

## Appendix A: Scoping Outreach & Materials

- Section 1: Public Scoping & Materials
- Section 2: Tribal Scoping & Materials
- Section 3: Agency Scoping & Materials

## Section 1: Public Scoping & Materials

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**  
6860 GLACIER HIGHWAY  
P.O. BOX 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506  
PHONE: 907-465-1763  
FAX: 907-465-2016  
TTY/TDD: 907-465-4647

May 16, 2008  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/ACHP-0922(5)/67698

Mr. David C. Miller, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement  
Initiation Notification per SAFETEA-LU 6002

Dear Mr. Miller:

Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) guidance states that project sponsors are required to notify the U.S. Department of Transportation that the environmental review process should be initiated. This notice is to identify the type of work, termini, length, general location of the proposed project; a list of Federal approvals necessary for the proposed project; and the timeframe within which the environmental review process should be started.

The DOT&PF hereby notifies the FHWA that the environmental review process for this proposed project should be initiated.

**Proposed Project Type of Work, Termini, Length, General Location, and Current Status**

The DOT&PF, in cooperation with FHWA, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo and Gravina Islands in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in the state by the "Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century." The *Gravina Access Project Final EIS* was completed for the project and was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on July 30, 2004, which identified Alternative F1 as the Preferred Alternative. The *Gravina Access Project Record of Decision* was issued on September 15, 2004, which identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More detail can be found at <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining

lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved transportation access to Gravina Island would provide better service to the airport and facilitate for the development of land on Gravina Island.

The DOT&PF, in cooperation with the FHWA, examined a range of build alternatives for the Gravina Access Project: four bridge alternatives that cross Tongass Narrows near the airport, two bridge alternatives that cross Pennock Island, and three ferry alternatives that would supplement the existing airport ferry service. The terminus locations on Revillagiedo Island for each of the alternatives tie into Tongass Avenue at or near (from North to South) Peninsula Point, Signal Road, the existing airport ferry, Cambria Drive, the Plaza Mall, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Station, and the Forest Park subdivision. On Gravina Island, each build alternative has a terminal location at Ketchikan International Airport and provides access to Borough and other developable land north and south of the airport.

Before and during the preparation of the Gravina Access Project DEIS and FEIS, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough was separately planning development of a new road on the west side of the airport to the Lewis Reef development area. Based on consultation with the Borough, DOT&PF configured all build alternatives to include construction of a spine road (Lewis Reef Road) on the west side of the airport to access Borough and other developable lands, which serve many of the same general purposes the Borough had planned.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of the Gravina Access Project: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, and constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be complete in 2008.

Due to limited funding, on September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin directed the DOT&PF to look for a "fiscally responsible" alternative for access to the airport and Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with the Selected Alternative, F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that if the selected alternative was not to be advanced, all or part of the monies expended on the current road construction on Gravina Island may be declared ineligible for federal participation.

An SEIS is required whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project which result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the draft or final EIS (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). If the changes or new information do not result in new or different significant environmental impacts, the FHWA



Division Administrator should document that determination. The SEIS must provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS (23 CFR 771.130(a)). In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes that are requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the uncertainty of funding levels and the consideration of construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the DEIS and FEIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The SEIS will evaluate the FEIS reasonable alternatives with the Gravina Island Highway included.

### **Federal Approvals and Permits Required**

The DOT&PF anticipates that the project evaluated in the SEIS will require an amended Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The amended Section 404 permit approval may also require Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, coordination and conference with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, a coastal consistency review from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Alaska Department of Conservation and approval from the EPA under Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Action for ocean disposal of in-water excavated materials.

An amended Section 9 Bridge Permit from the USCG would be required for any bridge constructed over navigable waters. FAA approval of an updated Airport Layout Plan would be required for any alternative that results in penetrations of Federal Aviation Regulations Part 77 imaginary surfaces or otherwise affects the Ketchikan Airport airspace and property (any alternative involving construction will also require filing FAA Form 7460, Notice of Proposed Construction). The EPA would require notification to use the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for all construction activities that result in ground disturbance of 1 acre or more. Finally, the Fishway Act and the Anadromous Fish Act are Alaska Statutes that require projects to obtain a Fish Habitat Permit from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for certain activities in fish bearing streams. Activities that may impact fish passage and all activities within or across anadromous fish streams would require a Title 41 Fish Habitat Permit.

### **Timeframe**

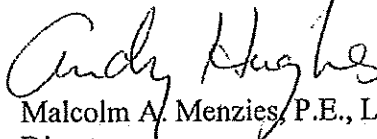
To begin work on the SEIS, DOT&PF plans to identify potential participating and cooperating agencies in the spring of 2008 and then initiate formal scoping.

**Project Management and Oversight**

Section 6002 Guidance requires FHWA serve as the lead federal agency for a transportation project, and the direct recipient of the project federal funds, DOT&PF, will serve as a joint lead agency. HDR Alaska, Inc. has been hired by DOT&PF to manage and write the SEIS in accordance with all applicable Federal laws, regulation, and guidance. The SEIS will provide sufficient information to describe the proposed action, the reasons why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous FEIS. The SEIS will address changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous FEIS. Completed work and existing data will be employed as much as possible. Please contact Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager, at (907) 465-8884 or Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Environmental Lead at (907) 465-1774 for more information.

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact me at (907) 465-1762.

