



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities

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October 15, 2018

Debra J. Schnabel, Borough Manager  
Haines Borough  
POB 1209  
Haines, AK 99827

RE: SFHWY 00171 HNS: MP12.2 to MP 23 Improvements / Proposed Waysides

Dear Ms. Schnabel,

Thank you for your letter dated July 2, 2018 and our subsequent meeting on September 19, 2018 with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Parks Superintendent, Preston Kroes. DOT&PF considered the Report and Recommendations of the Haines Borough Chilkat River Access Working Group and comments received from ADNR Parks. DOT&PF made a number of revisions to waysides in the preliminary plans based on input received from the Haines Borough and ADNR. Attached is table showing comments and recommendations for each wayside identified in our original agreement with ADNR Parks<sup>1</sup>.

We feel we have addressed your concerns. If you want someone to attend the Planning Commission Meeting please let us know.

When DOT&PF works cooperatively with our partners we deliver a better project. Thank you and your staff for all extensive work with user groups to deliver an outstanding report and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Scholl".

Jim Scholl  
Project Environmental Coordinator

CC: Greg Lockwood, PE, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Preston Kroes, DNR Southeast Parks Superintendent

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Appendix B of the Haines Highway Final Revised Environmental Assessment found at [http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines\\_hwy/assets/8.15.2016/Apx-A\\_DNR\\_Turnouts\\_6-25-2015.pdf](http://dot.alaska.gov/sereg/projects/haines_hwy/assets/8.15.2016/Apx-A_DNR_Turnouts_6-25-2015.pdf)

**Table 1** Wayside Recommendations

Wayside Location	Wayside Number from FREA App. A	DNR Recommendation Synopsis  Original from App. A of the Final Revised Environmental Assessment / <b>Current</b>	HNS Borough Recommendation	Proposed DOT&PF recommendation
13 Mile	HNS 13	<p>No change. Part of current use is a garbage dump. Accept current DNR recommendation, "... <i>ABANDON HNS13 DUE TO STEEP ACCESS</i>"</p> <p><b>Can we consider creating a paved (culverted) apron (approach) with appropriate grade at current access and then boulder off at ROW boundary? That will provide for future access road improvements or trail in the future?</b></p>	<p>Partner with Chilkoot Indian Association for capital improvements and the Haines Borough for waste management. Maintain Access. Harden Road/Parking. Access moved when existing access is precluded -7 NW approx. 300 feet if guardrail is needed. Build an apron capable of having 40 ft. trailers -keep in mind eagle habitat in trees. Harden the road -use DI. Raise the bed b/c probably sitting on the water table.</p> <p>Design should include the ability to accommodate 40 ft. vehicles. Parks revisiting their recommendation from 12 years ago to DOT.</p>	<p>Grade and provide gravel on existing access within ROW. Pave the highway approach apron. Provide boulders beyond clear zone to block vehicular access until there is an agreement by others to pick up garbage.</p>

Wayside Location	Wayside Number from FREA App. A	DNR Recommendation Synopsis  Original from App. A of the Final Revised Environmental Assessment / <b>Current</b>	HNS Borough Recommendation	Proposed DOT&PF recommendation
13.2 Mile	HNS 14	Is HNS14 still planned? – small off shoulder parking for approx. 4 vehicles just “north” of HNS13		Do not provide wayside but do provided a widened area adjacent to the proposed shoulder.
14 Mile	HNS 15 & HNS 16 (the pond)	<p>DNR recommendation,</p> <p>HNS 15 <i>PROVIDE ACCESS WITH TWO 24-FOOT-WIDE APPROACHES. PAVE TO CURVE RETURN. DNR WILL ACCEPT O&amp;M. LIMIT PARKING TO 10 VEHICLES AND PROVIDE GRAVEL SURFACE.</i></p> <p>HNS16, <i>DO NOT IMPROVE</i></p> <p>Maintain as large pull-off at appropriate grade for new road height and pave. Create as much parking as possible, consider removing earth mound left from previous HWY project to improve foot traffic access to river. Create/install a boat launch at southern (downstream) end for boat access. Add outhouse (single?) to the wayside. HSN16 pool (northern) end should be blocked off to prevent vehicle/trailer access into clear pool – boulder off for foot traffic only to this end of pull out/river access. DNR will maintain boat lunch and river accesses.</p>	<p>Maintain access. Expand and level parking area without blocking launch areas. Ask for a possibility of creating natural eddies for creating downstream ramp. Request to pave the whole lot with parking.</p>	<p>HNS 15 Maintain access. Pave the parking area as shown on the attached graphic and sectional views.</p> <p>HNS16 no access improvements.</p>

