would have various themes and settings for specific property to meet criteria. He asked if the criteria are based on OHA or National Register criterion and how they should address this issue of property integrity.

Briefly the participants discussed what would determine the “integrity” of a site. Under the National Register, Ms. Vinson informed the group that the property has to be 50 years old before it can be considered. In addition, the site must meet one other criterion in order to be “significant.” After some discussion the group decided the property would be considered after 45 years for integrity purposes.

The group also discussed when Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) would be buying right-of-way (ROW). Mr. Springer indicated that as soon as the route is determined, as construction is expected to begin in 2007. Mr. Springer also concluded that ROW acquisition couldn’t happen until determination has been made on property. Mr. Stern said they could explain the methodology in Volume I.

Mr. Stern also inquired about properties that are not eligible by age. He used the example of properties that contribute to the character and community, specifically property not being evaluated but part of a historic district. Ms. Vinson indicated that in review of the information to date of Ericson Street and Deegan Street, she did not see contributing properties. If there is anything, she reinforced the need for a phone call.

Mr. Stern agreed there was a judgement call in many cases that did not meet the age requirement. Mr. Stern sited the Calvary Baptist church as an example; it was built in 1956/1957 and almost approaches the 50 years and contributes to the community. His question was if the church was in an area with local ROW how do you determine the call.

Mr. Springer asked how far physically does it make a difference on altering. Ms. Vinson explained there are three steps to this process. She referenced the FHWA guidance for visual, noise, and soils.

Ms. Vinson then moved the meeting back to the discussion of significant sites on Ericson Street and Deegan Street. Mr. Stern indicated they are still applying the criteria and seeing patterns. He indicated there are some cottages west of Ericson and Degan Streets, as well as the wireless station. Ms. Mulcahy said she would like to take the data and walk the corridor and determine whether or not these are significant sites.

Ms. Vinson said that if we have a contributing property, agree can we move forward without other properties. Stefanie Ludwig, from the Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) indicated the need for historic context. Ms. Vinson said there was enough information. Ms. Mulcahy said that we have preliminary findings, but we have to know if there is a historic district, until that can be determined we cannot say if a property is contributing to the historic district.



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Ms. Vinson asked about meeting the project schedule. There are several themes, Category I, individual eligibility and Category II.

Ms. Mulcahy said that right now the project team is doing the preliminary report and until the preliminary report is refined, all Category II will be part of it. Ms. Vinson added that II, III and only need to be discussed. Mr. Stern indicated the preliminary findings should be finished up in late August or early September. Ms. Mulcahy mentioned that she would be out on vacation on August 30, 2005.

Briefly the attendees reviewed the document and discussed an upcoming meeting to discuss determining eligibility. This meeting was scheduled for Thursday. There was a request to have ten copies to look at and then prepare a letter.

Mr. Springer said the project needs to know restrictions for ROW, costs and comparisons, criteria established and do we have a physical limitations. Ms. Vinson said the determination effort is the second step to enable to the project team to make comparisons. There was also discussion on tightening up the Loop Road in terms of the contexts of sensitive design and other alignments on the military.

Elizabeth Grover from SRB&A requested the GIS format for the alignments on the military base.

Michael Allwright of HDR Alaska was asked to give information on 4(f) parks information. The group worked off of a copy provided by Mr. Paulson and Ms. Vinson reminded them this was a draft and not for distribution. This was a short discussion and then the group began talking about how NVE anticipated being involved in the project.

Ms. Vinson asked to table the discussion for the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.