Sincerely,  
DOT/PF – Southeast Region

  
Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S. 702  
Director

Enclosure: **map of the project location**

cc: Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Environmental Lead



81 for the following project: FHWA Alaska Division Project Number STP-000S(131) titled the Juneau Access Improvements Project, involving construction of approximately 51 miles of two lane highway from the end of Glacier Highway at Echo Cove in the City and Borough of Juneau to a point two miles north of the Katzehin River in the Haines Borough. A ferry terminal will be constructed at the north end of the highway, and new shuttle ferries will be constructed to run from Haines and Skagway. Three major rivers will be bridged as well as several streams. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project was approved on January 18, 2006; the FHWA Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on April 3, 2006. Notice is hereby given that, subsequent to the earlier FHWA notice, the USACE has taken final agency actions within the meaning of 23 U.S.C. 139(I)(1) by issuing a permit and approvals for the highway project. The actions by the USACE, related final actions by other Federal agencies, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the USACE decision and its administrative record for the project, referenced as POA-2006-597-2, Lynn Canal. The permit and decision document is available by contacting DOT&PF at the address above.

The FEIS, ROD, and other documents in the FHWA administrative record file are available by contacting the FHWA or the DOT&PF at the addresses provided above. The FHWA FEIS and ROD can be viewed and downloaded from the project Web site at <http://dot.alaska.gov/juneauaccess> or viewed at public libraries in the project area. The USACE decision can be viewed and downloaded at the same project Web site.

This notice applies to all USACE and other Federal agency decisions taken after the issuance date of the FHWA Federal Notice described above. The laws under which actions were taken, include but are not limited to:

1. Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251-1377 (Section 404, Section 401, Section 319).
2. Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, 33 U.S.C. 401-406.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 139(I)(1).

Issued on: June 25, 2008.

David C. Miller,

Division Administrator, Juneau, Alaska.

[FR Doc. E8-14962 Filed 7-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Ketchikan, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Alaska

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.7, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is issuing this notice to advise the public that a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) will be prepared for the Gravina Access Project in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan, Alaska.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska 99802, (907) 586-7464, e-mail ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)), fax (907) 586-7420; or Reuben Yost, Project Environmental Coordinator, DOT&PF, P.O. Box 2506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506, e-mail ([Reuben.Yost@alaska.gov](mailto:Reuben.Yost@alaska.gov)), fax (907-465-2030).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the DOT&PF, will prepare a SEIS to examine ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport, and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold: to provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans; to improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight; and to promote environmentally sound, planned long-

term economic development on Gravina Island.

In August 2004, the FHWA issued a Final EIS for the Gravina Access Project (FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F) that identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot high East and 120-foot high West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project Web site: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF moved forward in 2006 with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway segment, which extends from the Ketchikan International Airport south approximately 3 miles to the proposed bridge spanning the west channel of Tongass Narrows, and is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, due to rapidly escalating costs, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin directed the DOT&PF to look for a lower cost alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. Therefore, the DOT&PF intends to re-examine alternatives and identify and select a new preferred alternative. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that if the Gravina Island Highway segment was not incorporated into any new preferred alternative that segment may be determined ineligible for federal aid. Most of the reasonable alternatives evaluated in the FEIS did not include the Gravina Island Highway. A SEIS is being prepared to consider the impacts of the Gravina Island Highway in the analysis of reasonable alternatives, to address the reduced funding levels available, and to identify a new preferred alternative.

The Gravina Access Project SEIS will build on the studies completed and previously approved by FHWA to identify a lower cost alternative for access to Gravina Island. The SEIS will examine several alternatives including: three ferry alternatives—one located north of the airport, one located near the existing ferry, and one located south of the airport; two 200-foot high bridge crossings located near the airport; two 120-foot high bridge crossings located near the airport; a bridge alternative that crosses Pennock Island with a 200-foot high bridge from Revilla Island to Pennock Island and a 120-foot high bridge from Pennock Island to Gravina Island; and a bridge alternative that crosses Pennock Island with a 60-foot high bridge from Revilla Island to

Pennock Island and a 200-foot high bridge from Pennock Island to Gravina Island. The alternatives to be studied in detail in the SEIS will be determined by a screening process after scoping is complete and any new alternatives are identified. The No Action Alternative will remain under consideration throughout the SEIS process.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments should be submitted to FHWA or DOT&PF at the addresses provided above. The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008. Public scoping meetings will be held in Ketchikan at the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue on July 22, 2008, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and from 5 p.m.–7 p.m.

Comments received through the scoping process will be addressed in the Draft SEIS. Public notice will be given regarding the availability of the Draft SEIS for public and agency review and comment. During the comment period on the Draft SEIS, FHWA and DOT&PF will hold a Public Hearing to receive testimony concerning the Draft SEIS.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Research, Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: June 24, 2008.

David C. Miller,

FHWA Division Administrator, Juneau, Alaska.

[FR Doc. E8-14965 Filed 7-1-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2003-25290]

### Commercial Driver's License Standards; Isuzu Motors America, Inc.; Exemption Renewal

**AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of renewal of exemption; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces its decision to renew Isuzu Motors America, Inc.'s (Isuzu) exemption from the Agency's requirement that drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) possess a commercial driver's license

(CDL) issued in the United States. Isuzu requested that its current exemption for 11 Japanese engineers and technicians be renewed to enable them to continue test driving CMVs in the U.S. All 11 individuals are employees of Isuzu and hold a valid Japanese CDL. FMCSA believes the knowledge and skills testing and training program that Japanese drivers must undergo to obtain a Japanese CDL ensures a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety that would be obtained by complying with the U.S. requirements for a CDL.

**DATES:** This decision is effective July 2, 2008. Comments must be received on or before August 1, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System Number FMCSA-2003-25290 by any of the following methods:

- **Web Site:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the Federal electronic docket site.
- **Fax:** 1-202-493-2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- **Hand Delivery:** Ground Floor, Room W12-140, DOT Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**Instructions:** All submissions must include the Agency name and docket number. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information, see the Public Participation heading below. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to the ground floor, room W12-140, DOT Building, New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**Privacy Act:** Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the *Federal Register* published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR

19476), or you may visit <http://docketsinfo.dot.gov>.