Wayside Location	Wayside Number from FREA App. A	DNR Recommendation Synopsis  <b>Original from App. A of the Final Revised Environmental Assessment / <i>Current</i></b>	HNS Borough Recommendation	Proposed DOT&PF recommendation
14.5 mile	HNS 17	<p>Current Recommendation. <i>DO NOT CHANGE THE GRADE OR DISTURB THE VEGETATED ISLAND. THE EXITS TO THE AREA NEED TO BE DESIGNED FOR BUS TRAFFIC. DNR WILL MAINTAIN.</i></p> <p>You may be referring/including this in the “currently revising proposed design – due to road alignment shifting landward and lowering, additional room and material will be available, please provide 2 appropriate 90 degree paved approaches and add parking and an outhouse (single?) in current vegetated island adjacent to current access road and create new vegetated “island” area in abandoned road location.</p>	Maintain access.	Maintain access. Provide a widened area where the existing roadway would be abandoned as shown on the attached graphic and sectional views. DOT&PF will not provide maintenance.
16.1 mile	HNS 18	<p>2016 Recommendation, <i>CLOSE OFF WITH GUARDRAIL.</i>”</p> <p>2018 recommendation, <i>MAINTAIN ACCESS</i></p> <p>Widen paved approach, clear brush, create parking lot for 6-8 vehicles and boulder off perimeter of parking lot to prevent vehicle access beyond. Pave parking area if possible. Access road off parking lot will eventually be widened, graveled and graded to the river gravel bar with boulders at perimeter of gravel bar vehicle allowed accessible areas.</p>	Maintain access. Harden Road/Parking areas to improve. Access moved when existing access is precluded [to the ] NW approx.. 300 ft. if guardrail is needed. Build an apron capable of having 40 ft. trailers – keep in mind eagle habitat in trees. Partner with Chilkoot Indian Association for solid waste management.	Revising proposed design to maintain access.

