

## APPENDIX D

### NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

## SECTION 106 CONSULTATION INITIATION



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

June 12, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

Judith Bittner  
Chief, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)  
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Consultation Initiation

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the City of Whittier, proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The Forest Service is a cooperating agency for this effort. Whittier is approximately 55 miles southeast of Anchorage, Alaska within the Valdez-Cordova Census Area. The project is located within Sections 3, 8, 9, and 17, Township 8 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian. The project can be located on the USGS Seward (D-5) SE Quadrangle (Figure 1). Because the proposed project is being funded by FHWA, the federal action is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending with a small parking lot at Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels. The purpose of the proposal is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth.

The majority of the roadway would be located on City of Whittier-owned land and would end with a parking area on Forest Service property. Construction of the main road section would include an approximately 80-foot wide clearing limit and would install two 10-foot gravel travel lanes, two 5-foot gravel shoulders, and rock catchment area. The smaller spur roads would consist of an approximately 65-foot wide clearing limit and two nine-foot gravel travel lanes. Construction would also include drainage swales or rock cuts along uphill sides and culverts at major creeks and small drainage features that meet Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish passage criteria where anadromous and resident fish species are present. Project activities would include geotechnical investigations; clearing and grading; placement of fill and gravel; culvert installation; signage and guardrail installation; and reestablishing vegetation in disturbed areas.

FHWA defines the area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed Shotgun Cove Road extension as a 200-foot corridor centered on the proposed 2.5-mile main and spur roads' center lines. In 2018, FHWA tasked Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) with conducting a desktop study of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and an archeological field investigation of the proposed project area to identify cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the project area. The desktop study revealed that there are no known or documented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the project area. In August 2018, CRC led an archaeological field investigation of the proposed extension that included a pedestrian survey of accessible areas of the proposed routes, and the fieldwork concluded that no cultural or historical resources were at risk from the proposed project. Nothing of prehistoric or historical archaeological significance was found during the survey and the area was determined to have little archaeological potential due to its steep topography and prevalent wetlands. The only cultural remains revealed by the field survey within the proposed project area were four culturally modified trees (CMTs) and many saw-cut stumps. According to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, individual or small groups of CMTs are not usually considered significant; though, their presence demonstrates past use of the project area (CRC 2018/2019; Appendix A).

Following completion of the 2018 cultural resources survey report, the proposed project was extended to terminate on Forest Service land. In September of 2019 CRC completed an additional archaeological survey for the Shotgun Cove Road extension revised proposed road terminus, which was included as an addendum to the 2018 survey. No additional historic or cultural resources were discovered as a result of the 2019 survey.

The APE was updated in May 2020 to include potential future development plats along the proposed alignment and now covers all of City of Whittier-owned land in the project area and Forest Service-owned land at Trinity Point (Figure 2). Based on CRC's study of the revised APE, they have recommended areas for additional fieldwork survey that were not covered in the previous two efforts and have the potential to contain cultural resources (CRC 2020; Appendix B). The additional study is planned for June 12-15, assuming approvals from the Forest Service are received.

We request your comments on the proposed project with regard to the potential for the project to impact historic properties, and the proposed methodology for additional survey of the APE. FHWA and the Forest Service will also consult with the Native Village of Eyak, Native Village of Chenega, Native Village of Tatitlek, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Eyak Corporation, Chenega Corporation, and the Tatitlek Corporation to determine if the tribes have interests or concerns regarding the project.

Please contact me if you have concerns, questions, or should you require any additional information. I can be reached at the above address, by phone at 360-619-7636, or by e-mail at [michael.schurke@dot.gov](mailto:michael.schurke@dot.gov). If you have concerns or questions regarding the portion of the project located on Trinity Point, you can contact Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Chugach National Forest, by mail at 145 Forest Station Road, Girdwood, Alaska 99587, by phone at 907-754-2320, or by e-mail at [tim.chnon@usda.gov](mailto:tim.chnon@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Michael Schurke  
Archaeologist, MA, RPA  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Enclosures:

- Figures
- Appendix A: CRC, Inc. 2018/2019. Cultural Resources Survey of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension, Whittier, Alaska
- Appendix B: CRC, Inc. 2020. Field Study Plan

cc: Seth English-Young, Sr. Transportation Planner, FHWA  
Jennifer Chariarse, Sr. Environmental Technical Specialist, FHWA  
Samantha Shields, Program Manager, FHWA  
Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Forest Service  
Kori Marchowsky, Environmental Coordinator, Forest Service  
Heather Hall, Archaeologist and Tribal Relations, Forest Service

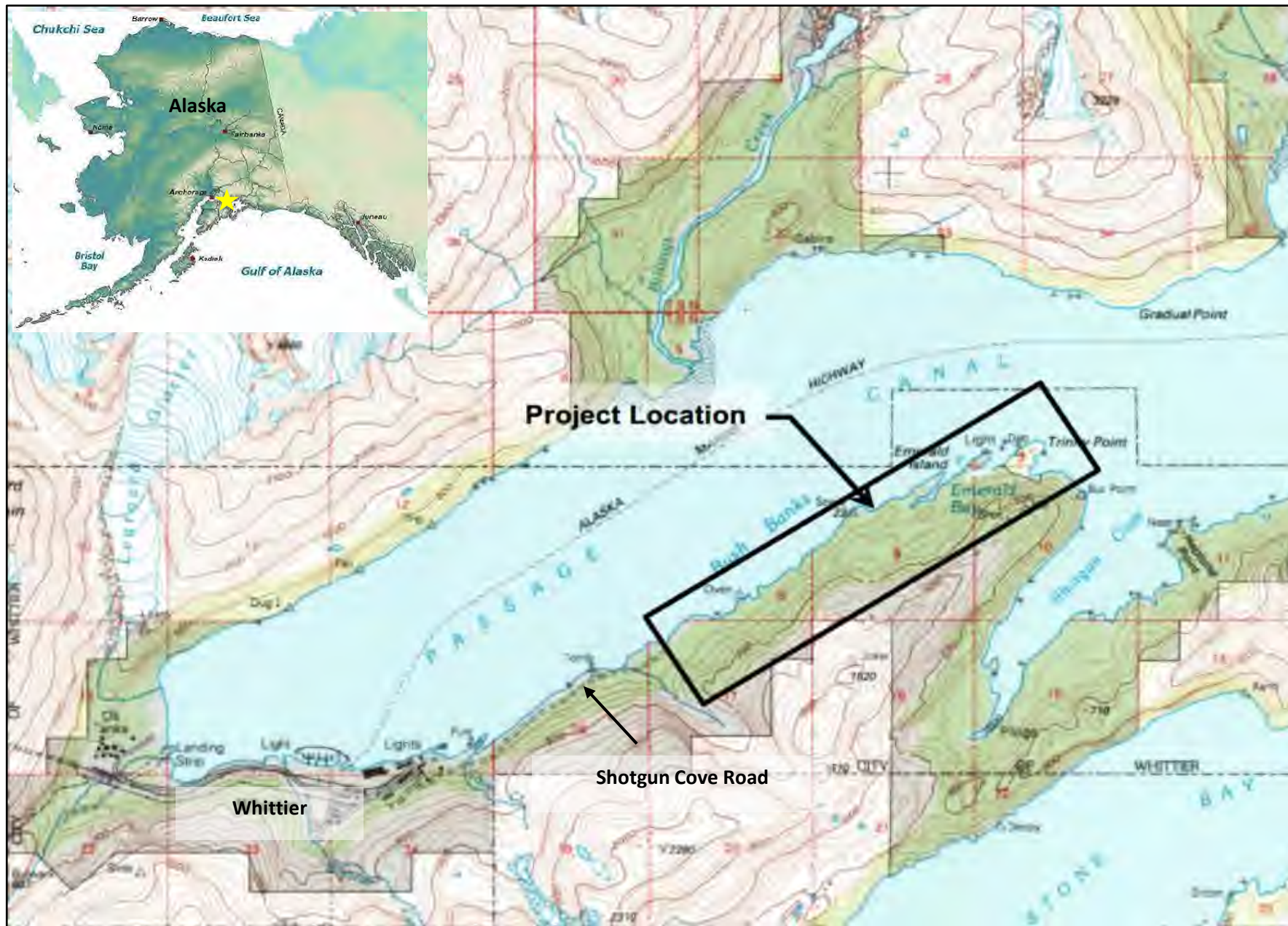
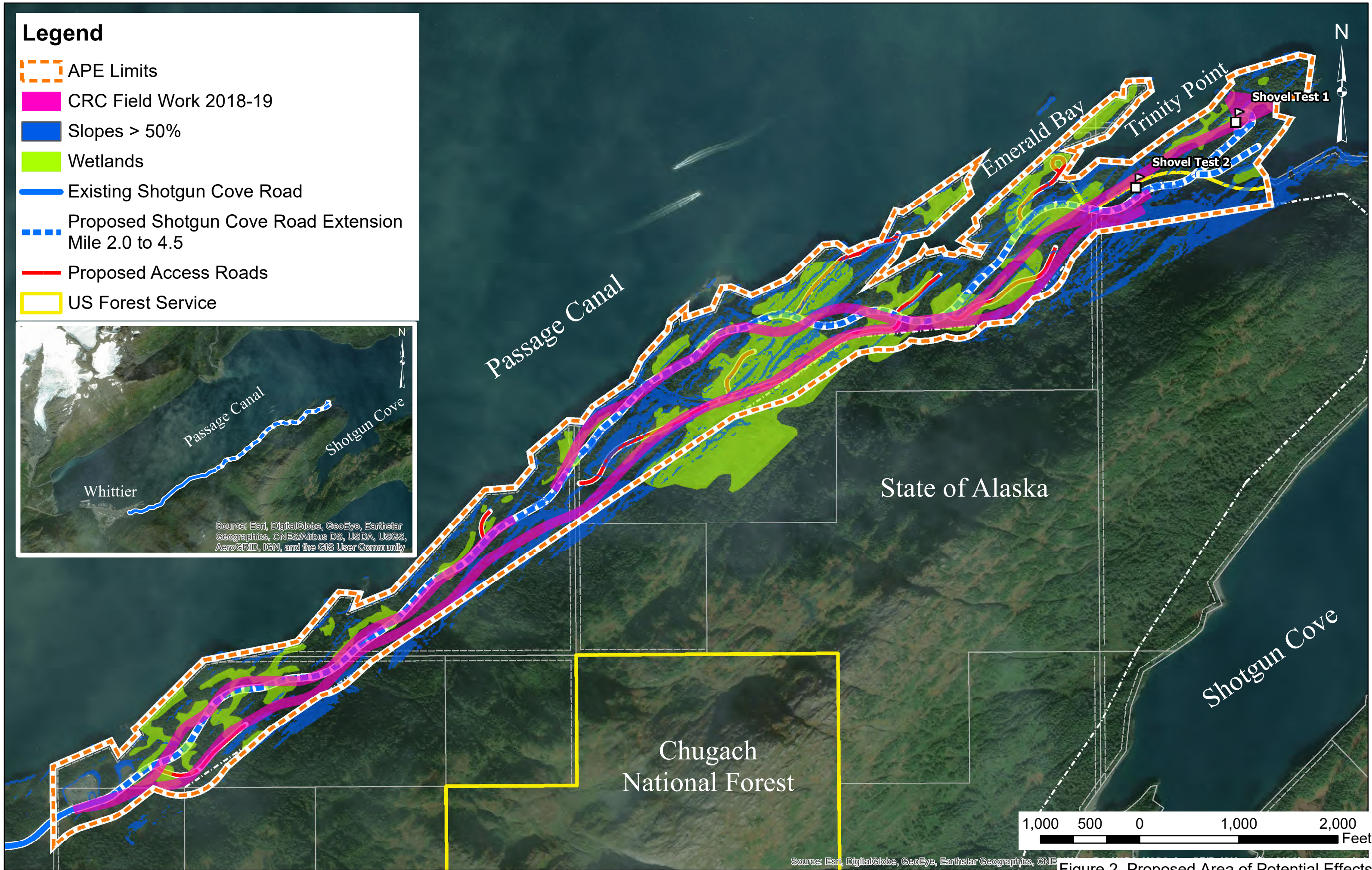


Figure 1. Proposed Project Location and Vicinity



# Legend

- APE Limits
- CRC Field Work 2018-19
- Slopes > 50%
- Wetlands
- Existing Shotgun Cove Road
- Proposed Shotgun Cove Road Extension  
Mile 2.0 to 4.5
- Proposed Access Roads
- US Forest Service



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2. Proposed Area of Potential Effects





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

June 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

Judith Bittner  
Chief, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)  
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension Geotechnical Investigation, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Consultation Initiation

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the City of Whittier, proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The Forest Service is a cooperating agency for this effort. Whittier is approximately 55 miles southeast of Anchorage, Alaska within the Valdez–Cordova Census Area. The project is located within Sections 3, 8, 9, and 17, Township 8 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian. The project can be located on the USGS Seward (D-5) SE Quadrangle (Figure 1). Because the proposed project is being funded by FHWA, the federal action is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As a part of the design effort for this project, FHWA is proposing a geotechnical study. The purpose of this effort is to gather needed geotechnical information from locations along the proposed roadway alignment to support design of roadway stream crossings' culverts. This information is needed for the design to be developed to meet engineering and safety specifications.