**Public participation:** The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site is generally available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You can get electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines under the "help" section of the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site and also at the DOT's <http://docketsinfo.dot.gov> Web site. If you want us to notify you that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting comments online. Comments received after the comment closing date will be included in the docket, and we will consider late comments to the extent practicable.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert F. Schultz, Jr., FMCSA Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, Driver and Carrier Operations Division, Telephone: 202-366-4325, or e-mail: [MCPSD@dot.gov](mailto:MCPSD@dot.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315, as referenced in section 31136(e), FMCSA may grant an exemption if it finds "such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption." Exemptions may be granted for up to 2 years from the approval date and may be renewed upon application (49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1)). The procedure for requesting an exemption (including a renewal) is prescribed by 49 CFR part 381. FMCSA has evaluated Isuzu's application for renewal on its merits and has decided to grant renewal of the exemption for 11 of Isuzu's engineers and technicians for a 2-year period.

#### Isuzu Application for an Exemption Renewal

Isuzu Motors America, Inc. (Isuzu) has applied for the renewal of an exemption from 49 CFR 383.23, which sets forth rules applicable to drivers operating CMVs in interstate commerce. Isuzu seeks to renew its exemption for 11 of 19 drivers previously granted this exemption on October 16, 2003 (68 FR 59677). On June 21, 2006, the exemption was renewed (71 FR 35725).

Isuzu is seeking renewal of this exemption because the drivers it employs are citizens and residents of Japan, and therefore cannot apply for a CDL from a State of the United States. A copy of the request for renewal is in the docket identified at the beginning of

# SEIS Public Scoping Meetings

Tuesday, July 22, 2008  
11 am-1 pm / 5 pm-7 pm

*Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Ave., Ketchikan*



The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration are seeking public comments about the scope of the Gravina Access Project's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Please join us at the SEIS Public Scoping Meetings to share your comments with the project team.

## WHY AN SEIS?

DOT&PF began constructing the Gravina Island Highway in 2006. Due to the rising cost of the selected bridge alternative, DOT&PF now intends to reevaluate other alternatives. Also, not all reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway. DOT&PF is preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider reasonable alternatives in conjunction with the new highway and address rising construction costs.

## SCOPING COMMENTS DEADLINE

Your written comments on the SEIS scope must arrive by Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008, to:

Reuben Yost  
DOT&PF, P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506  
**E-MAIL:** reuben.yost@alaska.gov  
**FAX:** (907) 465-2016

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project Web site at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com) or contact:

Deborah Holman,  
Special Projects  
Administrative Coordinator  
**PHONE:** (907) 465-1828

Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/DOT&PF Project 67698/Federal Project ACHP-0922(5)

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)



# Gravina Access Project SEIS Scoping COMMENTS DUE AUG. 19

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration are seeking public comments about the scope of the **Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**.

To be included in the official scoping report, comments on the scope of the SEIS must be received by Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008. We are particularly interested in comments with regard to the **purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be evaluated and any concerns about historic and/or cultural resources, and potential impacts on the social, natural, or built environment**. For more information about the project, visit the project Web site at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com), or contact Deborah Holman, Special Projects Administrative Coordinator, at (907) 465-1828.

*Thanks to everyone who attended and provided comments at the public scoping meetings on July 22 in Ketchikan!*



To be included in the official scoping report, your written comments on the SEIS scope must arrive by **Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008**.

Mail your comments to:

**Gravina Access Project SEIS  
DOT&PF, P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506**

Submit your comments online at:  
**[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)**

Fax your comments to:  
**(907) 465-2016**



Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/DO&PF Project 67498/Federal Project ACHP-0922(S)

**[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ALASKA, )

) SS:

Gateway Borough )

Tena Williams, being duly sworn says:

That she/he is representative of the Ketchikan Daily News, a daily newspaper published at Ketchikan, in said Borough and State, and that the publication of which the annexed is a printed and true copy, was published in said newspaper at least once a

day and every day for one.

successive day commencing on the 14<sup>th</sup>

day of August 2008 and ending on the

14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008

Tena Williams

Subscribed and sworn to before me this, 19<sup>th</sup> day of

August, 2008

Vernella M. Burnett  
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires 1-16-2012





**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF ALASKA, )

) SS:

Gateway Borough )

Tena Williams, being duly sworn says:

That she/he is representative of the Ketchikan Daily News, a daily newspaper published at Ketchikan, in said Borough and State, and that the publication of which the annexed is a printed and true copy, was published in said newspaper at least once a

day and every day for one.

successive day commencing on the 18<sup>th</sup>

day of July 2008 and ending on the

18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008

Tena Williams

Subscribed and sworn to before me this, 30<sup>th</sup> day of

July, 2008

Kenneth M. Burnett

Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires 1-16-2012

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF ALASKA, )

) SS:

Gateway Borough )

Tena Williams, being duly sworn says:

That she/he is representative of the Ketchikan Daily News, a daily newspaper published at Ketchikan, in said Borough and State, and that the publication of which the annexed is a printed and true copy, was published in said newspaper at least once a

day and every day for one

successive day commencing on the 9<sup>th</sup>

day of July 2008 and ending on the

9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008

Tena Williams

Subscribed and sworn to before me this, 30<sup>th</sup> day of

July, 2008

Vernonia M. Bunelle  
Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission Expires 1-16-2012