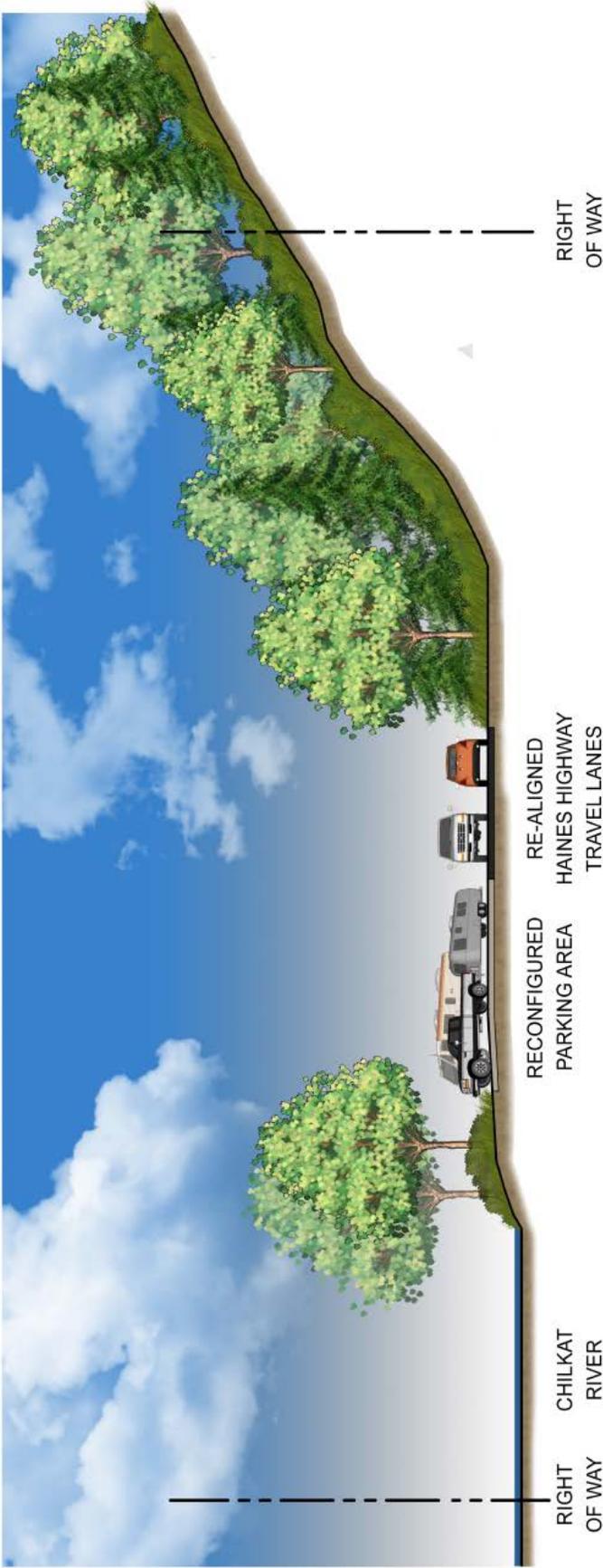
Wayside Location	Wayside Number from FREA App. A	DNR Recommendation Synopsis  Original from App. A of the Final Revised Environmental Assessment / <b>Current</b>	HNS Borough Recommendation	Proposed DOT&PF recommendation
MP 19	HNS 19	<p><i>PROVIDE PARKING ALONG HIGHWAY AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO SLIDE AREA FOR MAINTENANCE</i></p> <p>I agree with this – but it is technically out of the CBEP boundary and scope, not to mention the 18+ foot road lift and an unstable slide area.</p>	Maintain access to the 19 mile slide. Talk to Klukwan about the issue. If existing access is denied relocate access to the upper edge of slide toe.	Area is unstable and the grade would rise by approximately 20 ft. Prevent access.
MP 19.5	HNS 20	<p><i>PROVIDE ACCESS. PROVIDE PARKING FOR ONE VAN WITH BOAT TRAILER AND ONE BUS. LAUNCH SITE DOES NOT NEED IMPROVEMENTS</i></p> <p>This area is a native allotment and not within DNR’s scope to comment.</p>	None	Area is no longer used and access to the river crosses a Native Allotment. No access provided
MP 19.5	HNS 21	<p><i>IMPROVE DESIGN FOR SNOW PLOWING AND EXPAND VEGETATED ISLAND.</i></p> <p>Improve/widen/modify existing approaches for larger snow plow access/operation to parking lot. Eliminate one-way traffic flow direction to create 2-way traffic flow for both existing approaches. Replace old outhouse with new standard.</p>	None	Improve existing approaches for snow plow operation.
MP 20	HNS 22	<p><i>INCREASE PARKING IF POSSIBLE, DO NOT REDUCE PARKING AREA</i></p> <p>Good – generally keep as existing</p>	None	Improve existing approaches for snow plow operation.

Wayside Location	Wayside Number from FREA App. A	DNR Recommendation Synopsis  Original from App. A of the Final Revised Environmental Assessment / <b>Current</b>	HNS Borough Recommendation	Proposed DOT&PF recommendation
MP 20	HNS 23	<p><i>DO NOT REDUCE PARKING AREA, EXPAND IF POSSIBLE.</i></p> <p>Good – generally keep as existing</p>	None	Maintain access and size. Improve existing approaches for snow plow operation.
MP 20.5	None	<p>None</p> <p>I agree with DOT - Utilize abandoned road section as an additional eagle viewing area within the council grounds critical habitat area of the CBEP.</p> <p>Plant cottonwood trees for future eagle habitat on eliminated paved road sections</p>	None	Provide new wayside in abandoned roadway for eagle viewing. Plant cottonwoods in obliterated pavement sections, as practicable, to improve eagle habitat.
MP 21	HNS 24 & HNS 25	<p><i>IMPROVE FOR SNOW PLOWING AND BUS ACCESS</i></p> <p>Mostly maintain as is, can enlarge parking area slightly, but not to the extent to road edge as recommended by borough. Modify 2 approaches as necessary to improve for snow plow operation. Improve boat launch to state standard for improved grade, angle, width and length. Add outhouse (single?) to area.</p>	Increase size of parking area to accommodate demands. Capture riverside uplands and fill entire area to the edge of the road. Harden or pave boat launch ramp.	Maintain access and size. Improve existing approaches for snow plow operation.
MP 21	HNS 26	<p><i>AN ADDED PULL-OUT WOULD ALLOW ACCESS TO PROPOSED TRAIL EXTENSION.</i></p> <p>CBEP boundary is at river bank, access is in DOT ROW, this area is traditionally known to be Klukwan access.</p>	None	Maintain access. Additional access not supported by Klukwan.