### **Project Details**

Three to five boreholes would be taken at the gravel staging area in previously disturbed areas at the end of the existing Shotgun Cove Road. Three boreholes (#1-#3) would be taken along the alignment near stream crossings along the alignment.

At borehole #1, the project team would clear a 50-foot radius around the boring site to provide a safe location for a helicopter to sling in equipment boring equipment and land to deliver geotech field scientists to the site. No clearing would occur below ordinary high water (OHW) of any waterbody, and all cleared material would be placed above OHW. The helicopter would place the small drill rig at the borehole location.

At boreholes #2 and #3, clearing would be limited and minor, since the landing locations would be within areas that are free of large trees and shrubs. The helicopter would sling in the drill rig and land to deliver field scientists to the site. The drill rig, equipped with tracks, would be moved no more than about 25 feet to the bore hole location.



At each location, the exploratory drill hole borings would be advanced using a small drilling rig. To obtain the borings at the existing gravel pad, a Geoprobe 3972 truck-mounted rig would be used. To obtain the borings along the alignment, a Geoprobe 1028 track-mounted rig would be brought in with a helicopter. Borings will be approximately 30-70 feet below ground surface. Borings through soil (likely only a few feet deep) would be 6 to 8 inches in diameter. Borings through rock would be 3 inches in diameter. Water would be pumped from adjacent creeks for the boring operation.

Water from the drilling operations would be directed to a small containment pool within uplands. In order to reach a suitable uplands discharge area, the discharge hose may be lain across and across creeks to reach the opposite bank. No water from drilling operations would be discharged into the creeks.

### **Area of Potential Effects**

FHWA defines the area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed geotechnical study as the 50-foot maximum clearing radius around each boring site. For the boring sites located in the previously-disturbed gravel pad, the APE includes the gravel pad only since no clearing is proposed (Figure 2). In 2018, FHWA tasked Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) with conducting a desktop study of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and an archeological field investigation of the proposed project area to identify cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the project area. The desktop study revealed that there are no known or documented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the project area. In August 2018, CRC led an archaeological field investigation of the proposed extension that included a pedestrian survey of accessible areas of the proposed routes, and the fieldwork concluded that no cultural or historical resources were at risk from the proposed project. Nothing of prehistoric or historical archaeological significance was found during the survey and the area was determined to have little archaeological potential due to its steep topography and prevalent wetlands. The only cultural remains revealed by the field survey within the proposed project area were four culturally modified trees (CMTs) and many saw-cut stumps. According to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, individual or small groups of CMTs are not usually considered significant; though, their presence demonstrates past use of the project area (CRC 2018/2019; Appendix A; Figure 3).

We request your comments on the proposed project with regard to the potential for the project to impact historic properties. FHWA and the Forest Service will also consult with the Native Village of Eyak, Native Village of Chenega, Native Village of Tatitlek, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Eyak Corporation, Chenega Corporation, and the Tatitlek Corporation to determine if the tribes have interests or concerns regarding the project.

Please contact me if you have concerns, questions, or should you require any additional information. I can be reached at the above address, by phone at 360-619-7636, or by e-mail at [michael.schurke@dot.gov](mailto:michael.schurke@dot.gov)

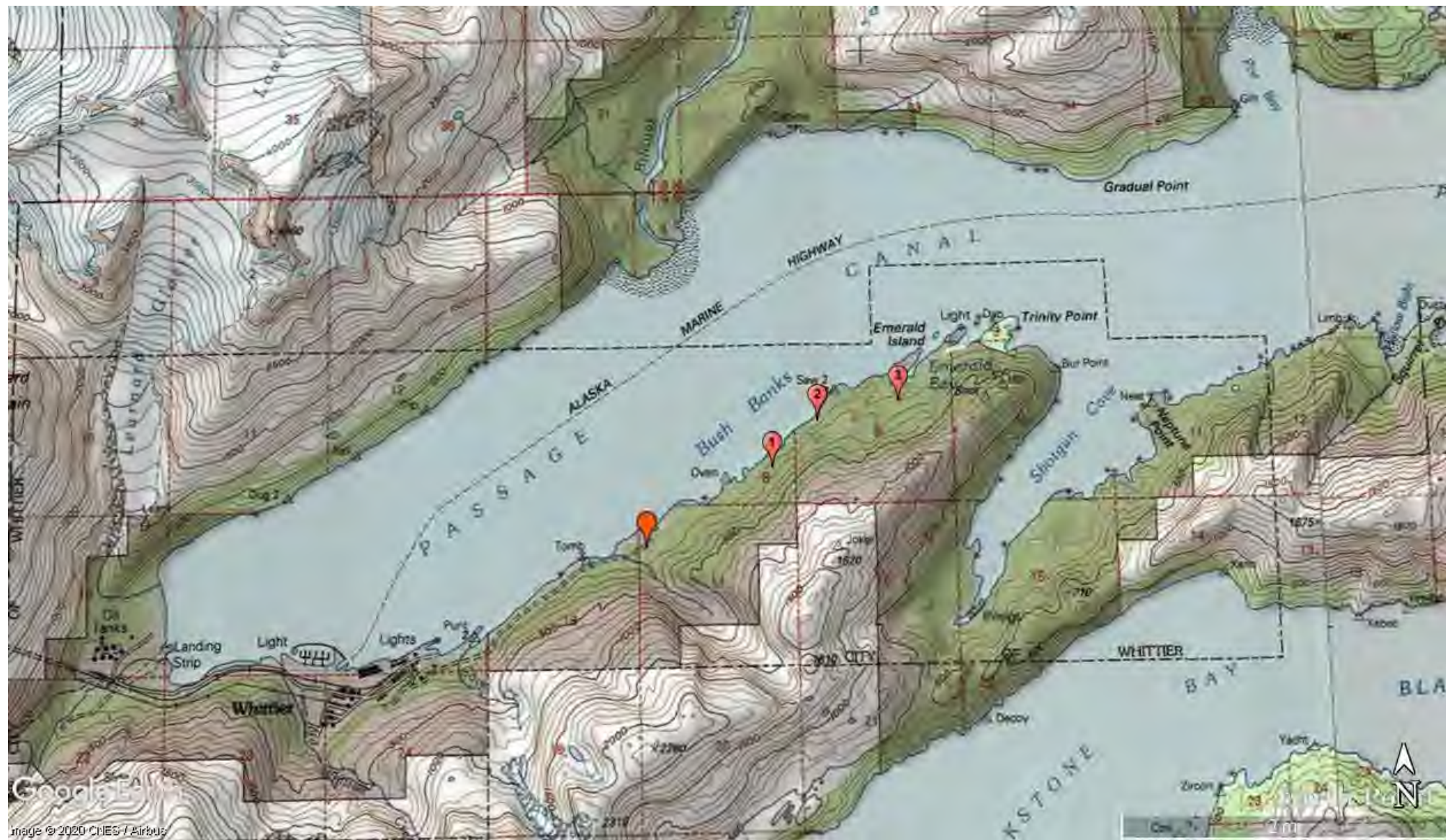
Sincerely,

Michael Schurke  
Archaeologist, MA, RPA  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Enclosures:

- Figures
- Appendix A: CRC, Inc. 2018/2019. Cultural Resources Survey of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension, Whittier, Alaska

cc: Seth English-Young, Sr. Transportation Planner, FHWA  
Jennifer Chariarse, Sr. Environmental Technical Specialist, FHWA  
Samantha Shields, Program Manager, FHWA  
Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Forest Service  
Kori Marchowsky, Environmental Coordinator, Forest Service  
Heather Hall, Archaeologist and Tribal Relations, Forest Service



### Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity



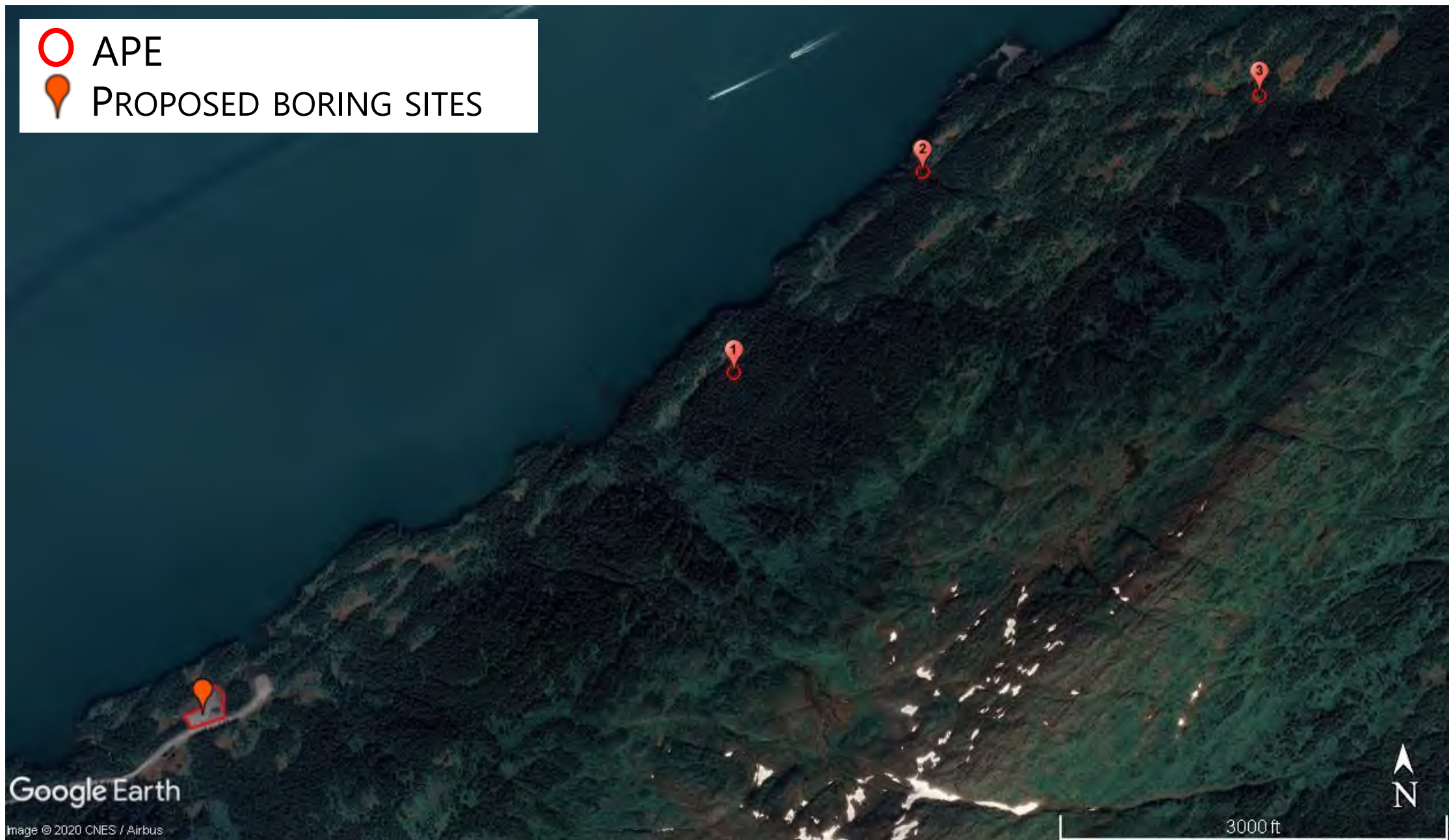


Figure 2. Proposed Area of Potential Effects



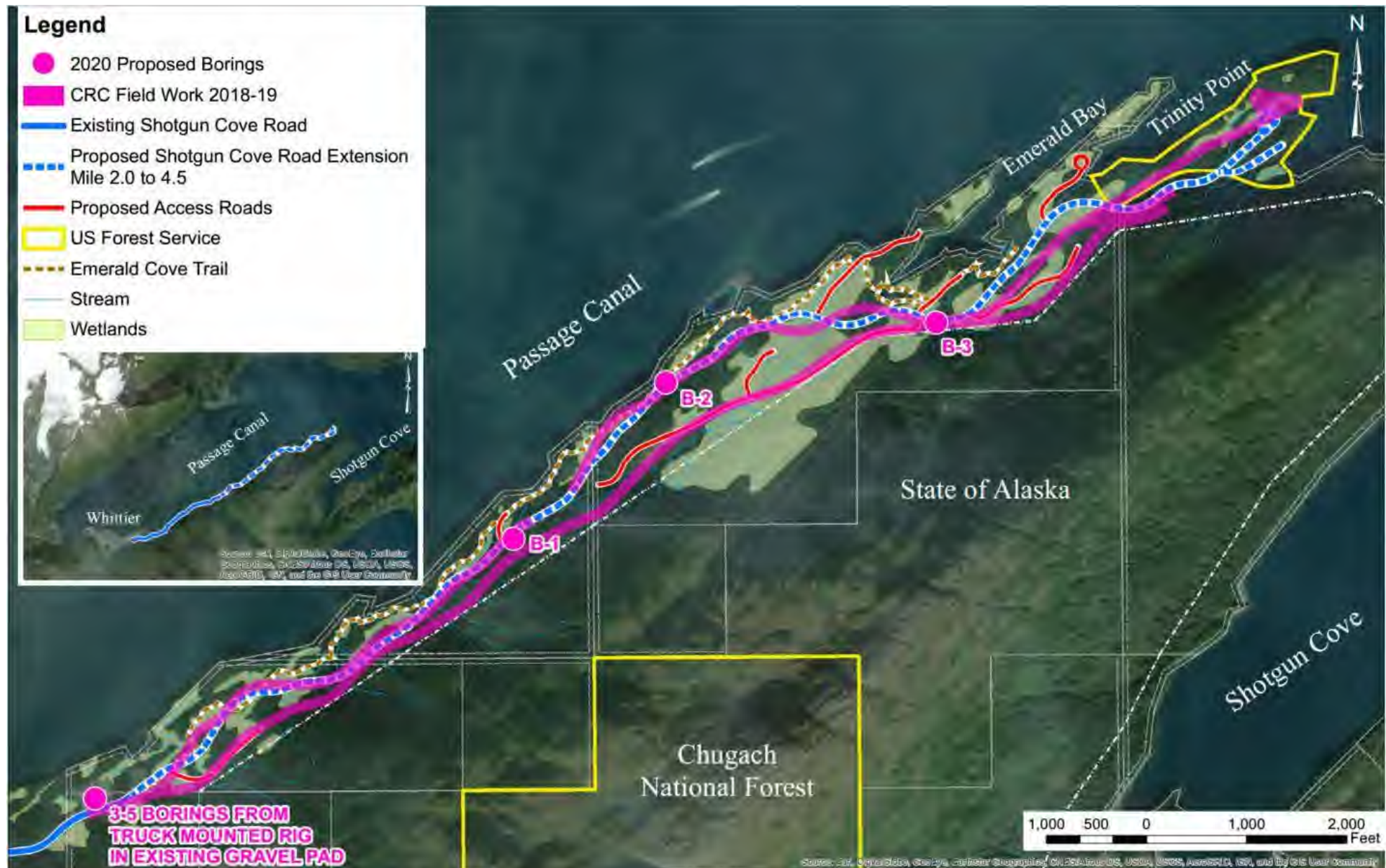


Figure 3. 2018/2019 Archaeological Surveys



U.S. Department  
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**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Larry Evanoff  
Chenega IRA Council  
3000 C Street, Suite 301  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)

Dear Mr. Larry Evanoff,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL), in partnership with the City of Whittier and the Chugach National Forest, is seeking comments and/or participation from the Chenega IRA Council regarding the Shotgun Cove Road Extension project located in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area in Alaska (see attached vicinity map and preliminary area of potential effect map). The project proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The proposed project is in the early planning phases of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This letter is requesting government-to-government consultation with the Chenega IRA Council. We would gladly discuss the project in further detail, should you have interest. You may contact us by mail, phone or email. Our contact information is included at the end of this letter.

For the purpose of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), FHWA requests notification if the Chenega IRA Council believe cultural resources that the Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance to may be affected by the proposed project. Please forward this letter to your cultural resource officer to initiate Section 106 Tribal consultation.

The purpose of the proposed project, as currently defined, is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth. Specifically, the project is focused on providing access to federal and state coastal lands and uplands along Passage Canal, on Trinity Point, and within Prince William



Sound; and providing access to City land for commercial or residential development as required by the 1999 agreement with the State of Alaska.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending with a small parking lot at Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels.

As a part of the design effort for this project, FHWA is proposing a geotechnical study. The geotechnical effort is to gather needed geotechnical information from locations along the proposed roadway alignment to support design of roadway stream crossings' culverts to meet engineering and safety specifications. Three to five boreholes would be taken at the gravel staging area in previously disturbed areas at the end of the existing Shotgun Cove Road. In addition, three boreholes (#1-#3) would be taken along the alignment near stream crossings along the alignment on City-owned land. The borehole locations are within the proposed APE and are shown on the attached map.

Please review the enclosed map and contact FHWA with any questions or concerns by July 13, 2020, or at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me or Seth English-Young at 360-619-7803 or [seth.english-young@dot.gov](mailto:seth.english-young@dot.gov). Additionally, since a portion of the project is within US Forest Service jurisdiction (at Trinity Point), feel free to contact Tim Charnon, District Ranger for the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest at [tim.charnon@usda.gov](mailto:tim.charnon@usda.gov) or 907-754-2320 for Forest Service-related questions or comments.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Renee Sigel, Acting WFL Division Director

Enclosures:

Project Vicinity Map

Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

Geotechnical Borehole Locations

Cc:

Samantha Shields WFL Program Manager

Seth English-Young, WFL Transportation Planner

Mike Schurke, WFL Archaeologist

Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest

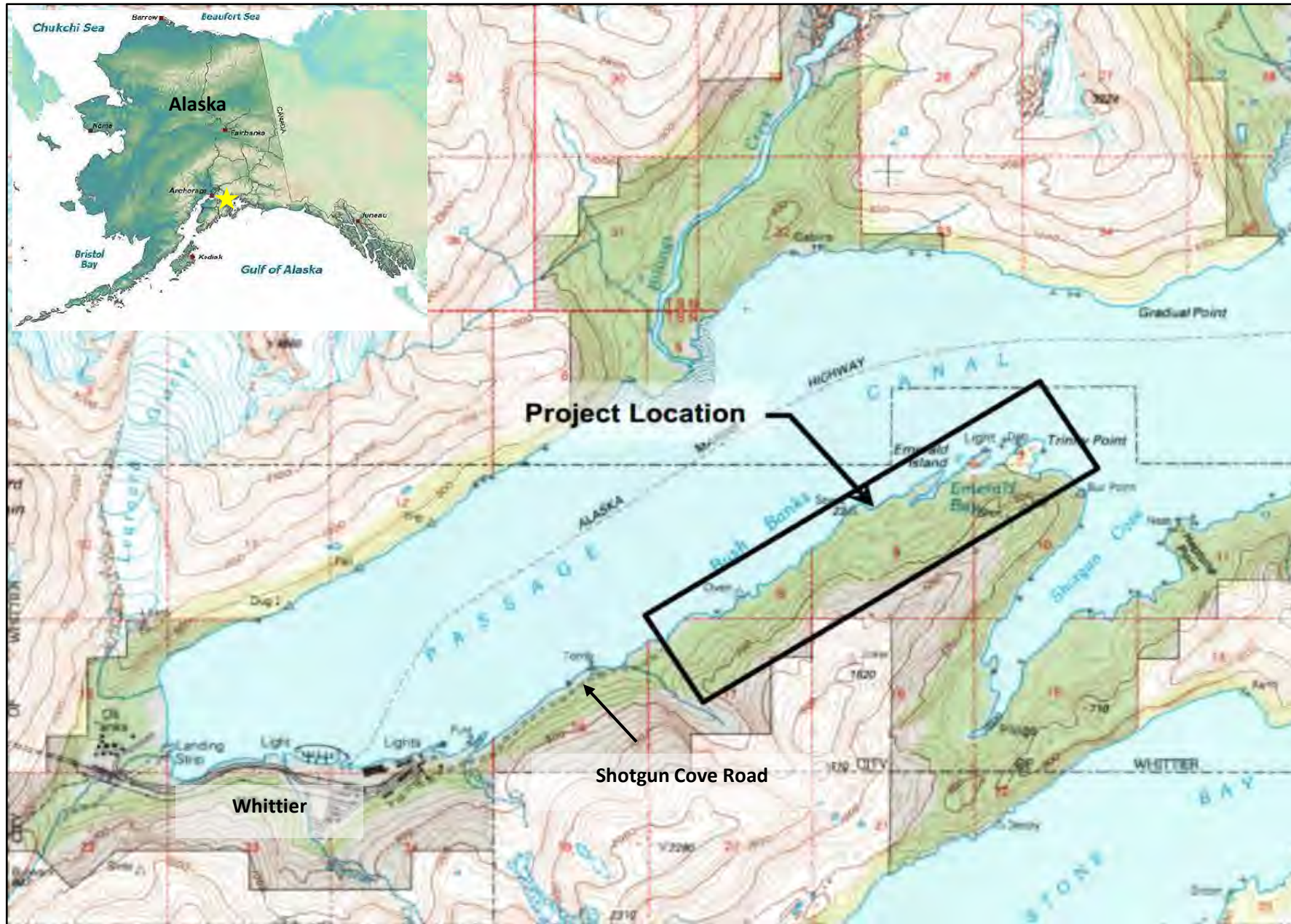










Figure 1. Proposed Project Location and Vicinity



**Legend**

-  APE Limits
-  CRC Field Work 2018-19
-  Slopes > 50%
-  Wetlands
-  Existing Shotgun Cove Road
-  Proposed Shotgun Cove Road Extension Mile 2.0 to 4.5
-  Proposed Access Roads
-  US Forest Service

