

Meeting Notes

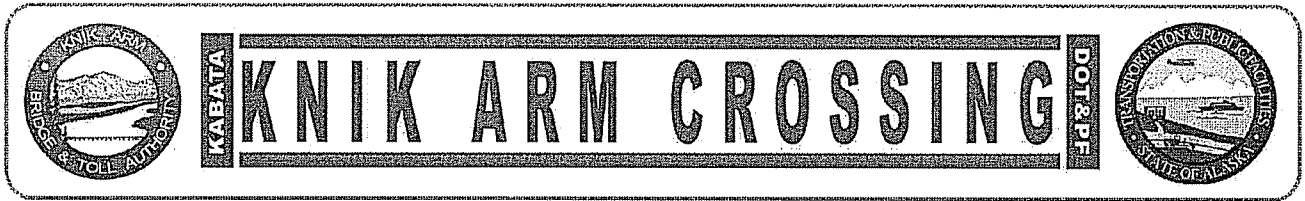
Subject	Community Planning – Native Village of Eklutna	Sheet 1	of 7
Project Number	21132 – 003		
Meeting Date	September 29, 2005	Meeting Location	Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Hall
Time	10:00 AM - 3:50 PM		
Notes by	Julie Jessen	Office	HDR Alaska

Attendees:	Rosetta Alcantra, HDR	Julie Jessen, HDR	Dave Cushman, SRI Foundation
Lee Stephan, Chief Native Village of Eklutna	Shirley J. Chilligan, Native Village of Eklutna	Leo Stephan, Native Village of Eklutna	Alberta Stephan, Native Village of Eklutna
Edrie Vinson, FHWA	Melissa Charmley, NVE	Richard Stern, Stephan R. Braund & Associates	Marc Lamoreaux, NVE
Jolene Waskey, Native Village of Eklutna	George Ondola, Native Village of Eklutna	Maria Coleman, Native Village of Eklutna	

Handouts – Attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of the Plan • Confidentiality agreements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAC – Implementation Plan • Alternatives Map • Guiding questions 	

Chief Lee Stephan of the Native Village of Eklutna welcomed the participants. Rosetta Alcantra, HDR Alaska, Inc. then explained the purpose of the meeting as a follow-up to a June 2005 workshop on historic preservation planning. The purpose of this and future meetings is to facilitate work with Tribes related to secondary impacts that might occur as a result of the Knik Arm Bridge construction project. Ultimately, Tribes will be able to prepare historic/cultural preservation plans that can be used to guide decision-makers.

Edrie Vinson, Environmental Project Manager for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), provided an update on the project's status. Ms. Vinson indicated that scoping meetings have been completed, and the FHWA has a series of alternatives to carry forward to the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Ms. Vinson used the alternative maps to explain the various routes on the Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB) side, the crossing and the approaches on the Anchorage



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side. At this point, Ms. Vinson indicated the likely approach for the Anchorage side will “below the bluff.” Ms. Vinson also explained the reasoning behind why this alternative was the most reasonable. In addition, Ms. Vinson also described the anticipated growth that could potentially happen as a result of the Knik Arm Crossing. Most, but not all of the growth will occur on the MSB side of the Knik Arm. Ms. Vinson further explained the importance for the preservation planning, direct impacts need to be identified and mitigated, but FHWA is also concerned with indirect impacts. FHWA hired David Cushman to help Tribes create preservation plans to assist in identifying and protecting important properties. FHWA has a limited ability to help, but wants to provide as much assistance as possible.

