



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
ALASKA DIVISION
709 West Ninth Street, Room 851
P.O. Box 21648
Juneau, Alaska 99802
907-586-7418 | 907-586-7420 FAX

November 17, 2005

REFER TO
HDA-AK
File #: 0001(277)

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great excitement that I share with you the Scoping Summary Report for the Knik Arm Crossing project.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) states that a "diligent effort" must be made to involve the public in the NEPA process and documentation. Following release and publication in January 2005 of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) embarked on the scoping process for the Knik Arm Crossing project. This document demonstrates the activities FHWA undertook to involve and gather comments from agencies, the public, and tribes during the scoping process.

NEPA also requires that the lead Federal agency, in this case FHWA, determine the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS. The scoping process has helped FHWA determine these key issues which will be addressed in detail in the EIS. These issues are summarized in this document.

Finally, NEPA requires that project alternatives be developed. The goal of the alternatives process is to consider many solutions, and then refine the list down to a set of reasonable alternatives, which are carried forward and studied in detail in the Draft EIS. Based on public, agency, and tribe input, more than 20 alternatives were developed and evaluated. This report discusses the alternatives development and evaluation process, and identifies alternatives that will be carried forward for detailed study in the Draft EIS.

Currently we are thoroughly examining a multimodal transportation package alternative put forth by non-governmental organizations. That multimodal alternative includes regular car ferry transit to Point MacKenzie, commuter rail between the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage, carpool and vanpool incentives for travel from the Mat-Su Valley to Anchorage, and expanded bus service and streetcar transit in Anchorage. As our analysis of these options becomes available, we will share this information with the public.

Thank you for your participation in the Knik Arm Crossing scoping process. Your input has been and will continue to be an important part of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edrie Vinson".

Edrie Vinson
FHWA Environmental Project Manager