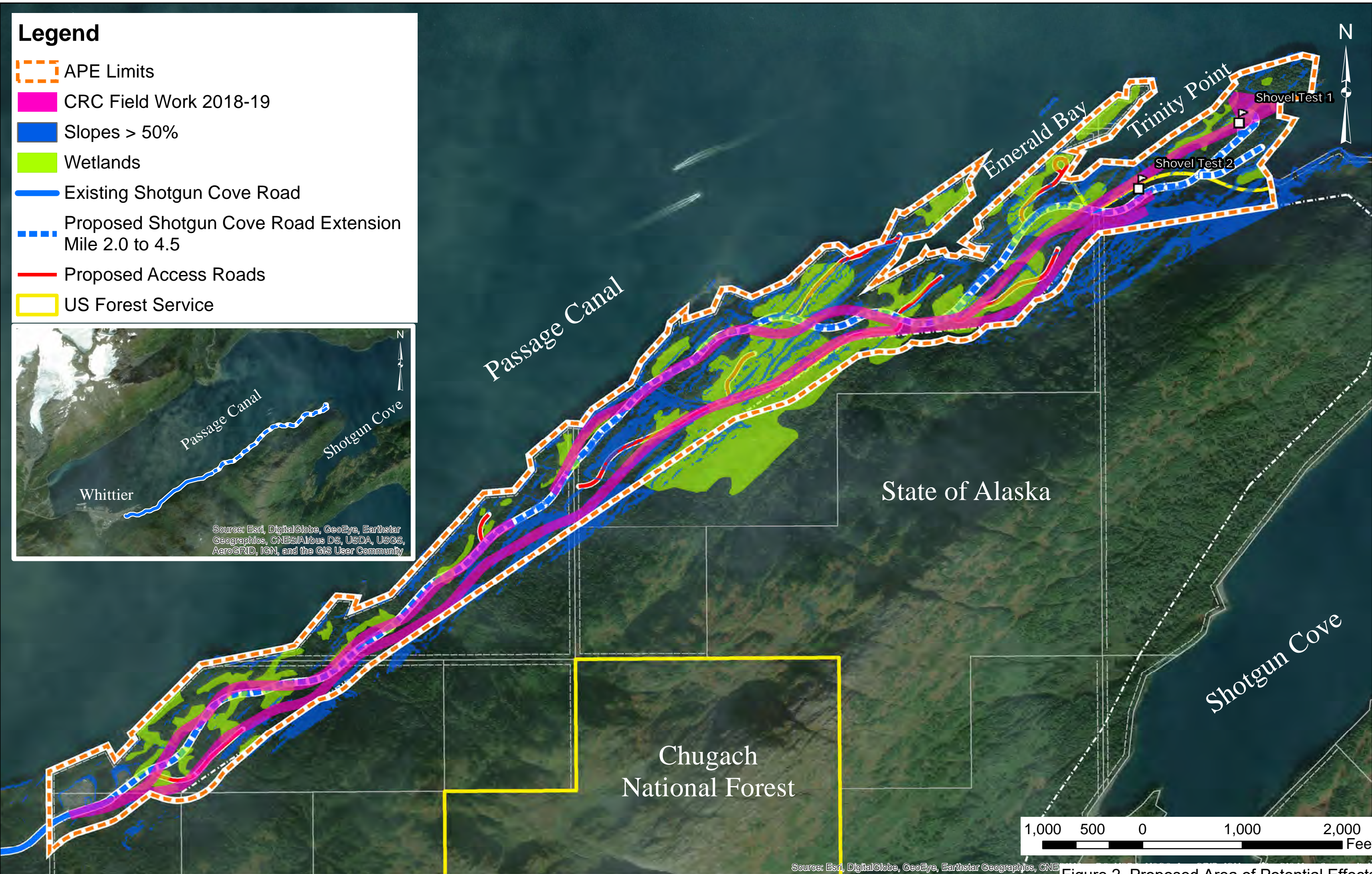


Figure 2. Proposed Area of Potential Effects



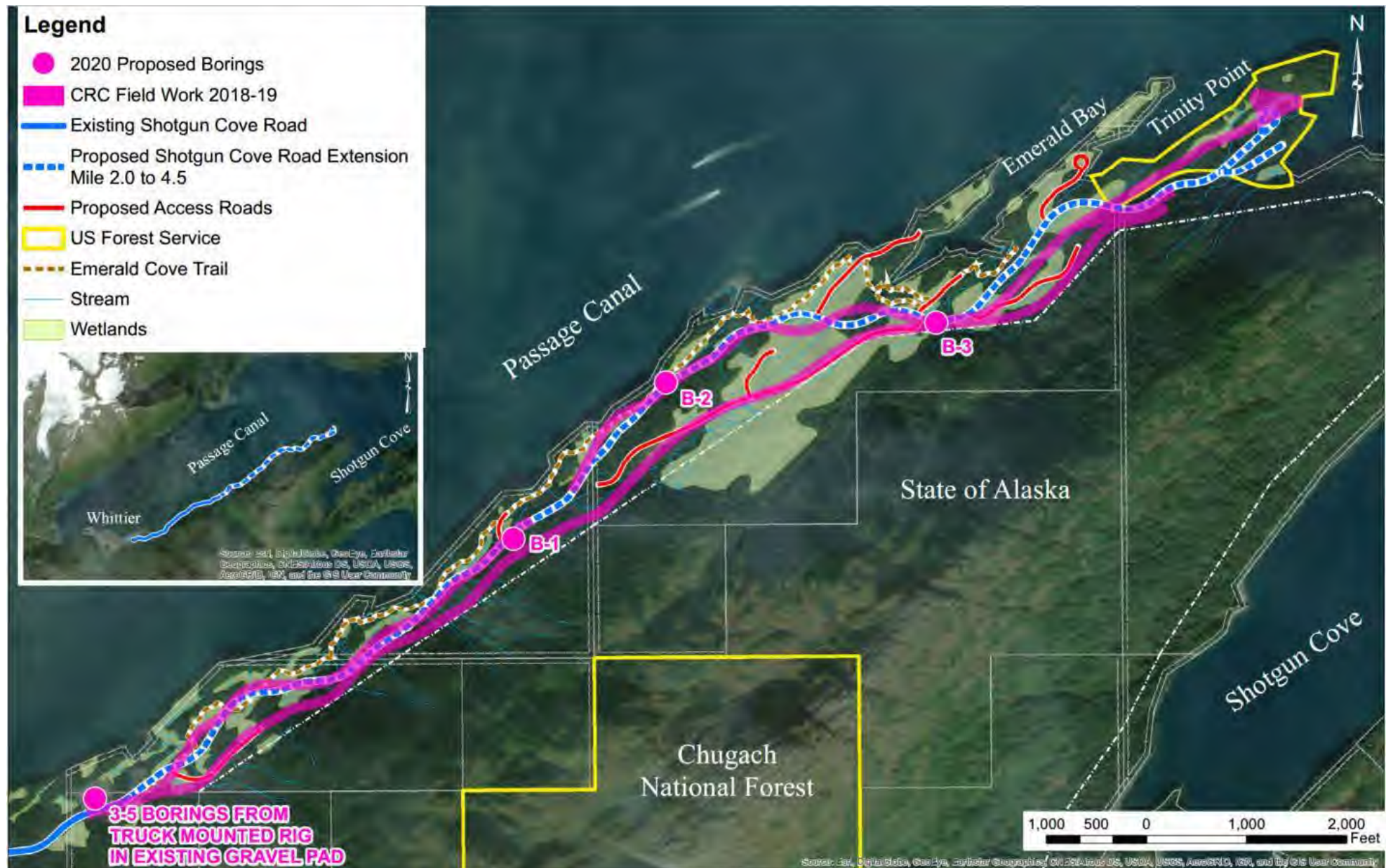


Figure 3. 2018/2019 Archaeological Surveys



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610 E. Fifth Street

Vancouver, WA 98661

Phone 360-619-7700

Fax 360-619-7846

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Nanci Robart  
Tatitlek IRA Council  
PO Box 171  
Tatitlek, Alaska 99677

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)

Dear Ms. Nanci Robart,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL), in partnership with the City of Whittier and the Chugach National Forest, is seeking comments and/or participation from the Tatitlek IRA Council regarding the Shotgun Cove Road Extension project located in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area in Alaska (see attached vicinity map and preliminary area of potential effect map). The project proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The proposed project is in the early planning phases of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This letter is requesting government-to-government consultation with the Tatitlek IRA Council. We would gladly discuss the project in further detail, should you have interest. You may contact us by mail, phone or email. Our contact information is included at the end of this letter.

For the purpose of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), FHWA requests notification if the Tatitlek IRA Council believe cultural resources that the Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance to may be affected by the proposed project. Please forward this letter to your cultural resource officer to initiate Section 106 Tribal consultation.

The purpose of the proposed project, as currently defined, is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth. Specifically, the project is focused on providing access to federal and state coastal lands and uplands along Passage Canal, on Trinity Point, and within Prince William Sound; and providing access to City land for commercial or residential development as required by the 1999 agreement with the State of Alaska.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending with a small parking lot at Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels.

As a part of the design effort for this project, FHWA is proposing a geotechnical study. The geotechnical effort is to gather needed geotechnical information from locations along the proposed roadway alignment to support design of roadway stream crossings' culverts to meet engineering and safety specifications. Three to five boreholes would be taken at the gravel staging area in previously disturbed areas at the end of the existing Shotgun Cove Road. In addition, three boreholes (#1-#3) would be taken along the alignment near stream crossings along the alignment on City-owned land. The borehole locations are within the proposed APE and are shown on the attached map.

Please review the enclosed map and contact FHWA with any questions or concerns by July 13, 2020, or at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me or Seth English-Young at 360-619-7803 or [seth.english-young@dot.gov](mailto:seth.english-young@dot.gov). Additionally, since a portion of the project is within US Forest Service jurisdiction (at Trinity Point), feel free to contact Tim Charnon, District Ranger for the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest at [tim.chnon@usda.gov](mailto:tim.chnon@usda.gov) or 907-754-2320 for Forest Service-related questions or comments.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Renee Sigel, Acting WFL Division Director

Enclosures:

Project Vicinity Map  
Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map  
Geotechnical Borehole Locations

Cc:

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Seth English-Young, WFL Transportation Planner  
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610 E. Fifth Street  
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Phone 360-619-7700  
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June 10, 2020

The Honorable Sheri Buretta  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
3800 Centerpoint Drive, Ste 1200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)

Dear Ms. Sheri Buretta,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL), in partnership with the City of Whittier and the Chugach National Forest, is seeking comments and/or participation from the Chugach Alaska Corporation regarding the Shotgun Cove Road Extension project located in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area in Alaska (see attached vicinity map and preliminary area of potential effect map). The project proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The proposed project is in the early planning phases of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This letter is requesting government-to-government consultation with the Chugach Alaska Corporation. We would gladly discuss the project in further detail, should you have interest. You may contact us by mail, phone or email. Our contact information is included at the end of this letter.

For the purpose of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), FHWA requests notification if the Chugach Alaska Corporation believe cultural resources that the Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance to may be affected by the proposed project. Please forward this letter to your cultural resource officer to initiate Section 106 Tribal consultation.

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June 10, 2020

The Honorable Mr. Charles Totemoff  
Chenega Corporation  
3000 C Street, Suite 301  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)

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Sound; and providing access to City land for commercial or residential development as required by the 1999 agreement with the State of Alaska.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending with a small parking lot at Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels.

As a part of the design effort for this project, FHWA is proposing a geotechnical study. The geotechnical effort is to gather needed geotechnical information from locations along the proposed roadway alignment to support design of roadway stream crossings' culverts to meet engineering and safety specifications. Three to five boreholes would be taken at the gravel staging area in previously disturbed areas at the end of the existing Shotgun Cove Road. In addition, three boreholes (#1-#3) would be taken along the alignment near stream crossings along the alignment on City-owned land. The borehole locations are within the proposed APE and are shown on the attached map.

Please review the enclosed map and contact FHWA with any questions or concerns by July 13, 2020, or at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me or Seth English-Young at 360-619-7803 or [seth.english-young@dot.gov](mailto:seth.english-young@dot.gov). Additionally, since a portion of the project is within US Forest Service jurisdiction (at Trinity Point), feel free to contact Tim Charnon, District Ranger for the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest at [tim.charnon@usda.gov](mailto:tim.charnon@usda.gov) or 907-754-2320 for Forest Service-related questions or comments.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Renee Sigel, Acting WFL Division Director

Enclosures:

Project Vicinity Map

Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

Geotechnical Borehole Locations

Cc:

Samantha Shields WFL Program Manager

Seth English-Young, WFL Transportation Planner

Mike Schurke, WFL Archaeologist

Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Roy Totemoff  
Tatitlek Corporation  
561 East 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)

Dear Mr. Roy Totemoff,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL), in partnership with the City of Whittier and the Chugach National Forest, is seeking comments and/or participation from the Tatitlek Corporation regarding the Shotgun Cove Road Extension project located in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area in Alaska (see attached vicinity map and preliminary area of potential effect map). The project proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The proposed project is in the early planning phases of the National Environmental Policy Act process.

This letter is requesting government-to-government consultation with the Tatitlek Corporation. We would gladly discuss the project in further detail, should you have interest. You may contact us by mail, phone or email. Our contact information is included at the end of this letter.