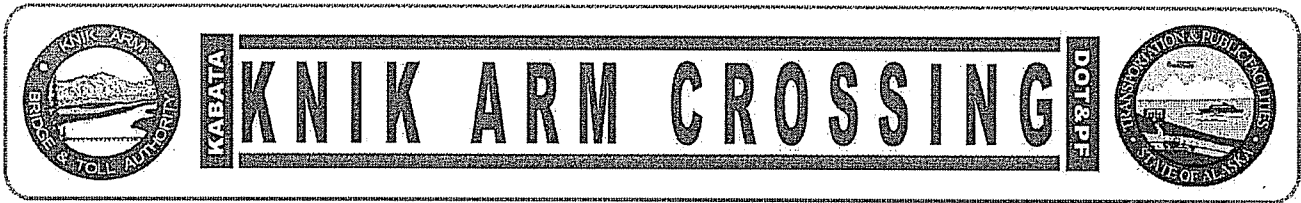
Chief Stephan noted the natural movement of the inlet might cause engineering problems. He mentioned the erosion issues regarding the Matanuska River, and indicated that the Cook Inlet moves four feet every year. He asked that the engineers are aware and take this information into consideration. Mr. Stephan also suggested using the closest point to closest point would make more sense in constructing the crossing. Ms. Vinson responded that FHWA has the ability to move the routes slightly, but there is a deep water drop-off south of the southern-most alignment.

Mr. Stephan also expressed concerns about graves, the old BIA school, and an old bridge. He mentioned that before the old bridge was renovated there were head stones identifying graves. Now, after the renovation the gravestones are missing, but there are bodies out there. He also indicated that in the past, the Native Village of Eklutna tribe was not consulted on issues that impacted traditional lands. The railroad realignment, for example, went over an important house pit site. Mr. Stephan also indicated there used to be natural highways along the bluff, so there might be historic sites and items there. These places tend to be used over time and it is important to identify and protect sites, especially from grave robbers. Now is the best time to identify sites and get people in the field to document specific locations.

Chief Stephan referred to the North Anchorage Land Agreement as a mechanism to help the project if it needed to access Eklutna property within the military boundaries. This mechanism could be an exchange with the State under Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) allocation to Eklutna, Inc. The military may not need all that land and perhaps Eklutna, Inc. could get the property to sell to the FHWA.

After Mr. Stephan’s opening remarks, Dave Cushman from SRI Foundation took the floor to describe the purpose of the meeting in more detail. Mr. Cushman explained that SRI Foundation was hired to provide assistance to the Native Village of Eklutna to address impacts to places of cultural and historic importance. Mr. Cushman explained that secondary development will impact traditional use area, cultural resources and these impacts will fall under local laws and state laws and the not under the federal government jurisdiction. By developing historic preservation strategies now, the Native Village of Eklutna will be able to be able to protect important sites through local government authorities more effectively.

Mr. Cushman further explained that Historic Preservation (HP) is a means to identify places to protect and to think about before impacts happen. HP has become part of what local governments do and is important because these places contribute to the personal and community identity and



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helps to relate and connect the past and future. In addition, Mr. Cushman explained that this initial meeting is to identify preservation goals and establish goals related to those problems. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in October to help the community identify steps to implement those goals and preserve sites.

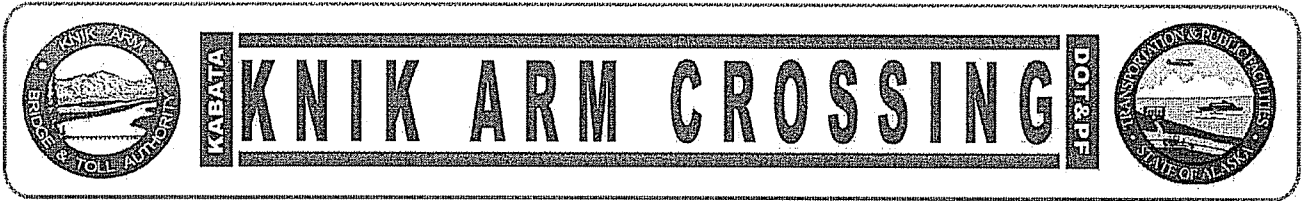
To assist in the discussion, Mr. Cushman pointed out the maps located on the wall and table and informed the participants that there will be presentations provided by Ms. Alcantra and Richard Stern from Stephan R. Braund & Associates (SRB&A).