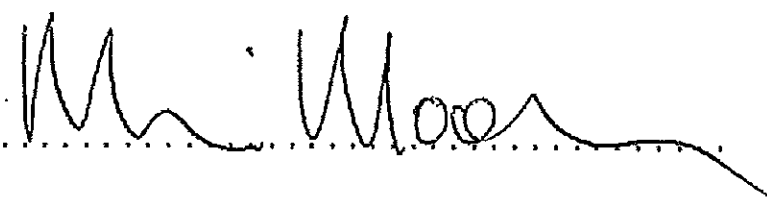
AFFIDAVIT of PUBLICATION

United States of America  
State of Alaska  
First Division

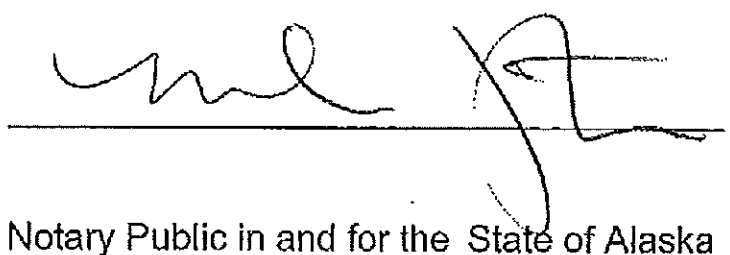
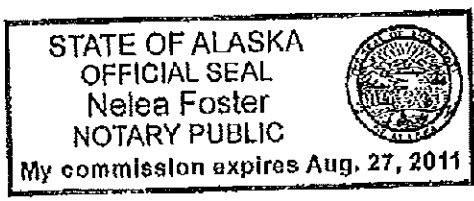
Account No: 15100431  
Tag Line: 600-044

I, My'Kellia Mooney, being first duly sworn, oath depose and say that I am the Principle Clerk of the JUNEAU EMPIRE, a newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Juneau, State of Alaska and that the publication, of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in said newspaper on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2008 and thereafter for 0 additional day(s), the last date of publication being June 20<sup>th</sup> 2008.

**Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings**  
**SUMMARY:** The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are starting the scoping process for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Gravina Access Project in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan, Alaska. For more information, visit the project Web site: [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)  
**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the SEIS must arrive by August 19, 2008. Public scoping meetings will be held on July 22, 2008, from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm.  
**ADDRESSES:** All comments concerning the scope of the SEIS should be addressed to: Reuben Yost, DOT&PF, PO Box 2506, Juneau, AK 99801-2506, or by e-mail ([reuben.yost@alaska.gov](mailto:reuben.yost@alaska.gov)) or by fax (907-485-2016). The comment deadline, to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report, is August 19, 2008.  
The location of the public scoping meeting on July 22, 2008, is the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99801.  
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Holman, Special Projects Administrative Coordinator, Phone: (907) 465-1028  
Publish June 20, 2008 600-044



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Legal No. 13246

STATE OF ALASKA, )  
 ) SS:  
Gateway Borough )

Rebecca Lakouad, being duly sworn says: That she is a representative of the Ketchikan Daily News, a daily newspaper published at Ketchikan, in said Borough and State, and that the publication of which the annexed is a printed and true copy, was published in said newspaper at least once per week and every week for one week, commencing on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008 and ending on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.



Subscribed and sworn to before me this

5<sup>th</sup>, day of  
August, 2008

Kenneth M. Bunkoff  
Notary Public for Alaska  
My Commission Expires 1-16-2012

## Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

**SUMMARY:** The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT & PF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are starting the scoping process for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Gravina Access Project in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan, Alaska. For more information, visit the project Web site:

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the SEIS must arrive by August 19, 2008. Public scoping meetings will be held on July 22, 2008, from 11:00am-1:00pm and from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments concerning the scope of the SEIS should be addressed to: Reuben Yost, DOT & PF, PO Box 2506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506, or by e-mail ([reuben.yost@alaska.gov](mailto:reuben.yost@alaska.gov)), or by fax: (907)465-2016.

The comment deadline, to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report, is August 19, 2008.

The location of the public scoping meeting on July 22, 2008, is the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Holman, Special Projects Administrative Coordinator, Phone: (907)465-1828.

Publish: June 20, 2008  
No. 13246

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

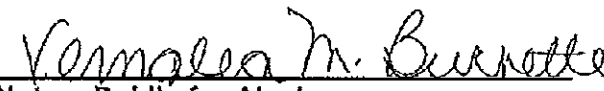
Legal No. 13246

STATE OF ALASKA, )  
 ) SS:  
Gateway Borough )

Rebecca Lakouad, being duly sworn says: That she is a representative of the Ketchikan Daily News, a daily newspaper published at Ketchikan, in said Borough and State, and that the publication of which the annexed is a printed and true copy, was published in said newspaper at least once per week and every week for one week, commencing on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008 and ending on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this

25<sup>th</sup>, day of  
June, 2008

  
Notary Public for Alaska  
My Commission Expires 1-16-2012

Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings

**SUMMARY:** The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT & PF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are starting the scoping process for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Gravina Access Project in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Ketchikan, Alaska. For more information, visit the project Web site: [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com).

**DATES:** Written comments on the scope of the SEIS must arrive by August 19, 2008. Public scoping meetings will be held on July 22, 2008, from 11:00am-1:00pm and from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

**ADDRESSES:** All comments concerning the scope of the SEIS should be addressed to: Reuben Yost, DOT & PF, PO Box 2506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506, or by e-mail ([reuben.yost@alaska.gov](mailto:reuben.yost@alaska.gov)), or by fax (907-465-2016). The comment deadline, to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report, is August 19, 2008. The location of the public scoping meeting on July 22, 2008, is the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, Ketchikan, AK 99901.

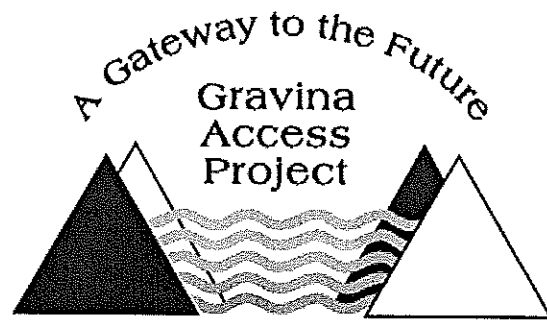
**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Deborah Holman, Special Projects Administrative Coordinator, Phone: (907)465-1828, Publish: June 20, 2008, No. 13246

# SEIS Public Scoping Meetings

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

11 am-1 pm / 5 pm-7 pm

*Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Ave., Ketchikan*



The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration are seeking public comments about the scope of the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Please join us at the SEIS Public Scoping Meetings to share your comments with the project team. We look forward to hearing from you!