For the purpose of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), FHWA requests notification if the Tatitlek Corporation believe cultural resources that the Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance to may be affected by the proposed project. Please forward this letter to your cultural resource officer to initiate Section 106 Tribal consultation.

The purpose of the proposed project, as currently defined, is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth. Specifically, the project is focused on providing access to federal and state coastal lands and uplands along Passage Canal, on Trinity Point, and within Prince William

Sound; and providing access to City land for commercial or residential development as required by the 1999 agreement with the State of Alaska.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending with a small parking lot at Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels.

As a part of the design effort for this project, FHWA is proposing a geotechnical study. The geotechnical effort is to gather needed geotechnical information from locations along the proposed roadway alignment to support design of roadway stream crossings' culverts to meet engineering and safety specifications. Three to five boreholes would be taken at the gravel staging area in previously disturbed areas at the end of the existing Shotgun Cove Road. In addition, three boreholes (#1-#3) would be taken along the alignment near stream crossings along the alignment on City-owned land. The borehole locations are within the proposed APE and are shown on the attached map.

Please review the enclosed map and contact FHWA with any questions or concerns by July 13, 2020, or at your earliest convenience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me or Seth English-Young at 360-619-7803 or [seth.english-young@dot.gov](mailto:seth.english-young@dot.gov). Additionally, since a portion of the project is within US Forest Service jurisdiction (at Trinity Point), feel free to contact Tim Charnon, District Ranger for the Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest at [tim.charnon@usda.gov](mailto:tim.charnon@usda.gov) or 907-754-2320 for Forest Service-related questions or comments.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Renee Sigel, Acting WFL Division Director

Enclosures:

Project Vicinity Map

Preliminary Area of Potential Effect Map

Geotechnical Borehole Locations

Cc:

Samantha Shields WFL Program Manager

Seth English-Young, WFL Transportation Planner

Mike Schurke, WFL Archaeologist

Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Glacier Ranger District, Chugach National Forest



## MEETING SUMMARIES/RESPONSES

June 16, 2020

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)

Dear Bethany Renee,

We received your request for comments from The Tatitlek Corporation regarding the Shotgun Cove Road Extension Project located in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area in Alaska. After review of the project, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, The Tatitlek Corporation does not believe cultural resources that the Tribe attaches religious and cultural significance to will be affected by the proposed project, and approves of the project proceeding, including the planned geotechnical boreholes.

Best,



Roy Totemoff, CEO  
The Tatitlek Corporation

## Carrie Connaker

---

**From:** Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:41 PM  
**To:** Schurke, Michael (FHWA)  
**Cc:** seth.english-young; Meitl, Sarah J (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Geotech, APE and Fieldwork for SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION, AK WHITTIER 2016(1)  
**Attachments:** 3130-1R WFLHD 2020-00355 Shotgun Cove Geotech.pdf

3130-1R WFLHD / 2020-00355

Good afternoon,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated June 12, 2020) concerning the subject project on June 16, 2020. Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur with the finding of No Historic Properties Affected. Please note that our office may need to re-evaluate our concurrence if changes are made to the project's scope or design.

As stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3, other consulting parties such as the local government and Tribes are required to be notified of the undertaking. Additional information provided by the local government, Tribes, or other consulting parties may cause our office to re-evaluate our comments and recommendations. Please note that our response does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties. Should unidentified archaeological resources be discovered in the course of the project, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4), in consultation with our office. Please note that some sites can be deeply buried and that fossils are considered cultural resources subject to the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Sarah Meitl at 907-269-8720 or [sarah.meitl@alaska.gov](mailto:sarah.meitl@alaska.gov) if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Best,

**Sarah Meitl**

Review and Compliance Coordinator  
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office  
Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561  
Direct: 907-269-8720

[sarah.meitl@alaska.gov](mailto:sarah.meitl@alaska.gov)  
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

*Teleworking - Email is the best method of communication.*

---

**From:** Schurke, Michael (FHWA) <Michael.Schurke@dot.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 11:54 AM  
**To:** Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>



**Cc:** seth.english-young <seth.english-young@dot.gov>

**Subject:** Geotech, APE and Fieldwork for SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION, AK WHITTIER 2016(1)

Hi Sarah,

Attached is a request for concurrence with a No Historic Properties Affected for proposed geotech work associated with the SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION, AK WHITTIER 2016(1), project. Also attached are geotech figures and the cultural report.

I will be sending another email shortly with the Section 106 APE and proposed fieldwork letter; and project APE GIS shape files for the overall project.

Mike

**MIKE SCHURKE** ARCHAEOLOGIST, MA, RPA  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION  
610 EAST FIFTH STREET, VANCOUVER, WA 98661  
(360) 619-7636 (Office) / (360) 619-7846 (Fax) / [michael.schurke@dot.gov](mailto:michael.schurke@dot.gov)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

**Consultation between Chugach Alaska Corporation and Federal Highway Administration  
Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
July 1, 2020, 1-2pm AKDT**

**Microsoft Teams Link: [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

**Attendees:**

David Phillips, Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC)  
Josie Hickel, Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Matt Ellis, Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Ben Cutrell, Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Tim Charnon, US Forest Service (USFS)  
Seth English-Young, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Scott Korbe, City of Whittier  
Robin Reich, Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc (Solstice)

**Agenda:**

*1. Introductions (All)*

David Phillips: Chugach is project partner since 2000--helped secured funding.

Josie Hickel: Executive VP of lands and resources. Sees mutual benefit. Looking for opportunities to provide economic development.

Seth English-Young: FHWA involvement is based on Federal Lands Access Program. Project twice received funds from the FLAP call for projects to access the FS land at Trinity Point. City of Whittier is delivering project, has hired a consultant team. FHWA-WFL is providing Stewardship and Oversight and is the federal lead agency for NEPA and all federal processes. FS is NEPA cooperating agency

*2. Description of project status (FHWA, Solstice)*

Robin Reich: Solstice started work with the city in 2018 and did early coordination with SHPO who wanted cultural resource survey and ADFG who wanted survey on salmon. In 2018 CRC did cultural resources work and salmon stream work. Engineers looked at 2 different alignments. Over 2018-2019 narrowed down to one alignment (low alignment). Also extended into forest service land. Did additional CR work in 2019. Meanwhile working on EA sections. Have consulted more with the SHPO, and expanded the area of potential effect (specifically doing more investigation into the shorelines).

We're trying to get NEPA environmental process wrapped up by end of 2020. Then work on environmental permits in 2021.

Josie: Do you anticipate any challenges or pushback from EA process, the public or permitting?

Robin: Held a number of public meetings in Whittier. Public has asked about the indirect and cumulative effects of the project. Have talked with the USACE about wetland impacts. I'm not seeing any show-stoppers.

Scott Korbe: Funding started out with a land grant of over 600 acres from State of Alaska. Received WFL and State of Alaska money to work on the first segment. Expanded the project to go onto the FS. All in received \$5.5-6 million so far. Funding for the future is still up in the air. But we want to be ready to go if funding becomes available.

Yes, there will be land development out there at some point. Road fulfills several different purposes, access to native Corporation, access to FS land, access to future private land development. It's a team effort with all the groups working together.

Josie: I know Dave has been involved with this from the beginning. We're happy to do what we can to move this project forward. I would like to understand from a financial perspective. What is total cost?

Scott: \$25 million all in. Expensive to build per mile. There is a lot of bidding strategy. But we need to get EA and permits completed before we bid. Spent some money on Value Engineering to save money on the first road extension project.

Our engineer at CRW has done aerial and 3d renderings. What can we do with least visual impact. We'll get you the ability to look at that.

### *3. Sharing of information about cultural resource investigation conducted and preliminary findings (FHWA)*

Josie: When do you expect a draft EA?

Robin: Looking at the end of the year.

Josie: Please give us a heads-up for our review.

Robin: We will provide the draft EA for review when it is completed. Cultural resources report will be available within the next month or so. We will provide then.

### *4. Inquiry to CAC if there is more information that can be provided (CAC)*

Josie: At the last phase we had an agreement and some of our gravel resources were used for the project. Is there any opportunity for Chugach to provide gravel/materials?

Seth: From a FHWA perspective, I would have to take that to management (to make sure we comply with all necessary regulations), but it has been noted.

Dave: Some of the gravel/rock resources seems to be competent. We would be willing to work with the project to provide resources. Also meets USACE requirements.

### *5. Inquiry to CAC if there is any information that they would like to share, including issues or concerns about the project or potential impacts to cultural resources (CAC)*

Josie: Don't have any specific concerns. Will look for the updated report.



Dave: Our VP of cultural resources John Johnson is comfortable with Heather Hall and SHPO taking the lead.

Tim: Follow up for Dave. CR report and surveys were completed by Cultural Resources Consulting. FS has been involved in review.

Seth: FHWA also has an archaeologist in our office who is very familiar with the Section 106 process and working with SHPO, Tribes, and in Alaska.

*6. Inquiry to CAC if there are any alternatives or mitigation that would address issues (CAC)*

Seth: Any specific issues or measures regarding the Geotechnical Borings?

Dave: CAC is comfortable with the borings.

*7. Next Steps*

- a. Send out meeting notes - Seth
- b. Provide CAC the 3D renderings - Completed
- c. Provide CAC the Cultural Resources Report when completed – Scott and Robin
- d. Provide CAC the Draft EA when completed – Scott and Robin



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

**Consultation between Chenega Corporation, Chenega IRA  
and Federal Highway Administration  
Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
July 15, 2020, 11am-12pm AKDT  
Conference Call**

**Attendees:**

- Larry Evanoff, Chenega IRA, President of IRA Council
- Buell Russell, Chenega IRA, GM Native Village of Chenega
- Charles Totemoff, Chenega Corp., CEO of Chenega Corp, Chairman IRA Council
- Douglas Fuller, Chenega Corp. VP Chenega Corp, Govt Relations Council
- Larry Lau, Chenega Corp., Lands guy
- Benjamin Speiss, Landye Bennett Blumstein LLC, Lawyer, represents both Chenega Corp and Native Village of Chenega
- Tim Charnon, US Forest Service (USFS), District Ranger
- Seth English-Young, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Samantha Shields, FHWA, Program Manager
- Scott Korbe, City of Whittier, Director of Public Works
- Robin Reich, Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc (Solstice)

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions (All)
2. Description of project status (FHWA, Solstice)
  - a. FHWA involvement is based on Federal Lands Access Program. Project twice received funds from the FLAP call for projects to access the FS land at Trinity Point. City of Whittier is delivering project, has hired a consultant team. FHWA-WFL is providing Stewardship and Oversight and is the federal lead agency for NEPA and all federal processes. FS is NEPA cooperating agency.
  - b. Consultant team hired for road extension in 2018. Looked at two options, high and low routes. Design constraints found that the low option was more feasible.
3. Sharing of information about cultural resource investigation conducted and preliminary findings (FHWA, Solstice)
  - a. In 2018 CRC and ADFG did surveys of both high and low options. Found a few culturally modified trees away from the alignments. Went back out in Summer 2019 to look at additional area especially at Trinity Point. Public meeting in January 2020. SHPO asked us to go out and look at more areas, mainly the beaches. We surveyed in June 2020 and didn't find any more cultural resources. We are updating the cultural resource report and hoping to be done in a month.
4. Inquiry to Chenega IRA and Chenega Corp. if there is more information that can be provided