After describing the purpose of HP planning and the workshop, Mr. Cushman provided the opportunity to the participants to discuss some of the issues relating to preservation. Chief Stephan began first and mentioned previous interactions with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Specifically, he used the example of the Knobs that are an important cultural site (landscape) to the Native Village of Eklutna. Chief Stephan indicated they had approached SHPO with their concerns and SHPO did not recognize the Knobs as significant, and, as a result, everything was cleared off the Knob. Chief Stephan indicated there is a problem with the tribe having no leverage and SHPO holds all the cards. He continued by using another example where Eklutna had a similar situation with the Alaska Railroad Corporation. The Native Village of Eklutna tried to explain the importance of a site where the railroad was developing, but were ignored. Due to these situations, the Native Village of Eklutna has created their own HP office for government to government consultation with the Federal government. The problem is that funds go to the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA), a state entity and they have to listen, but they do not have to do anything. There is a problem with compliance with the laws.

After Chief Stephan's comments, self proclaimed historian and elder, Alberta Stephan mentioned that traditional use areas have been identified, although they cannot be used currently. We can only go by what the Elders tell us. Mrs. Stephan also identified a concern for subsistence resources, and questioned what impact will the bridge have on the waters and fish.

Following Mrs. Stephan, Mr. George Ondola described the history of government assuming control of Eklutna property and the loss of jurisdiction over tribal lands. He first identified the church, Alaska Railroad, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Aviation Agency, Army and the Bureau of Public Roads. By his account, all of these agencies came and took property without discussing the impacts or talking with the community. 326,000 acres had been set aside for Eklutna, but educational agencies and the military took all that away (except for 9,000 acres) in 1942 without prior notification. Mr. Ondola concluded his comment by saying the tribal council was formed in 1961 to address these types of things.

Following Mr. Ondola was Mr. Leo Stephan, who indicated that the area impacted by the bridge is part of the Palmer land claim. Mr. Stephan also talked about a request being made of the Port Authority to help protect grave sites at Point Woronzof and how development in the Wasilla area is going over graves. To his knowledge the MSB has not been very interested in historic sites, he sited Point MacKenzie as an example. According to Mr. Stephan, it seems like nobody follows the law and sites are raked over and forgotten.



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Mr. Stephan continued his comments by saying he would like to be able to travel to traditional use places and fish where there used to fish. The bridge is another example of things going to be raked over and ignored. Mr. Stephan described a trout lake across the inlet near Goose Bay (Nancy Lake, Pittman) where he would go to get the first trout of the season. The whole area was used by Native people, but every time something is built, Native people give up something with no compensation. He expressed concern about the impacts to beluga, which is important to the culture. Salmon are declining in Upper Cook Inlet and are being replaced by hatchery fish. He would like a commitment from KABATA to help with gravesites. Native place names are also important, and Mr. Stephan would like to use the traditional names.

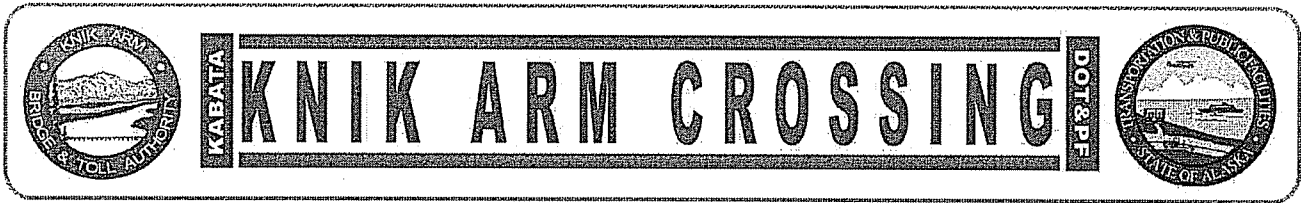
Following the comments made by the participants, the agenda was moved to have Mr. Stephan do a presentation on the known cultural resources that might be impacted by the project. A cultural resources map was available for the participants to refer to. The sites on the map were identified through a literature review and by reviewing the SHPO's Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRS) list. Mr. Stern indicated there are gaps in the knowledge base. Mr. Stern also explained that SRB&A is also conducting ground surveys and interviews. They are focusing on a couple of areas, primarily Government Hill and Ship Creek. In the MSB, they have done archaeological testing along the west side of the access road, about 3-4 miles. They are working with tribal members to identify traditional land use and specific sites. The information will be included in the DEIS, as a Section 106 report for the FHWA. They are looking for areas where there may be conflicts in order to avoid those areas as much as possible.