**14 Mile Wayside  
HNS 15 & HNS 16**

**Graphic and Sectional views**

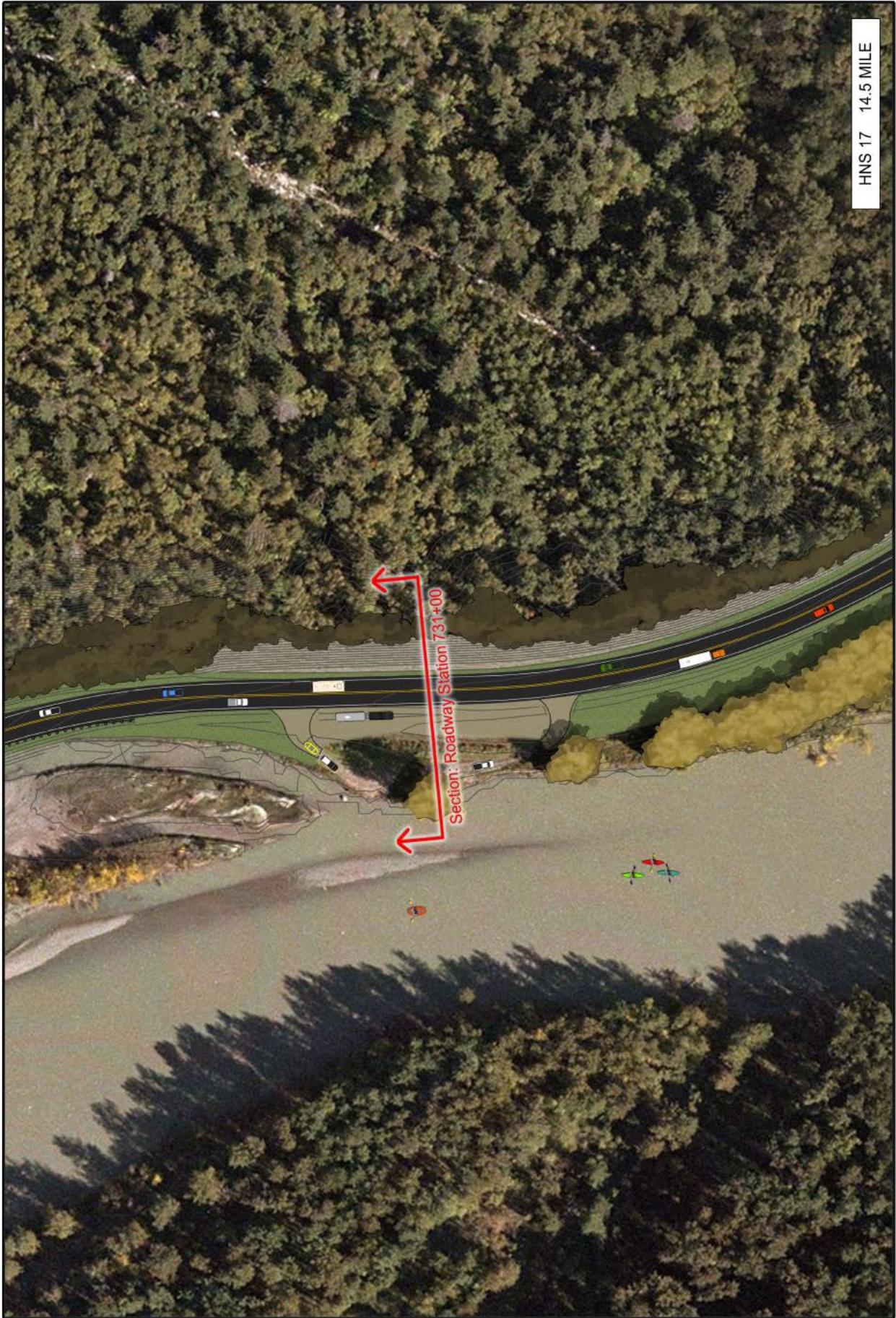




**14.5 Mile Wayside  
HNS 17**

**Graphic and Sectional views  
14 Mile Wayside  
HNS 15 & HNS 16**

**Graphic and sectional views**



HNS 17 14.5 MILE

