

## **Appendix A Preliminary Research Results**

### **Right-of-Way (ROW)/Land Use & Transportation Plan:**

The proposed project is located within Fort Wainwright (FTWW) Army Post. DOT&PF obtained an easement for the existing Richardson Highway in 1964. Additional property needed for the weigh stations is part of the FTWW military reservation, and therefore DOT&PF expects to acquire additional easements from the Department of the Army, see Figures 2a and 2b.

The area adjacent to the project is designated as open space on FTWW's current land use map.

The proposed project is consistent with Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Regional Comprehensive Plan (Sept. 2005), and it is listed as a short range project in the FMATS Long Range Transportation Plan (August 2005, pg. 121).

### **Cultural Resources:**

On April 6, 2006, the online version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was searched. One property was listed in the vicinity of the proposed project.

- Ladd Field (#85002730), also known as Fort Wainwright, was added to the NRHP in 1985 as a Historic District (10,100 acres, 14 buildings, 10 structures). Ladd Field is associated with the World War II era (1925-1949) and has historical significance as a military air facility.

Ladd Field is also designated by the National Park Service as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The boundary of the Ladd Field NHL is within the boundaries of the current airfield of FTWW. This area is located a mile north, outside the project area.

On April 6, 2006, a search was conducted of the latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, within or close to the proposed project area. No additional sites were listed in the AHRS.

### **Wetlands:**

A preliminary wetlands assessment for the project area was prepared by ABR, Inc. – Environmental Research & Services. The assessment utilized existing wetlands mapping, aerial photo interpretation, and a field survey of the northbound site on June 9, 2006. Two wetland types were identified; an abandoned slough channel (PUBH, 0.37 acres) and a stand of Open Tall Willow Scrub (PSS/EM1B, 0.07 acres). Both of these wetlands have relatively low functional value due to their proximity to developments, isolation from other water bodies, and small size.

### **Fish & Wildlife:**

The project is not located in a high wildlife/vehicle accident area and would not bisect migration corridors, segment habitat, or affect species of concern. There are no known raptor nests in the the project area. The nearest known Bald Eagle nesting site is located approximately 3.8 miles away from the project site.

**Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species:**

There are no known T&E species in the project area.

**Water Body Involvement:**

There are some impoundments, which are Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. (wetlands), located approximately 450 feet east of the proposed project's eastern boundary, just north of the Richardson Highway. No impacts to these impoundments are anticipated by the proposed project.

**Alaska Coastal Management Program:**

The proposed project is not in a coastal zone.

**Hazardous Waste:**

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on May 19, 2006 by Shannon & Wilson, Inc. Historical aerial photographs, public records, and standard federal and state agency databases were reviewed for the assessment and a site visit was conducted on May 9-10, 2006.

The Phase I assessment identified the following potential environmental concerns for the northbound weigh station project area:

- Fill material of unknown origin used in constructing the extension of the North-South Road (see Figure 3)
- Sections of 3-inch diameter, welded steel pipe presumed to be sections of the abandoned Canadian American Gas Oil (CANOL) pipeline
- A piece of concrete debris and seven 55-gallon steel drums that appear to be either empty or soil filled are located near the center, and west of center of the proposed north weigh station.

A Phase II assessment of the northbound site will be conducted in the summer of 2006.

No potential hazardous waste concerns have been identified for the southbound weigh station project area.

**Air Quality:**

Carbon monoxide is a pollutant of concern in the Fairbanks area during the winter months. A portion of the northbound project area (Section 19, T1S, R1E, Fairbanks Meridian, north of the Richardson Highway; see Figure 2a) is located in the FNSB carbon monoxide (CO) non-attainment area that is governed by an EPA approved Maintenance Plan. The southbound project area is located outside of the FNSB CO non-attainment area. A CO analysis is not anticipated to be required for this project.

**Floodplains:**

A local FNSB floodplain permit would be required for the proposed project. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) (January 1992)

indicates a portion of the northbound weigh station footprint is within the 500-year floodplain. The southbound weigh station footprint is “determined to be outside the 500-year floodplain.”

**Noise:**

The current Fort Wainwright land use map was used to estimate the distance from the proposed project to the nearest noise sensitive land use areas. Noise sensitive land use areas and approximate distances are listed below.

<i>Noise Activity Category</i>	<i>Nearest Noise Sensitive Land Use Areas</i>	<i>Distance from Project Area (mi)</i>
B	• Medical	0.45
	• Unaccompanied Housing	0.25
	• Family Housing	1.15
	• Outdoor Recreation	0.15
C	• All other land use areas in the vicinity of the project area	0.00

**Water Quality:**

The proposed project would include public drinking water (class ‘C’ public water systems) and lavatories at the proposed scale houses. It is unknown at this point in design if the water would be derived from a well or if a holding tank would be used. Wastewater from the lavatories will be disposed of in on-site septic systems for each scale house. No public or private potable drinking water sources are anticipated to be affected. The outlet from the sump which will collect storm water from under the scale facility is expected to daylight out to the surrounding vegetation.

The Chena River is the nearest impaired water body and is located approximately 1.5 miles to the north of the project area at its closest point.

**Section 4(f)/6(f):**

No known 4(f) or 6(f) properties are in the vicinity of the proposed project. If it is discovered during the course of the environmental assessment process that cultural/historic resources exist and may be affected by this project a section 4(f) evaluation will be completed.

**Permits and Authorizations:**

- FNSB Floodplain Permit
- ADEC Non-Domestic Wastewater Plan Approval
- ADEC Domestic Wastewater Permit
- The contractor would be required to comply with the EPA NPDES General Permit for Construction Activities
- City of Fairbanks NPDES MS4 Compliance Review (City currently developing plans)
- USACE Section 404/10 Permit for dredging or placement of fill in waters of the U.S. (wetlands)