Following Mr. Stern's presentation, Ms. Alcantra did a brief presentation on the areas where there is anticipated growth. Ms. Alcantra used a constraints map to show growth projections through the year 2030. Ms. Alcantra explained that HDR Alaska, Inc. looked at landscape, soils, the natural environment, conducted interviews and ran computer models to define where potential development might occur. Ms. Alcantra also reiterated the same message that Ms. Vinson had regarding the responsibilities of FHWA with the direct impacts, and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), MSB, local and state government responsibility for secondary impacts. This meeting is to help the Tribes be proactive on the long-term scale.

Following Ms. Alcantra, Mr. Cushman made some general comments. He indicated it is common that good places for development now are often where good sites were historically. There is an overlap between cultural sites and projected development maps. Many places have not yet been identified, though, and may be impacted by secondary growth.

In addition, to Mr. Cushman's comments there was a discussion by the participants. One participant expressed a concern about the impacts of the toll on "little people." It was expressed that a toll would be a burden on lower-income residents. Ms. Alcantra was asked to relay the economic impact concern to HDR for consideration in the DEIS. It was requested that a focus on economic impacts of native peoples in the area be evaluated separately in the DEIS.

An additional concern surfaced relating to people jumping off the bridge. The participant wanted to know what kinds of measures will be in place to prevent suicides. In addition, traffic impacts on Eklutna raised concern.



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A question was asked about mitigation plans for negative impacts. Having a preservation plan will help with leverage related to impact mitigation.

After the brief discussion, Mr. Cushman called for a lunch break.

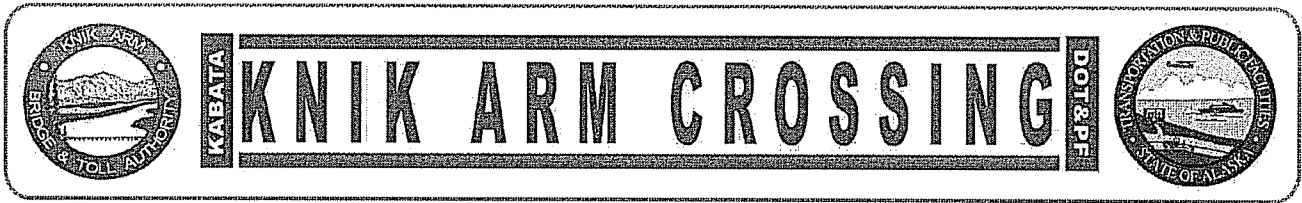
After lunch the group reconvened at 1:10 pm. Prior to discussion, Mr. Cushman handed out a copy of the preservation plan and the discussion began on the places that should be protected. Collectively, the attendees listed the following as places for protection.

- Graves
- Subsistence areas (hunting, fishing)
- Traditional use areas (camp sites)
- Archeological sites
- Historic settlements
- Places that tie into traditional stories (battles sites)
- Traditional cultural places (used for ceremonies)

After the list was created, Mr. Cushman asked whether it would ever be acceptable to move a grave site. The response was no. An elder participate indicated that people did things for a reason, and you would never move an entire cemetery. There needs to be assurances that things will not be moved or destroyed. There is a fear that property of the peoples will be abused. There are some instances where the Eklutna people will not want to share information about traditional sites with outsiders. It would be beneficial to have a way to convey this information without being so specific, but that will still convey the significance and importance to authorities. Tribes can put statements into EISs that can designate a place as important and that Tribes want to be involved in creating strategies for avoidance. A letter to that effect will be submitted to KABATA.

After discussion problems, Mr. Cushman asked the group to look at them and answer how these places are being affected, and what are the biggest sources of threats. Collectively, the group came up with the following list.