## WHY AN SEIS?

On Sept. 21, 2007, Governor Palin announced that the State could not fund the selected bridge alternative identified in the Gravina Access Project Record of Decision and directed the DOT&PF to look for the most fiscally responsible alternative for access. Not all of the reasonable alternatives in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway, which DOT&PF began constructing in 2006. So, DOT&PF is now preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider all reasonable alternatives in conjunction with the constructed Gravina Island Highway. The No Action Alternative will also be considered. The SEIS will result in a FHWA Record of Decision selecting a new alternative.

Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/  
DOT&PF Project 67698/Federal Project ACHP-0922(5)

## SCOPING COMMENTS DEADLINE

To be included in the official scoping report, comments on the scope of the SEIS must be received by **Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008**.

Comments can be mailed to:

Gravina Access Project SEIS  
DOT&PF, P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

Submit comments online at:  
[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)

Fax your comments to:  
**(907) 465-2016**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project Web site at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com) or contact:

Deborah Holman,  
Special Projects Administrative Coordinator  
**PHONE: (907) 465-1828**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)





Gravina Access Project SEIS  
 DOT&PF  
 P.O. 112506  
 Juneau, AK 99811-2506

PRST-STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 ANCHORAGE, AK  
 PERMIT NO. 500

**WANTED YOUR INPUT**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration are seeking public comments about the scope of the Gravina Access Project's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Look inside to learn more about the project and how to provide comments, and find out how to join the project mailing list. We look forward to hearing from you!



Gravina Access Project SEIS  
 DOT&PF  
 P.O. 112506  
 Juneau, AK 99811-2506

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 PERMIT NO. 500

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**YES!** Please keep me informed about the Gravina Access Project Supplemental EIS.  
 Here is my contact information (please print legibly):

Name (First and Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone including Area Code (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:** To protect your personal information, 1) refold the postcard so the Gravina Access Project SEIS address is on the outside, 2) seal the open edges with tape (NO STAPLES), 3) add a stamp, and 4) drop it in the mail.

**YES!** Please keep me informed about the Gravina Access Project Supplemental EIS.  
 Here is my contact information (please print legibly):

Name (First and Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone including Area Code (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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For more information, visit the project Web site at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com) or call Deborah Holman, Special Projects Administrative Coordinator, at (907) 465-1828.

If you'd like to join the project mailing list, fill out and return this postcard or sign up online at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com).

Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/DOT&PF Project 67698/Federal Project ACRP-0922(5)

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STAMP  
HERE

## GRAVINA ACCESS PROJECT SEIS

DOT&PF  
P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

## WHY AN SEIS?

On Sept. 21, 2007, Governor Palin announced that the State could not fund the selected bridge alternative identified



in the Gravina Access Project Record of Decision and directed the DOT&PF to look for the most fiscally responsible alternative for access. Not all of the reasonable alternatives in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway, which DOT&PF began constructing in 2006. So, DOT&PF is now preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider all reasonable alternatives in conjunction with the constructed Gravina Island Highway. The No-Action Alternative will also be considered. The SEIS will result in a FHWA Record of Decision selecting a new alternative.

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Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/DOT&PF Project 67698/Federal Project ACRP-0922(5)

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STAMP  
HERE

## GRAVINA ACCESS PROJECT SEIS

DOT&PF  
P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

## SEIS Public Scoping Meetings

Tuesday, July 22, 2008  
11 am-1 pm / 5-7 pm  
Ted Ferry Civic Center  
888 Venetia Ave., Ketchikan

### SCOPING COMMENTS DEADLINE

To be included in the official scoping report, comments on the scope of the SEIS must be received by Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008. Comments can be mailed to

Gravina Access Project SEIS, DOT&PF, P.O. Box 2506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506, or made directly online at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com), or faxed to (907) 465-2016.

