



For Immediate Release

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KABATA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF LIAISON TO FACILITATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROCESS FOR THE KNIK ARM CROSSING PROJECT

(Anchorage, AK), November 30, 2009: The Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) has hired Edrie Vinson to coordinate the interests of stakeholders with historic properties along the route and to train construction personnel to recognize and protect any cultural materials that might be discovered during construction.

The position arose from agreements between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council, Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Eklutna Village and Knik Tribe to mitigate any adverse effect of the proposed Knik Arm Crossing project to their historic properties. The agreements help them protect their heritage and plan for its future preservation.

FHWA agreed to fund the liaison position as part of the over-all agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

“My goal is to guide all of the Sec. 106 Memorandums of Agreement to completion expeditiously, with a worthwhile result for each of the grantees,” Vinson said. Start-up funds are now available for the historic preservation groups to begin their work, Vinson pointed out, and that is an “important and valuable contribution from Federal Highways and the project to facilitate the process going forward.”

Vinson comes to KABATA with over 30 years of experience in historic and preservation work, primarily in the western US. She has worked for both federal and state agencies and is well versed in the procedural and administrative requirements presented by an Environmental Impact Statement and Section 106 on projects like the Knik Arm Bridge. To that end, she expects to work primarily with government and Native organizations on matters that may arise for specifically impacted groups as a result of bridge construction or operations.

Vinson has a BA in history from Carroll College in Helena, Montana and a Masters degree in history from Montana State University.

About KABATA

KABATA was formed by the Alaska Legislature in 2003 to develop, stimulate and advance the economic welfare of the state through construction and operation of a toll bridge spanning the Knik Arm of Upper Cook Inlet. The bridge will provide a second connection between Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, improving the regional transportation network and facilitating the movement of people and goods and enhancing safety. KABATA has commenced a Public-Private Partnership procurement to award a concession for the finance, construction and operation of the planned crossing. Additional information is available on KABATA's website at www.KnikArmBridge.com.

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