- a. Larry Evanoff: If you do find artifacts, where is that going to go?
    - i. Robin: If they were found during survey work then they would have notified SHPO. If during construction, there are protections in place to stop construction and call SHPO to determine plan.
  - b. Ben: Chugach Alaska Corp authorized party is John Johnson. We may want to consult with him
    - i. Robin: We have spoken with Chugach. My understanding is that John Johnson from Chugach has been involved.
    - ii. Robin: **We will provide Cultural Report when it is completed**
  - c. Doug Fuller: Can you walk through what consultation was done with any of the native villages? Where I have seen this work well before, is that sort of process starts early on.
    - i. Seth: We have included Tribes in the project. We sent out government to government letters to the Tribes in the area. This is part of that consultation.
5. Inquiry to Chenega IRA and Chenega Corp. if there is any information that they would like to share, including issues or concerns about the project or potential impacts to cultural resources.
- a. Larry E: Whittier is having a meeting tonight at 6pm regarding tsunami preparedness.
  - b. Ben: I'm interested in when is the earliest for construction? Is this funded or budgeted—do you have the money?
    - i. Samantha: Plan is to get the funds in 2021 or 2022, but we don't have a transportation bill so that affects funding. We are trying to push for 2021, but more realistically 2022.
    - ii. Ben: Is it federal funded?
      - 1. Sam: Yes, with a 9.03% local match. Currently the City is phasing the project. Designing the entire project, but will construct as they can.
    - iii. Ben: \$36.1 million and 2.5 mile project, is this expensive comparatively?
      - 1. Scott: Project has a lot of wetlands and rock, so cost per mile is expensive. We will get a more refined cost estimate as the design is approved. Project all-in is likely more around \$26 million. Primarily developed for a few reasons: 1) limited recreational opportunities for residents and tourists and this opens up to more recreational opportunities. 2) potential for economic development.
    - iv. Ben: This feels like Phase 2 of the project. Is there a Phase 3—for an additional phase of work into Shotgun Cove?
      - 1. Robin: Engineers have looked at it, and it appears difficult to do engineering-wise.
      - 2. Scott: We applied for FLAP for permitting design and engineering for this 2.5 mile extension, and that is where the current money would run out. Looking to have project shovel-ready if funds are available. Another phase would be 5-10 years down the road.
    - v. Chuck: I understand trying to provide for your own community. But, my concerns are:



1. We've had some discussions with FS about their plan but the planning process hasn't really started. We have the Exxon Valdez habitat transaction agreement. My concern about development is we haven't completed our own planning cycle. This is traditional homeland for Chenega people. We use entire western Prince William Sound that it has failed to account planning under FS plan revision. I'm becoming more concerned with what I'd call development creep. Started with Whittier Access project, which was a well done project, and we use it. It also comes with development is more people which impacts resources. That planning cycle has not been started, much less completed. Have yet to consummate any agreement with the trustee council. We need to get our concerns on paper and haven't been able to do that. For us to say we have no problem with this is very premature. It can't be done in a vacuum, and that is what this feels like.
2. Tim: One of the concerns I hear is additional access and pressure on natural resources. I'd like to hear more on broader concerns with project
  - a. Chuck: We've been in this area for hundreds or thousands of years. There is an old village site in Little Bay. Historically used the W Prince William Sound. Maybe not in context of this project, but in a larger sense, want a study for the larger PWS. Thinks we're missing the bigger picture here.
    - i. Though could be a win-win situation.
3. Robin: Purpose of this road extension is to provide access to lands in and around Whittier. I've seen increase in usage in PWS, too.
6. Inquiry to Chenega IRA and Chenega Corp. if there are any alternatives or mitigation that would address issues.
  - a. Geotechnical Drilling
    - i. I don't see on this map drilling. **Seth to send out drilling map.**  
Scott: We plan surgical drilling with the rigs delivered via helicopters.
    - ii. Chuck: Is somebody making lots for private development?
    - iii. Scott: Alaska provided us land with idea that it would be developed. Our intent is to put land for sale and the road access would be seasonal and no utilities provided.
    - iv. Doug: Are those lots being proposed as residential/commercial?
      1. Scott: We're talking about family-style cabins with CCRs
      2. We're trying to make a nice road
      3. **We'll send you a 3D terrain model**
    - v. Chuck: Would Chenega corporation be allowed to buy the lots?
      1. Scott: Yes, we'd put them out and put them up for bid.
      2. Chuck: Would like to be part of that process. We would be interested in acquiring lots as they become available. We're taking more of a holistic approach. I see this as a good opportunity to house some of our people.

- a. Scott: We're anywhere from 3-10 years away from being able to plat and sell those lands.

7. Next Steps

- a. Send out draft notes and drilling map - Seth
- b. Send out 3D terrain model - Completed
- c. Provide Cultural Report when it is completed - Robin

## SECTION 106 FINDINGS LETTERS





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

October 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

Judith Bittner  
Chief, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)  
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Effect Determination

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the City of Whittier, proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The Forest Service is a cooperating agency for this effort. Whittier is approximately 55 miles southeast of Anchorage, Alaska within the Valdez-Cordova Census Area. The project is located within Sections 3, 8, 9, and 17, Township 8 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian. The project can be located on the USGS Seward (D-5) SE Quadrangle (Figure 1). Because the proposed project is being funded by FHWA, the federal action is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending on Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels. The purpose of the proposal is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth.

The majority of the roadway would be located on City of Whittier-owned land and would end with a parking area on Forest Service property. Construction of the main road section would include an approximately 80-foot wide clearing limit and would install two 10-foot wide gravel travel lanes, two 5-foot wide gravel shoulders, and rock catchment area. The smaller spur roads would consist of an approximately 65-foot wide clearing limit and two nine-foot wide gravel travel lanes. Construction would also include drainage swales or rock cuts along uphill sides and culverts at major creeks and small drainage features that meet Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish passage criteria where anadromous and resident fish species are present. Project activities would include clearing and grading; placement of fill and gravel; culvert installation; signage and guardrail installation; and reestablishing vegetation in disturbed areas.

The proposed project has developed and evolved and the area of potential effects (APE), originally defined in 2018, has been updated and expanded to reflect the expansion of project impacts. To encompass all potential future development plans along the alignment, FHWA defines the APE for the proposed Shotgun Cove Road extension as all of City of Whittier-owned land in the project area and includes Forest Service-owned land at Trinity Point (Figures 2 and 3).

In 2018, FHWA tasked Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) with conducting a desktop study of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and an archeological field investigation of the proposed project area to identify cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the APE. The desktop study revealed that there are no known or documented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the APE. In August 2018, CRC led an archaeological field investigation of the proposed extension that included a pedestrian survey of accessible areas of the proposed routes, and the fieldwork concluded that no cultural or historical resources were at risk from the proposed project. Nothing of prehistoric or historical archaeological significance was found in the APE and the area was determined to have little archaeological potential due to its steep topography. The only cultural remains revealed by the field survey within the proposed project area were four culturally modified trees (CMTs) and many saw-cut stumps. According to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, individual or small groups of CMTs are not usually considered significant; though, their presence demonstrates past use of the project area.

Following completion of the 2018 cultural resources survey report, the APE was extended to terminate on Forest Service land. In September 2019, CRC completed an additional archaeological survey for the Shotgun Cove Road extension revised proposed road terminus. The APE was then expanded to the limits of City of Whittier-owned land. Additional fieldwork survey was recommended for areas that were not covered in the previous two surveys. A pedestrian survey of the entirety of Trinity Point, as well as accessible coastal portions of the APE was completed in June 2020. No additional historic or cultural resources were discovered as a result of the 2019 or 2020 surveys, and CRC concluded that the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties (CRC 2020; Appendix A).

**FHWA agrees with CRC's findings and recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected Section 106 determination for the Shotgun Cove Road Extension Project, AK Whittier 2016(1). FHWA requests the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence with this recommendation.**

The Forest Service, as a cooperating agency for this project, has reviewed and agrees with the FHWA recommendation. As per the *2017 Programmatic Agreement Among The USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Heritage Program Management on National Forests in the State of Alaska*, the Forest Service will not be initiating a separate consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer for impacts to Trinity Point.

FHWA has also consulted with the Native Village of Chenega, Native Village of Tatitlek, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Chenega Corporation, and the Tatitlek Corporation to determine if the tribes have interests or concerns regarding the project. FHWA has met with Chugach Alaska Corporation, the Native Village of Chenega, and Chenega Corporation and received no opposition to the proposed project. These groups requested the completed field survey report, which FHWA will provide.

Please contact me if you have concerns, questions, or should you require any additional information. I can be reached at the above address, by phone at 360-619-7636, or by e-mail at [michael.schurke@dot.gov](mailto:michael.schurke@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Schurke', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Michael Schurke  
Archaeologist, MA, RPA  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Enclosures:

- Figures, Site Photos
- Appendix A: CRC, Inc. 2020. Cultural Resources Survey of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension, Whittier, Alaska

cc: Seth English-Young, Sr. Transportation Planner, FHWA  
Jennifer Chariarse, Sr. Environmental Technical Specialist, FHWA  
Samantha Shields, Program Manager, FHWA  
Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Forest Service  
Kori Marchowsky, Environmental Coordinator, Forest Service  
Heather Hall, Archaeologist and Tribal Relations, Forest Service