\* Mailing List Updated as of 08/19/2008

Organization	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email Address	Phone
SEACC			419 - 6th St. #200	Juneau	AK	99801	buck@seacc.org	(907) 586-6942
CP Inc.			625 Stedman Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901	channel@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-9725
DOT			419 - 6th Street #200	Juneau	AK	99801	seacc@seacc.org	
First City Saloon, Inc			830 Water St	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Joan	Aegerter	3350 First St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-5054
	Earl	Allain	5161 Shoreline Dr.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Jim	Amos	215 Heckman St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	ames49@yahoo.com	(907) 225-3408
	Peter W.	Amundson	918 Jackson Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-6036
	David H.	Anderes	4348 S. Tongass Hwy	Ketchikan	AK	99901	dha@andersoil.com	(907) 225-2163
	Rick F.	Anderson	PO Box 533	Metlakatla	AK	99926	anderzonzonclan@hotmail.com	(907) 886-7650
DOT	Robert	Armstrong	450 Washington St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	humbird@gci.net	
	Charlie	Arteaga	1439 Millan	Ketchikan	AK	99901	c.arteaga@att.net	
Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce	Blaine	Ashcraft					blaine@kpnunet.net	
	Cindy	Barber	71 Double Eagle Lanes	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Cindy	Barber	71 Double Eagle Lane S.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Fred & Carol	Begley	Box 535	Ward Cove	AK	99928		(907) 247-1581
	Catherine	Bellon	504 Washington St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Ray	Benson	Box 213	Kipnuk	AK	99614	rbensonson@yahoo.com	
	Rosemarie	Bergeron	Box 5505	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Samuel E.	Bergeron	501A Front St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	samuelbergeron@gci.net	
	Clay	Bezeneck	Box 6464	Ketchikan	AK	99901	cebezeneck@kpnunet.net	(907) 617-4785
	Sarajustine	Black	1023 Woodland Ave.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	sarajustine@gci.net	
DOT	J	Blackmore	PO Box 6431	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Lisa	Boles	PO Box 839	Ward Cove	AK	99928	lboles@kpu.net	
	Walter	Bolling	PO Box 5958-3714 Justice Ct	Ketchikan	AK	99901	wcbolling@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-4802
	Peter	Bolling	2928 Baronof Avenue	Ketchikan	AK	99901	prbolling@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-4087
	Wrenn	Boulton	1539 Squaw Mt. Trail	Idaho Springs	CO	80452	wrennboulton@aol.com	
	Karen	Brand	362 D-1 Loop, P.O. Box 7302	Ketchikan	AK	99901	brand.k1@gmail.com	(907) 225-5681
DOT	James	Bray	2134 - 2nd Ave.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-2664
	Bob	Brooks	16923 Meridian East	Pullallup	WA	98375	robert.brooks@sagemavionics.com	(253) 848-3555
	Alice R.	Brusch	PO Box 719	Ward Cove	AK	99928		(907) 247-8438
	Betsey	Burdett	37 Potter Rd	Ketchikan	AK	99901	seeexposure@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-8829
	Jim	Burns	PO Box 8575	Ketchikan	AK	99901	jimak@alaska.com	
	Ken	Bylund	186 Marblehead Lane	Ketchikan	AK	99901	kenby@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-9494
Parkview Apartment Co.	Tom	Caffrey					prcces@gci.net	
DOT	Doreen	Caffrey	929-B Stedman Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
Tongass Conservation Society	Carol	Cairnes	PO Box 8908	Ketchikan	AK	99901	ccairnes@gmail.com	(907) 225-8908
	Shirley	Carlin	525 Front St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-3860
KTW Airport	Mike	Carney	1000 Terminal Way	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
DOT	Mike	Cessnun	428 Gold Road	Ketchikan	AK	99901-9629	mcessnun@kpnunet.net	
c/o Ken Jackson	Thomas	Charles	5901 East 6th Ave. Space 24C	Anchorage	AK	99504	mike.cessnun@alaskaair.com	(907) 225-7572
	Barry	Christensen	3409 Bailey Blvd	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-5947
	Dan	Christensen	3137 Tongass	Ketchikan	AK	99901	dantoad@hotmail.com	
	Bruce	Christensen	853 Jackson St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-6186
DOT	Bradley	Christian					tadpole@socket.net	
	L	Clark		Metlakatla	AK	99926		
DO NOT keep informed	Lance	Clark	5695 Jurgen Dr.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 247-2575
	Crystal	Clark	P.O. Box 1495	Ward Cove	AK	99928		
DOT	Della A.	Colburn	PO Box 2	Kasaan	AK	99950-0340	llskidy54@yahoo.com	
	Joan	Collier	Box 95	Metlakatla	AK	99926		(907) 886-7751
	Mark	Cooley	20746 NE LuPine Ave	Bend	OR	97701	getdish@clearwire.net	(541) 610-6210
Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce	Dick	Coose						
Ketchikan Daily News	Andrew	Damstedt					andrew@ketchikandailynews.com	
	Krista	D'Angelo	898 Monroe Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901	kristaleeb@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-4464
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	Erika	Decker	#13 Creek St. - Apt C	Ketchikan	AK	99901	twedy@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-9559
	Scott	Doyle	Box 1472	Ward Cove	AK	99928		
DOT	Larry W.	Droogs	629 Buren Road	Ketchikan	AK	99901	larry134@webtv.net	(907) 225-5353
	Ken & Anita	Duckett	PO Box 23178	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Karen & Jim	Eakes	636 Main St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	keakes@att.net	
	Marly	Edenso	500 Deermount St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901-6610		
	Elizabeth	Einset	PO Box 7561	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
DOT	Ginny	Eiseman	411 Canyon Rd.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	ginny@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-8026
	Peter	Ellis					elo@kpnunet.net	
	Tom	Fabry	Box 9026	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Heddy	Fabry						
	Mary	Fabry						
	Kristina	Fabry					kandy_kane538@yahoo.com	(907) 254-2288
	Heddy G.	Fabry	2455 Williamson Valley Rd.	Prescott	AZ	86305		
	Ramona	Ferry	1626 Water St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Catherine	Flick	PO Box 32	White Salmon	AK	98672	stewart@gorge.net	
DOT	Liz	Freedman	PO Box 19233	Thorne Bay	AK	99919		
	Gage		PO Box 190421	Anchorage	AK		atwillie@yahoo.com	
KRBP	Ronald	Galdabini	970 Buck Creek Road	Drain	OR	97435		(541) 942-4732
	Deanna	Garrison	123 Stedman St.	Ketchikan	AK			
	Betsy	Germain	PO Box 8216	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Larry & Sarah	Gilbert	300 Parnell St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	gilberts@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-2425
	Chris	Gilbert	300 Parnell St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	cgilbert69@yahoo.com	(907) 225-2425
	Doug	Gosnell	6103 S. Tongass	Ketchikan	AK	99901	dougjoy@att.net	
Alaska Forest Association	Owen	Graham	316 Monroe Street (PO Box 9023)	Ketchikan	AK	99901	ograham@aol.com	(907) 617-5152
	John	Green	811 Monroe	Ketchikan	AK	99901	b.green@seley.com	(907) 225-8937
	Otto	Greene	1005 Manse St	Kiawock	AK	99925	ottogreene@aol.com	(907) 755-2464
	Ilene	Guthrie	3122 E. 5th	Spokane	WA	99202		(509) 534-0705
	Monte	Guymon	2535 North Tongass	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-6236
KFMJ Radio	Anita	Hales					anita@halesmail.net	
	Barbara	Hassell	2949 S. Tongass Hwy	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Barbara	Hassell	2949 S. Tongass Hwy	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-2041
	Howard J.	Heath	1382 Castine Rd	Pensbscot	ME	04476		(207) 326-4061
	Mary	Henrikson	PO Box 998	WAC	AK	99928		
	Laura	Henthorne	PO Box 874	Ward Cove	AK	99928	hawthorne@kpnunet.net	(907) 225-2282
	Bret A.	Hiatt	6634 Vista Dr.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	ravensview@kpnunet.net	
	Ruth	Hill	808 Forest Park	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Barry	Hoffman	12805 SE Rivercrest Dr.	Vancouver	WA	98683	bhoffmann@comcast.net	
	Steve	Hoffman	Box 7064	Ketchikan	AK	99901	mcs123@gci.net	(907) 247-7867
DOT	Cynthia	Hoggard	PO Box 5101	Ketchikan	AK	99901	choggard@hotmail.com	
North Tongass VFD	Cecil Ted	Howe	141 Sisters Lane	Roseburg	OR	97471		(541) 679-6445
	David	Hull	344 Front Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Bryce D.	Huteson	PO Box 8494	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Maurice D.	Ingman	15008 N. Tongass Hwy	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Jack	Jacobsen	PO Box 8794	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Jack & Elinore	Jacobsen	2125 Second Ave	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-3395
	Randall	Jahnke	Box 694	Ward Cove	AK	99928		(907) 247-2421
	Patrick	Jirschelle						
	Patrick	Jirshelle	Box 23492	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 247-8588