- 52 Federal agencies each has their own projects/processes—the voice of small tribes are not being heard in the EAs, EISs, NOIs, etc. It is hard to track everything in order to get involved in the first place.
- Loss of Elders' knowledge.
- Residential development (private land)
- Associated infrastructure
- Commercial development
- Industrial development (gravel pits)
- Public facilities (roads and public works)
- Recreational use
- Loss of access



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- Pollution
- Trespass
- Vandalism

Mr. Cushman than individually addressed the problems, who is impacting those areas and had the group determine which entities would be responsible or who would the tribe go to state a concern. The primary responsible entities include; MOA, State of Alaska and Federal government. The next question related to what opportunities surround the issues. One opportunity would be to talk with the MOA about permitting and creating additional procedures to consider during the permitting process when graves are affected, or other cultural resources.

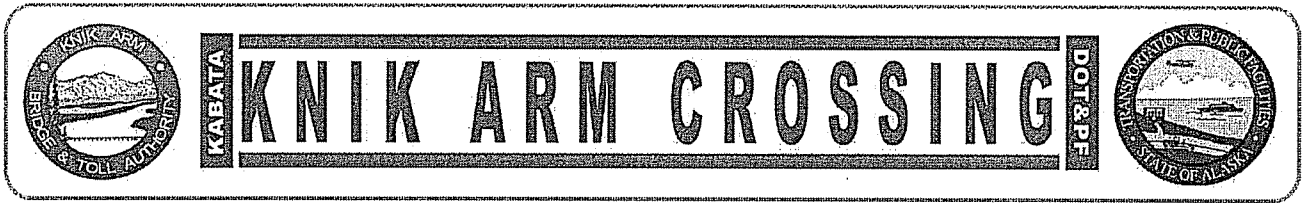
Mr. Cushman also addressed the question about places that have not been recorded. He pointed out that the participants had indicated that more information is needed and the need to be a better connected between the people who have the knowledge and the people who would like to learn, or have a better means of accessing and using the knowledge. This stems from a lack of communication. For example, lands are divided among different tribes, different tribal organizations and the knowledge is fragmented. Mr. Cushman also indicated there is a lack of expertise to gather the information.

Mr. Cushman also asked participates if the MOA was aware of the cultural resources problem. If not, then the Tribe must talk a lot to a lot of people and be persistent to get the recognition.

In addition, the group discussed other ideas. There were several suggestions such as; information should be gathered by and from Native peoples to avoid misinformation or information lacking a factual basis, need to educate non-tribal people about cultural resources and tribal history and to take advantage of situations that can raise public awareness. This will help overcome stereotypes and prejudice. One example is to use interpretive sites; Mrs. Stephan's books are another example. Herbert Theodore in Knik is a knowledgeable. Perhaps the Chief could educate people through a public ceremony welcoming the project and inviting the project onto tribal lands.

Additional discussion led to problems, then goals to address those problems. Following is a table to illustrate the rank these issues received.

Rank	Problem	Goal
	There are a variety of known cultural resources that are threatened/disturbed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the disturbance • Be involved in decisions about disturbances (with or through consultation)
	Political/Legal/Jurisdictional There are multiple sources of threats to CRs, but MOA is the prevailing authority to address those threats (MOA does not have a dedicated anthropologist or Tribal liaison on staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the right relationships/trust • Untangle agency regulatory spider web and processes
1	Lack of information regarding where the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect more information



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	sites are located and knowledge is fragmented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemble information into one location (organize) to make it useful (e.g. bring together elders and youth/others to share knowledge; conduct interviews/oral histories)
2	Lack of resources (funding, peoplepower, time, expertise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find resources
	Lack of recognition for need (communication)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve communication (e.g., SHPO)
	Ignorance of Tribal concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate the public (internal and external—e.g. powerpoint presentations similar to Chickaloon Tribal School) Signs at important locations Create a program to certify people who learn about and respect tribe

Before concluding the meeting, Mr. Cushman asked about a cultural committee. Eklutna has a cultural committee in the works, but nothing formal at the moment. There is an opportunity to create an office within the tribal government who pursues these types of issues and goals. Mr. Cushman commended the participants already considering the committee; this is an important step in the planning process.

In closing, Mr. Cushman scheduled the next meeting. The second meeting to discuss how to achieve the goals will be Tuesday, October 25th at 9:00 am. Ms. Alcantra indicated she would not be at the workshop and thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.