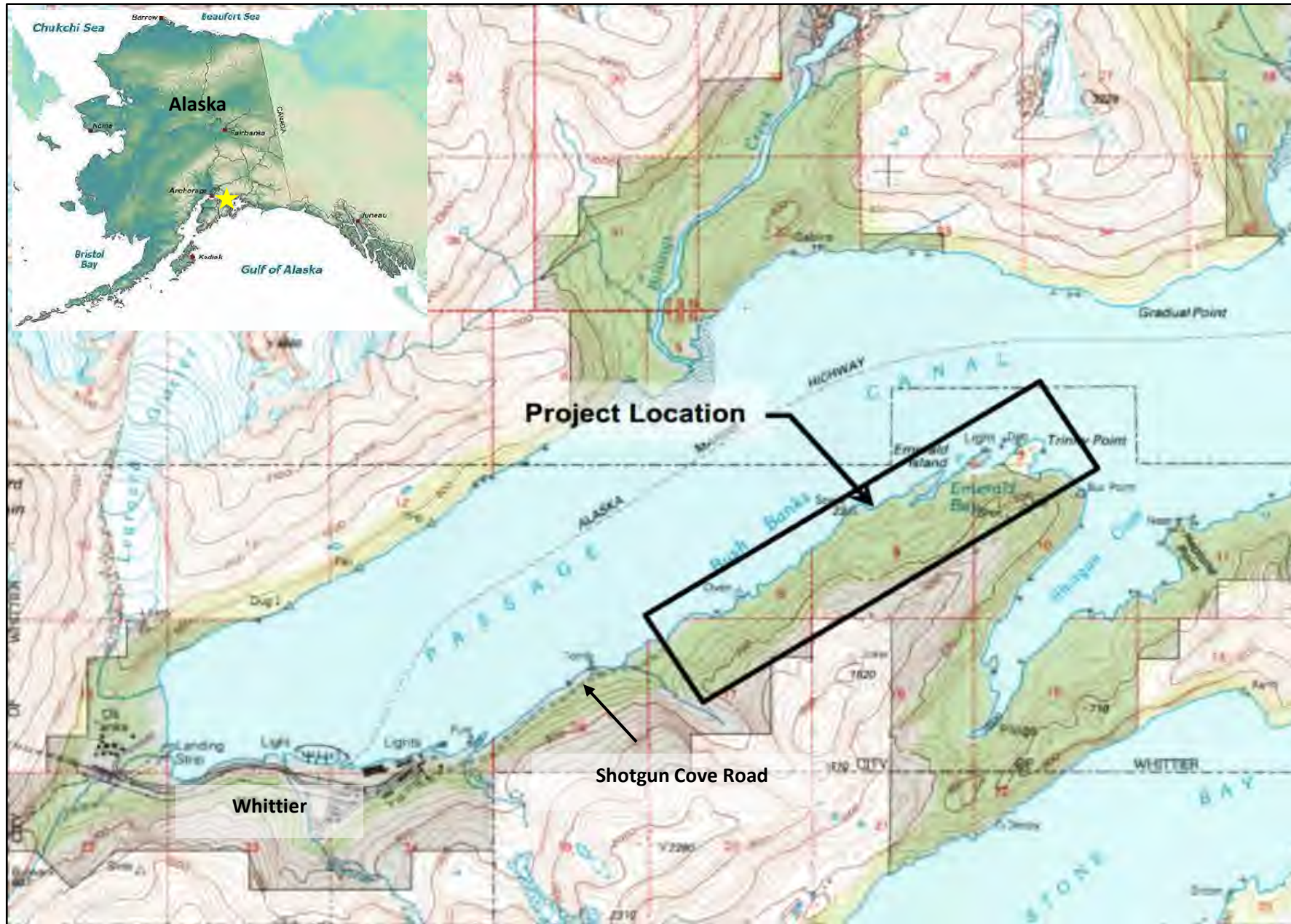


Figure 1. Proposed Project Location and Vicinity



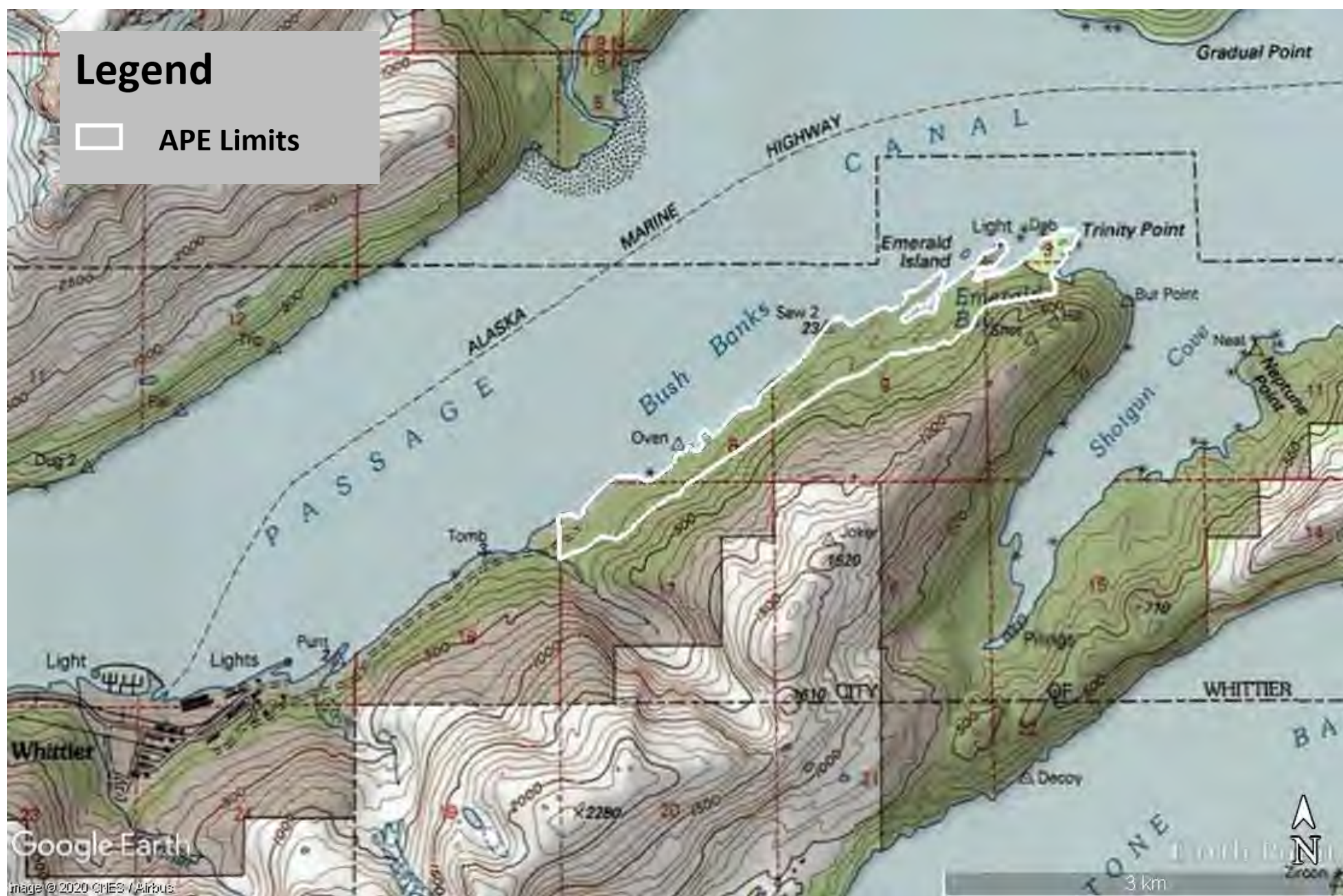








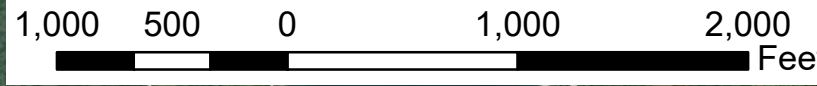
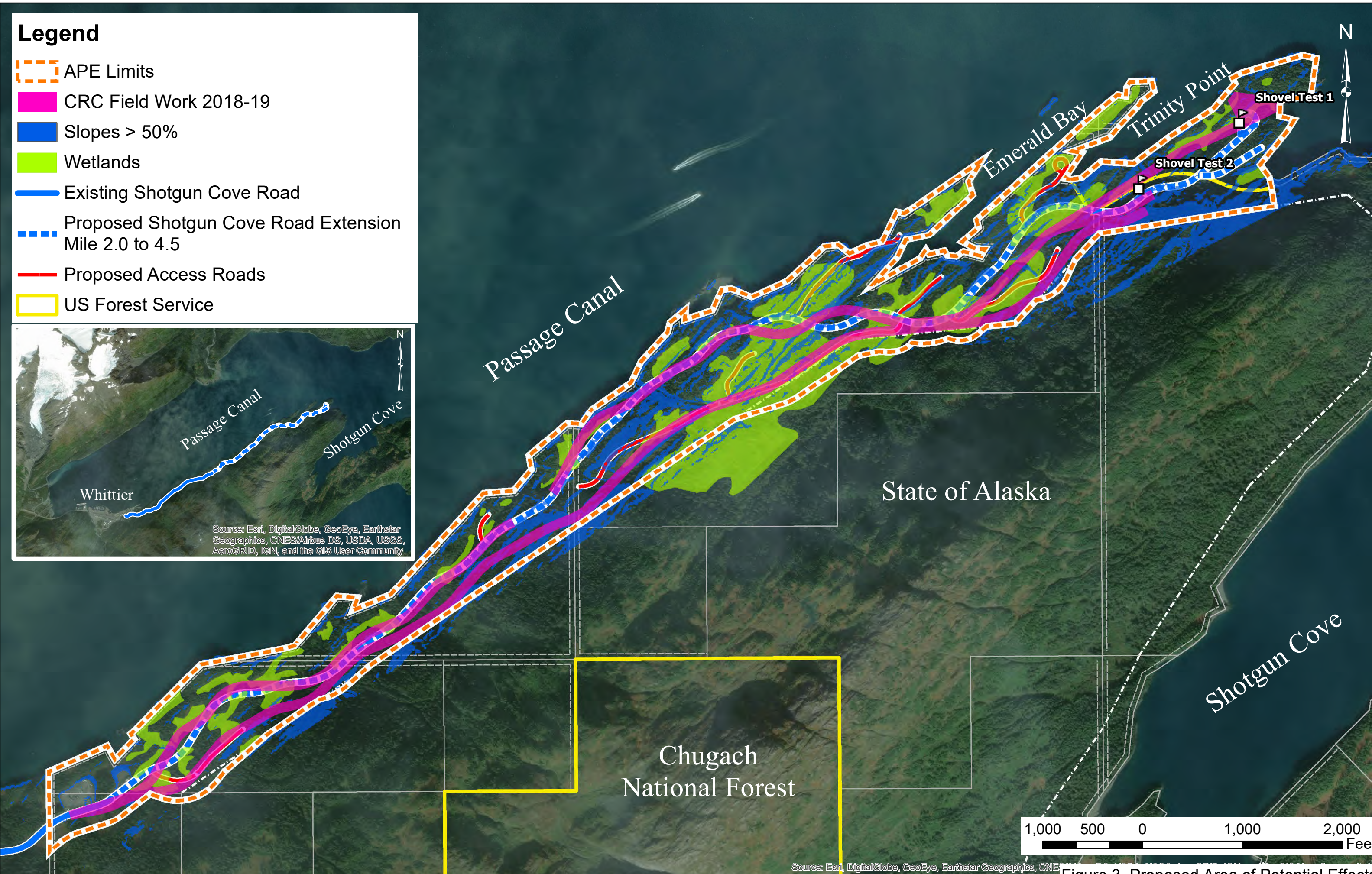
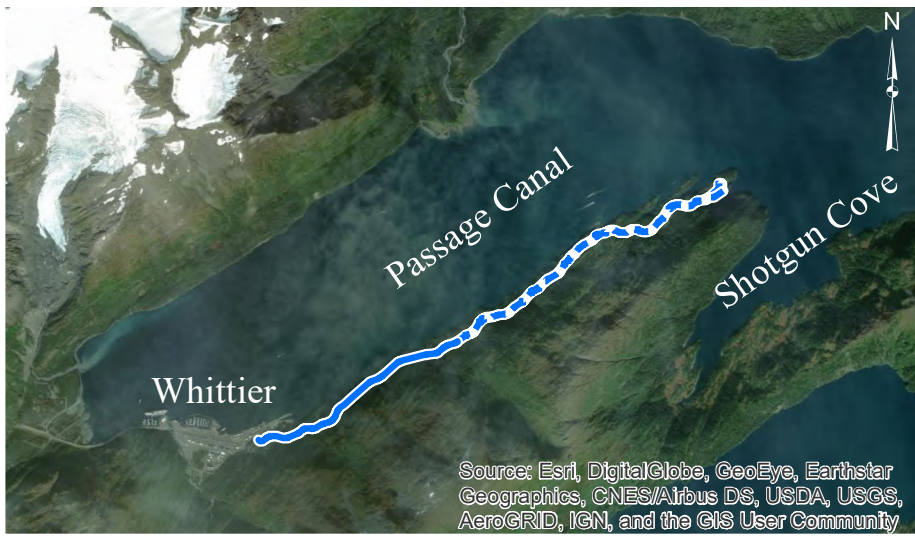


Figure 2. Proposed Area of Potential Effects



**Legend**

-  APE Limits
-  CRC Field Work 2018-19
-  Slopes > 50%
-  Wetlands
-  Existing Shotgun Cove Road
-  Proposed Shotgun Cove Road Extension Mile 2.0 to 4.5
-  Proposed Access Roads
-  US Forest Service



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 3. Proposed Area of Potential Effects





*Aerial photos of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension Project area*





*Shotgun Cove Road Extension Project area*



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

October 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

The Honorable Larry Evanoff  
Chenega IRA Council  
3000 C Street, Suite 301  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Effect Determination

Dear Mr. Larry Evanoff,

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the City of Whittier, proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The Forest Service is a cooperating agency for this effort. Whittier is approximately 55 miles southeast of Anchorage, Alaska within the Valdez–Cordova Census Area. The project is located within Sections 3, 8, 9, and 17, Township 8 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian. The project can be located on the USGS Seward (D-5) SE Quadrangle (Figure 1). Because the proposed project is being funded by FHWA, the federal action is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending on Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels. The purpose of the proposal is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth.

The majority of the roadway would be located on City of Whittier-owned land and would end with a parking area on Forest Service property. Construction of the main road section would include an approximately 80-foot wide clearing limit and would install two 10-foot wide gravel travel lanes, two 5-foot wide gravel shoulders, and rock catchment area. The smaller spur roads would consist of an approximately 65-foot wide clearing limit and two nine-foot wide gravel travel lanes. Construction would also include drainage swales or rock cuts along uphill sides and culverts at major creeks and small drainage features that meet Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish passage criteria where anadromous and resident fish species are present. Project activities would include clearing and grading; placement of fill and gravel; culvert installation; signage and guardrail installation; and reestablishing vegetation in disturbed areas.



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In 2018, FHWA tasked Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) with conducting a desktop study of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and an archeological field investigation of the proposed project area to identify cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the APE. The desktop study revealed that there are no known or documented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the APE. In August 2018, CRC led an archaeological field investigation of the proposed extension that included a pedestrian survey of accessible areas of the proposed routes, and the fieldwork concluded that no cultural or historical resources were at risk from the proposed project. Nothing of prehistoric or historical archaeological significance was found in the APE and the area was determined to have little archaeological potential due to its steep topography. The only cultural remains revealed by the field survey within the proposed project area were four culturally modified trees (CMTs) and many saw-cut stumps. According to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, individual or small groups of CMTs are not usually considered significant; though, their presence demonstrates past use of the project area.