\* Mailing List Updated as of 08/19/2008

Organization	First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Email Address	Phone
	Gary	Johnson	Box 524	Klawock	AK	99925	cadillac_man@live.com	(907) 755-2158
	Joe	Johnston	PO Box 6711	Ketchikan	AK	99901	steelhead@gci.net	
	John	Jwan	11319 E. 25th	Spokane	WA	99206		(509) 924-4696
	John D.	Karlson	Box 6420	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-9022
	Robert	Kaus	80312 Hwy 99	Cottage Grove	OR	97424		(541) 942-0315
DOT	Patty	Keeley	PO Box 1231	Ward Cove	AK	99928	patlyk@kpunet.net	
	Henry C.	Keene, Jr.	2051 Sea Level Dr. #305	Ketchikan	AK	99901	henrykeene@kpunet.net	(907) 225-5474
DOT	Vivian	Kellogg	2420 Tongass Ave	Ketchikan	AK	99901	vk@kpunet.net	
	Pam	Kemble	6072 Churchill Ct	Ketchikan	AK	99901	kembles@kpu.net	
	A.J.	Kenyon	628 Adams St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-6000
	Scott	Kenyon	2343 - 2nd Ave	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 247-1354
	Loretta	Keyes	8 Washington Ter	St. Louis	MO			(314) 361-5114
	Delores	Kienel	PO Box 9294	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
DOT	William	Kienel	PO Box 9294	Ketchikan	AK	99901	wkienel12000@yahoo.com	
	Ken	Kiffer	630 N. Pt. Higgins Rd.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	kkiffer@gci.net	
	Wally K.	Klingelhut	1731 Fairy Chasm	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Mary	Kowalczyk					mary.kowalczyk@alaska.gov	
	Wallace & Linda	Kreider	PO Box 1596 - 8985 Heron Lr	Ward Cove	AK	99928	ketchikangirl@alaska.com	(907) 247-2513
	Larry	Kubley	333 Madison	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-3646
	Wayne H.	Laemmlle	8012 Tyee Rd.	Umpqua	OR	97486		(541) 459-9837
	Gary	Lake	675 Sunset Dr. N.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Len	Laurance	Box 8800	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	John	Lea	827 Monroe St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Ronald	Lundamo	657 North Point Higgins Roac	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 247-8375
	Roger	Lutz	101 Deer Meadow Lane	Naches	WA	98837		(509) 658-1054
	T.F.	Martinez	PO Box 23567	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
DOT	Jerry	Mastin	941 Monroe St	Ketchikan	AK	99901	lwm@kpunet.net	
	Phil	May	2153 Woodland Hills Ln	Pinetop	AZ	85935	loanphil@cableone.net	
	Floyd	McClellan	16643 Waterfall Rd.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	floyd99901@usa.net	
	Kate	McConnon	1211 Pond Reef Rd.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 247-8565
DOT	Victoria	McDonald	6526 Rodgers Pass	Ketchikan	AK	99901	victoriamdona1@hotmail.com	
	Carrie	McLaughlin	830 Water St	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-1494
	Mal	Menzies					mmentzies@gci.net	
	Bart	Meyer	11226 Beachwood RD.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	psv_mech011@yahoo.com	
	Kent	Milaeger	PO Box 501	Zephyr Cove	NV	89448	kentmil@charter.net	
	Linda	Millard	501A Front St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	lindamilard@gci.net	
	Dick	Miller					margotlick@gci.net	
	Margot	Miller	2327 - 3rd Ave.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	margotlick@gci.net	(907) 225-3694
	Brian	Miller	PO Box 1456	Ward Cove	AK	99928	bodean@gci.net	(907) 617-7700
	Dana	Miller	614 Pickering Way	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
ADF&G Habitat	Mark	Minnillo	PO Box 668	Craig	AK	99921	mark.minnillo@alaska.gov	
	Clarie M.	Moeser	PO Box 23043	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-5908
	Thomas O.	Moore	69 Lake Rd.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	tomoore@gci.net	(907) 617-0098
	Michael	Moyer	1305 Water Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901	cobocarey@yahoo.com	(907) 247-0455
DOT	Eric	Muench	228 Martin Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901	ericmuench@kpunet.net	
	Cheri	Murphy	PO Box 6974	Ketchikan	AK	99901	clarity@kpunet.net	(907) 225-6974
	Carol	Murray					carolmurray99@hotmail.com	
	Rod	Neterer	191 Mattie Rd	Ketchikan	AK	99901	neterer@SSRAA.org	
	Matt	Nichols	401 Dz Loop Road	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Fred	Norman	243 Gish Road	Onalaska	WA	98570		(253) 304-7277
	Walter & Rose	Northrup	638 N. Pt. Higgins Rd.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	James	O'Shea	59-171 Ke Nui Road	Haleiwa	HI	96712	icposhea@gmail.com	
	Mike	Painter					sede@kpunet.net	
	Patricia	Palkovic	PO Box 1375	Ward Cove	AK	99928	plpalkovic@hotmail.com	(509) 493-1195
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	Ronald & Margaret	Parsley	HC 1 Box 483	Gakona	AK	99586		
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	Penny	Pedersen	PO Box 9438	Ketchikan	AK	99901	pankowpedersen@att.net	
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	Astrid D.	Peura	PO Box 23071	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
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	Sue Ann	Richards	PO Box 23174	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 247-3014
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	Ralph M.	Rohweder	3273 E. Jump Off Joe Rd.	Valley	WA	99181		(509) 937-4440
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	Sandy	Rowan	1260 Water St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	srowan@gci.net	
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	Bill	Smart					bsmart@gci.net	
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	Alair & Roland	Stanton	3817 Fairview	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
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	John	Stewart						
	Lynette	Stoller	6989 S. Tongass Hwy	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 225-9134
	Stuart & Donna	Sullivan	1809 Kauffman Ave.	Vancouver	WA	98660		(360) 694-1802
	David	Sweetman	1245 Millar St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	kokomo@kpunet.net	(907) 225-6701
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Tatsuda's Supermarket Inc	William	Tatsuda	PO Box 8820	Ketchikan	AK	99901	wbtatsuda@kpunet.net	(907) 617-3016
	Curtis	Thomas	334 Front St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	seafun@kpu.net	
	Diana R.	Thomas	PO Box 5196	Ketchikan	AK	99901		

