



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

SOUTHCOST REGION  
DESIGN & ENGINEERING SERVICES  
Preconstruction

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October 24, 2018

Ms. Debra Schnabel, Borough Manager  
PO Box 1209  
Haines, AK 99827

RE: Response to letter dated September 19, 2018

Dear Ms. Schnabel:

Thank you for the thorough description of the concerns you have regarding the Haines Highway Reconstruction Phase 2 project from milepost 12.2 to 23.0 in your letter to me dated September 19, 2018. I have thoroughly reviewed the letter and would like to provide additional info to you to address some of your concerns.

### **Traffic Patterns.**

During the design phase of the milepost 3.9-12.2 project we heard the local concern about impacts to tour operators. To mitigate this concern, we added special specifications that required the contractor to consult and coordinate with local tour operators. While the contract allows for two hour road closures when the contractor is performing rock blasting, the closure allowed for tour operators during this work is limited to just ten minutes. While impacts to traffic on a reconstruction project are impossible to avoid, the contract was written specifically to limit the impacts on this project.

The upcoming work on Haines Highway Resurfacing SFHWY000057 is less extensive than the Haines Highway reconstruction project. Thus, we expect traffic delay impacts to be less. Additionally, we have specified in the SFHWY000057 contract that the contractor must coordinate with tour operators and school bus operators to ensure that the school buses and tour operations are not delayed through the construction zone.

Our goal for the traffic control plan for the Haines Highway construction projects is to allow a buildable project in a cost effective manner. We balance this goal with the goal of limiting traffic control impacts to the travelling public. I feel that we have found a good balance on the Haines Highway projects and welcome additional feedback as both projects get rolling in the spring.

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*

**Planning Commission Approval.**

I understand that river access is a big issue to the residents of Haines as well as Alaska DNR. Attached to the letter that Jim Scholl sent to you on October 15, 2018, he provided the additional design details that you had requested at miles 14, 14.5 and 16. Also attached to Jim's letter is a table with comments and recommendations for river access waysides. I hope that Jim's response adequately answered your questions but if not, please let me know.

Thanks again for your time putting together the letter describing your concerns. If any additional questions come up during the Borough's review, please let me know. We will have a DOT&PF representative at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Borough Planning Commission to discuss any questions that you may have with the plan set that we provided to you on September 12th. Please confirm that November 8<sup>th</sup> is the correct date so that we can make travel arrangements.

Sincerely,



Greg Lockwood  
Preliminary Design & Environmental Group Chief

CC via email:

DOT&PF:

D. Lance Mearig, P.E., DOT&PF SR Director  
Jim Scholl, Environmental Analyst  
Loren Gehring, P.E., Engineering Manager  
L. Pat Carroll, P.E. DOT&PF SR Preconstruction Engineer

DNR: Preston Kroes, Regional Supervisor, DNR

State Administration:

Representative Sam Kito

Haines Borough Staff:

Brad Ryan, Facilities Director  
Carolann Wooton, Tourism Director  
Holly Smith, Planner

Haines Borough Mayor: Jan Hill

Southeast Roadbuilders