

Chapter 7 COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

As required by NEPA, soliciting public and agency comments and input on the purpose and need, alternatives, and issues and concerns that may need to be addressed for a proposed action (scoping) is an essential part of the environmental review process. Documentation of all public and agency scoping efforts, including meetings, materials, and comments received is included as Appendix F.

7.1 Agency Coordination

Pre-NEPA Agency scoping began on March 15, 2018, with a letter mailed to agency and stakeholder representatives soliciting comments on the project and inviting them to an agency scoping meeting on April 24, 2018. Several agency representatives attended the meeting and provided input. As the project moved forward in the design process and selected a preferred alternative, a second letter was mailed to agency representatives on April 21, 2020, to serve as a project update. Documentation of agency letters, meeting notes, and received comments are included in Appendix F. The following agencies and stakeholders received scoping and update letters (Table 7-1):

Table 7-1. Agency Scoping Contact List

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|--|
| Federal Agencies |
| Bureau of Land Management |
| Forest Service, Chugach National Forest |
| NMFS |
| NPS |
| USACE |
| USFWS |
| State Agencies |
| ADEC, Division of Water |
| ADF&G, Division of Habitat |
| ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish |
| ADNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation |
| ADNR, Division of Mining, Land, and Water |
| ADNR, Office of History and Archaeology (SHPO) |
| DOT&PF |
| Other |
| Chugach Alaska Corporation |

Table 7-2 provides a summary of agency and stakeholder comments received.

Table 7-2. Summary of Agency Comments

| Agency | Comment |
|---|---|
| Federal Agencies | |
| NMFS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine habitat impacts are not expected • Nearshore information should be referenced to analyze impacts of sediment transport impacts downstream of crossings. Refer to work by B. Reynolds |
| Forest Service, Chugach National Forest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested cooperating agency status on the proposed project |
| USACE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work for the proposed project could be added under the existing permit POA-2003-0764; • Wetlands delineation information requested, USACE maintains authority to determine the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative for CWA 404 permitting |
| USFWS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommended vegetation clearing timing window should be followed to reduce impacts on nesting birds • Agree with the determination that no ESA-listed species managed by USFWS present in the project area |
| State Agencies | |
| ADF&G, Division of Habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are streams in the project area, stream survey needed |
| ADNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADNR manages the small parcel of state land in Shotgun Cove |
| ADNR, Office of History and Archaeology (SHPO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork study is needed to determine presence of historic or cultural resources in the project area |
| Other | |
| Chugach Alaska Corporation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a neighboring land owner, noted general support for the project |

7.2 Tribal Coordination

On June 10, 2020, FHWA and the City, in cooperation with the Forest Service, mailed letters to the following tribal entities requesting government-to-government consultation:

- Native Village of Chenega,
- Chenega Corporation,
- Native Village of Tatitlek,
- Tatitlek Corporation, and
- Chugach Alaska Corporation.

The Native Village of Chenega, Chenega Corporation, and Chugach Alaska Corporation responded requesting more information and a meeting to discuss the project. Representatives from FHWA, Forest Service, and the City held a teleconference on July 1, 2020, with representatives from Chugach Alaska Corporation. An additional teleconference was held with

the Native Village of Chenega and Chenega Corporation on July 15, 2020. A summary of consultation is included in Appendix D.

7.3 Public Involvement

The public involvement effort for the project began in 2018 and involved a variety of public outreach and three separate public open houses (2018, 2019, and 2020) to inform the community of project design progress and alternatives (Table 7-3). Appendix F includes a summary of all public open houses and comments received.

Table 7-3. Public and Stakeholder Involvement

| PI Tool | Occurred/ Issued | Notes/Comments |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Glacier City Gazette</i> legal classified newspaper ad | 03/28/18 | Invited public to open house #1 |
| Poster bulletins in Whittier | 03/28/18 | Invited public to open house #1 |
| Postcard mailer | 04/02/18 | Invited public to open house #1 |
| <i>Anchorage Daily News</i> (ADN) legal classified newspaper ad | 04/04/18, 04/08/18 | Invited public to open house #1 |
| ADN website announcement | 04/04/18 | Invited public to open house #1 |
| Public Open House #1 | 04/11/18 | Presented project overview |
| City of Whittier website announcement | December 2018 | Invited public to open house #2 |
| Poster bulletins in Whittier | 12/19/18 | Invited public to open house #2 |
| Public Open House #2 | 01/08/19 | Informed public about Draft Design Study Report |
| ADN legal classified newspaper ad | 01/12/20, 01/22/20 | Invited public to open house #3 |
| Postcard mailer | 01/14/20 | Invited public to open house #3 |
| Poster bulletins in Whittier | 01/16/20 | Invited public to open house #3 |
| Facebook announcement | 01/22/20 | Invited public to open house #3 |
| Email reminder | 01/22/20 | Invited public to open house #3 |
| City of Whittier website announcement | January 2020 | Invited public to open house #3 |
| Public Open House #3 | 01/28/20 | Provided project overview and update, including proposed alternative |
| Project Website (https://www.whittieralaska.gov/shotgun-cove-road/) | Launched March 2020 | To share most recent project information with the public |
| Project Website (http://shotguncoveroad.com/) | Launched January 2021 | To share most recent project information with the public |

7.4 List of Preparers

This EA was prepared by FHWA with assistance from the Forest Service, CRW Engineering Group, LLC., Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc., and the City of Whittier. Table 7-4 lists the individuals involved in the preparation of the EA, along with their role and organization.

Table 7-4. Individuals Involved in EA Preparation

| Name | Organization | Project Role |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Scott Smithline | FHWA | Environmental Manager |
| Seth English-Young | FHWA | Senior Transportation Planner |
| Jennifer Chariarse | FHWA | Senior Environmental Specialist |
| Michael Schurke | FHWA | Archaeologist |
| Samantha Shields | FHWA | FLAP Coordinator |
| Tim Charnon | Forest Service | Glacier District Ranger |
| Kori Marchowsky | Forest Service | Environmental Coordinator |
| John Kisner | Forest Service | Forest Archaeologist |
| Heather Hall | Forest Service | Zone Archaeologist |
| Griff Berg | Forest Service | Forest Engineer |
| Bill Johnson | CRW Engineering Group, LLC. | Engineering Project Manager |
| Colin Singleton | CRW Engineering Group, LLC. | Project Engineer/Designer |
| Robin Reich | Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. | Consultant Project Manager, EA Reviewer |
| Carrie Connaker | Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. | EA Author |
| Olivia Cohn | Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. | EA Author, Public Involvement |
| Scott Korbe | City of Whittier | Public Works Director |