Following completion of the 2018 cultural resources survey report, the APE was extended to terminate on Forest Service land. In September 2019, CRC completed an additional archaeological survey for the Shotgun Cove Road extension revised proposed road terminus. The APE was then expanded to the limits of City of Whittier-owned land. Additional fieldwork survey was recommended for areas that were not covered in the previous two surveys. A pedestrian survey of the entirety of Trinity Point, as well as accessible coastal portions of the APE was completed in June 2020. No additional historic or cultural resources were discovered as a result of the 2019 or 2020 surveys, and CRC concluded that the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties (CRC 2020; Appendix A).

**FHWA agrees with CRC's findings and recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected Section 106 determination for the Shotgun Cove Road Extension Project, AK Whittier 2016(1). FHWA sent a letter on October 5, 2020 requesting the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence with this recommendation. Please review the attached cultural resources survey report and contact FHWA prior to November 5, 2020 if you have comments.**

The Forest Service, as a cooperating agency for this project, has reviewed and agrees with the FHWA recommendation. As per the *2017 Programmatic Agreement Among The USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Heritage Program Management on National Forests in the State of Alaska*, the Forest Service will not be initiating a separate consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer for impacts to Trinity Point.

FHWA has also consulted with the Native Village of Chenega, Native Village of Tatitlek, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Chenega Corporation, and the Tatitlek Corporation to determine if the tribes have interests or concerns regarding the project. FHWA has met with Chugach Alaska Corporation, the Native Village of Chenega, and Chenega Corporation and received no opposition to the proposed project. These groups requested the completed field survey report, which FHWA is providing with this letter.

October 5, 2020

Page 3 of 3

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Sincerely,

Seth English-Young  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Enclosures:

- Figures, Site Photos
- Appendix A: CRC, Inc. 2020. Cultural Resources Survey of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension, Whittier, Alaska

cc: Michael Schurke, Archaeologist, FHWA  
Samantha Shields, Program Manager, FHWA  
Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Forest Service  
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Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
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October 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

The Honorable Nanci Robart  
Tatitlek IRA Council  
PO Box 171  
Tatitlek, Alaska 99677

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Effect Determination

Dear Ms. Nanci Robart,

The Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the City of Whittier, proposes to extend Shotgun Cove Road for approximately 2.5 miles from its existing terminus near Second Salmon Run (Mile 2.0) onto U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) land at Trinity Point (Mile 4.5) in Whittier, Alaska. The Forest Service is a cooperating agency for this effort. Whittier is approximately 55 miles southeast of Anchorage, Alaska within the Valdez–Cordova Census Area. The project is located within Sections 3, 8, 9, and 17, Township 8 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian. The project can be located on the USGS Seward (D-5) SE Quadrangle (Figure 1). Because the proposed project is being funded by FHWA, the federal action is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The proposed project is located in a rural area currently used primarily for recreation with no roadway beyond the existing terminus. The proposed road extension would be constructed approximately 250 to 350 feet from the shoreline and would run roughly down the middle of City of Whittier-owned land, ending on Trinity Point. Project design includes several spur roads to the north and south along the alignment to allow for future beach access points, trailheads for uplands access, and access to potential private parcels. The purpose of the proposal is to improve access to federal and state lands, alleviate pressure on Whittier's regional transportation system, and realize potential economic growth.

The majority of the roadway would be located on City of Whittier-owned land and would end with a parking area on Forest Service property. Construction of the main road section would include an approximately 80-foot wide clearing limit and would install two 10-foot wide gravel travel lanes, two 5-foot wide gravel shoulders, and rock catchment area. The smaller spur roads would consist of an approximately 65-foot wide clearing limit and two nine-foot wide gravel travel lanes. Construction would also include drainage swales or rock cuts along uphill sides and culverts at major creeks and small drainage features that meet Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish passage criteria where anadromous and resident fish species are present. Project activities would include clearing and grading; placement of fill and gravel; culvert installation; signage and guardrail installation; and reestablishing vegetation in disturbed areas.

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October 5, 2020

Page 3 of 3

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Sincerely,

Seth English-Young  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Enclosures:

- Figures, Site Photos
- Appendix A: CRC, Inc. 2020. Cultural Resources Survey of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension, Whittier, Alaska

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610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
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October 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

The Honorable Roy Totemoff  
Tatitlek Corporation  
561 East 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Effect Determination

Dear Mr. Roy Totemoff,

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October 5, 2020

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Sincerely,

Seth English-Young  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

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610 E. Fifth Street  
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October 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

The Honorable Sheri Buretta  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
3800 Centerpoint Drive, Ste 1200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Shotgun Cove Road Extension, AK Whittier 2016(1)  
Section 106 Effect Determination

Dear Ms. Sheri Buretta,

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October 5, 2020

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Sincerely,

Seth English-Young  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

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October 5, 2020

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

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Chenega Corporation  
3000 C Street, Suite 301  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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Section 106 Effect Determination

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The majority of the roadway would be located on City of Whittier-owned land and would end with a parking area on Forest Service property. Construction of the main road section would include an approximately 80-foot wide clearing limit and would install two 10-foot wide gravel travel lanes, two 5-foot wide gravel shoulders, and rock catchment area. The smaller spur roads would consist of an approximately 65-foot wide clearing limit and two nine-foot wide gravel travel lanes. Construction would also include drainage swales or rock cuts along uphill sides and culverts at major creeks and small drainage features that meet Alaska Department of Fish and Game fish passage criteria where anadromous and resident fish species are present. Project activities would include clearing and grading; placement of fill and gravel; culvert installation; signage and guardrail installation; and reestablishing vegetation in disturbed areas.

The proposed project has developed and evolved and the area of potential effects (APE), originally defined in 2018, has been updated and expanded to reflect the expansion of project impacts. To encompass all potential future development plats along the alignment, FHWA defines the APE for the proposed Shotgun Cove Road extension as all of City of Whittier-owned land in the project area and includes Forest Service-owned land at Trinity Point (Figures 2 and 3).

In 2018, FHWA tasked Cultural Resource Consultants, LLC (CRC) with conducting a desktop study of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) and an archeological field investigation of the proposed project area to identify cultural resources on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within the APE. The desktop study revealed that there are no known or documented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the APE. In August 2018, CRC led an archaeological field investigation of the proposed extension that included a pedestrian survey of accessible areas of the proposed routes, and the fieldwork concluded that no cultural or historical resources were at risk from the proposed project. Nothing of prehistoric or historical archaeological significance was found in the APE and the area was determined to have little archaeological potential due to its steep topography. The only cultural remains revealed by the field survey within the proposed project area were four culturally modified trees (CMTs) and many saw-cut stumps. According to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, individual or small groups of CMTs are not usually considered significant; though, their presence demonstrates past use of the project area.

Following completion of the 2018 cultural resources survey report, the APE was extended to terminate on Forest Service land. In September 2019, CRC completed an additional archaeological survey for the Shotgun Cove Road extension revised proposed road terminus. The APE was then expanded to the limits of City of Whittier-owned land. Additional fieldwork survey was recommended for areas that were not covered in the previous two surveys. A pedestrian survey of the entirety of Trinity Point, as well as accessible coastal portions of the APE was completed in June 2020. No additional historic or cultural resources were discovered as a result of the 2019 or 2020 surveys, and CRC concluded that the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties (CRC 2020; Appendix A).

**FHWA agrees with CRC's findings and recommends a finding of No Historic Properties Affected Section 106 determination for the Shotgun Cove Road Extension Project, AK Whittier 2016(1). FHWA sent a letter on October 5, 2020 requesting the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence with this recommendation. Please review the attached cultural resources survey report and contact FHWA prior to November 5, 2020 if you have comments.**

The Forest Service, as a cooperating agency for this project, has reviewed and agrees with the FHWA recommendation. As per the *2017 Programmatic Agreement Among The USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Heritage Program Management on National Forests in the State of Alaska*, the Forest Service will not be initiating a separate consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer for impacts to Trinity Point.

FHWA has also consulted with the Native Village of Chenega, Native Village of Tatitlek, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Chenega Corporation, and the Tatitlek Corporation to determine if the tribes have interests or concerns regarding the project. FHWA has met with Chugach Alaska Corporation, the Native Village of Chenega, and Chenega Corporation and received no opposition to the proposed project. These groups requested the completed field survey report, which FHWA is providing with this letter.

October 5, 2020

Page 3 of 3

Please contact me if you have concerns, questions, or should you require any additional information. I can be reached at the above address, by phone at 360-619-7803, or by e-mail at [seth.english-young@dot.gov](mailto:seth.english-young@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Seth English-Young  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division

Enclosures:

- Figures, Site Photos
- Appendix A: CRC, Inc. 2020. Cultural Resources Survey of the Shotgun Cove Road Extension, Whittier, Alaska

cc: Michael Schurke, Archaeologist, FHWA  
Samantha Shields, Program Manager, FHWA  
Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Forest Service  
Kori Marchowsky, Environmental Coordinator, Forest Service  
Heather Hall, Archaeologist and Tribal Relations, Forest Service  
Scott Korbe, Director of Public Works, City of Whittier

## SHPO CONCURRENCE



**Archived:** Friday, November 20, 2020 1:50:04 PM

**From:** English-Young, Seth (FHWA)

**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2020 10:34:43 AM

**To:** Robin Reich; Carrie Connaker; Scott Korbe; Charnon, Tim -FS; Marchowsky, Kori -FS

**Subject:** FW: SHPO No. 3130-1R WFLHD / 2020-00355, SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION Project, AK WHITTIER 2016(1)

**Sensitivity:** Normal

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**From:** Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) [mailto:sarah.meitl@alaska.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2020 9:58 AM

**To:** Schurke, Michael (FHWA) <Michael.Schurke@dot.gov>

**Cc:** English-Young, Seth (FHWA) <seth.english-young@dot.gov>; Chariarse, Jennifer (FHWA) <jennifer.chariarse@dot.gov>; Shields, Samantha (FHWA) <Samantha.Shields@dot.gov>; Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>

**Subject:** RE: SHPO No. 3130-1R WFLHD / 2020-00355, SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION Project, AK WHITTIER 2016(1)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

File No. 3130-1R WFLHD / 2020-00355

Good morning,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated November 11, 2020) concerning the subject project on December 5, 2020. The AK SHPO has entered tolling in response to COVID-19. Per ACHP direction, responses received from our office should be considered by the federal agency after the 30-day time periods outlined in 36 CFR 800 until our office has returned to normal status. Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur with the finding of No Historic Properties Affected.

This email serves as our office's official correspondence for the purposes of Section 106. Please note that our office may need to re-evaluate our concurrence if changes are made to the project's scope or design or comments are received from other consulting parties. As stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3, other consulting parties such as the local government and Tribes are required to be notified of the undertaking. Our response does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties.

Should unidentified cultural resources be discovered in the course of the project, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4), in consultation with our office. Please note that some sites can be deeply buried and that fossils are considered cultural resources subject to the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me by email if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Best,

Sarah

Sarah Meitl  
Review and Compliance Coordinator  
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561  
Office: 907-269-8720

**Teleworking** - Email is the best method of communication.

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**From:** Schurke, Michael (FHWA) <Michael.Schurke@dot.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 10:49 AM

**To:** Meitl, Sarah J (DNR) <sarah.meitl@alaska.gov>

**Cc:** seth.english-young <seth.english-young@dot.gov>; Chariarse, Jennifer (FHWA) <jennifer.chariarse@dot.gov>; Shields, Samantha (FHWA) <Samantha.Shields@dot.gov>

**Subject:** SHPO No. 3130-1R WFLHD / 2020-00355, SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION Project, AK WHITTIER 2016(1)

Hi Sarah,

Attached are a cover letter and supporting files for WFLHD-FHWA's request for SHPO concurrence with a No Historic Properties Affected Section 106 finding of effect for the SHOTGUN COVE ROAD EXTENSION Project, AK WHITTIER 2016(1), SHPO No. 3130-1R WFLHD / 2020-00355.

Mike

**MIKE SCHURKE** ARCHAEOLOGIST, MA, RPA  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, WESTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION  
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