\* Mailing List Updated as of 08/19/2008

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	Catherine	Tighe	101 Raspberry Ln.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Larry	Tillotson	PO Box 518	Ward Cove	AK	99928		
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	Steve	Turner	1014 Water St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Guy	Tutterow	6588 Mill Pond Dr.	Battleboro	NC	27809		(252) 885-1890
	Eric	Tyson	PO Box 8322	Ketchikan	AK	99901	<a href="mailto:just4thehalibut@yahoo.com">just4thehalibut@yahoo.com</a>	
Senator Stedman Office	Jim	Van Horn					<a href="mailto:legion3@kpunet.net">legion3@kpunet.net</a>	
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City of Ketchikan	Bob	Weinstein	334 Front St	Ketchikan	AK	99901		
	Wes	Whelchel	PO Box 156	Spray	OR	97874	<a href="mailto:weswipito@wavewow.com">weswipito@wavewow.com</a>	(541) 468-2114
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Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning	Tom	Williams, Ph.D.	344 Front Street	Ketchikan	AK	99901		(907) 228-6610
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DOT	Eric	Youngstrom	515 Front St.	Ketchikan	AK	99901	<a href="mailto:eyoungstrom@hotmail.com">eyoungstrom@hotmail.com</a>	

# Gravina Access Project

## Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement



Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/DOT&PF Project 67698/Federal Project ACHP-0922(5)

### Project Scope

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are starting work on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

The DOT&PF and FHWA identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The purpose of the Gravina Access Project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, and Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreation and development potential. Improved transportation access to Gravina Island would provide better service to the airport and allow for the development of the large tracts of land on the island.

### Project Background

The principal modes of transportation to Ketchikan are airplane, including floatplane, and ship. No "hard-link" surface transportation is available to or between Revillagigedo and Gravina islands, or from Ketchikan to other communities in Alaska or the Lower 48. Currently, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough-operated ferry system provides the only scheduled surface transportation to Gravina Island. It services mostly foot traffic, but also carries vehicles across Tongass Narrows directly to the Ketchikan International Airport terminal. Regularly scheduled airline service and ferry connections through the Alaska Marine Highway System link Ketchikan to the rest of Alaska and the Lower 48.

The DOT&PF and FHWA evaluated six bridge alternatives, three ferry alternatives, and the No Action Alternative in the Gravina Access Project Final EIS. The FEIS, which was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on July 30, 2004, identified Alternative F1 as the DOT&PF and FHWA Preferred Alternative. Alternative F1 would cross Tongass Narrows via Pennock Island with two bridges: a 200-foot bridge over the East Channel and a 120-foot bridge over the West Channel. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, that identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative.

On September 21, 2007, Governor Palin announced that the State could not fund the selected bridge alternative identified in the Gravina Access Project Record of Decision (Office of the Governor press release, *Gravina Access Project Redirected 07-192*) and directed the DOT&PF to look for the most fiscally responsible alternative for access.

FHWA informed the DOT&PF in October 2007 that if the

State were to select a different alternative that does not include the Gravina Island Highway, all or part of the monies expended on construction of the highway may be declared ineligible for federal participation. Not all of the reasonable alternatives in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway, which DOT&PF began constructing in 2006. So, DOT&PF is now preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider all reasonable alternatives in conjunction with the constructed Gravina Island Highway. The No Action Alternative will also be considered. The SEIS will result in a FHWA Record of Decision selecting a new alternative.

### SEIS Process

According to FHWA's Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (23 CFR Part 771), an EIS shall be supplemented whenever FHWA determines that changes to the proposed action would result in significant environmental impacts that were not evaluated in the EIS, or new information or circumstances relevant to environmental concerns and bearings on the proposed action or its impacts would result in significant environmental impacts not evaluated in the EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the uncertainty of funding levels and the consideration of construction of the Gravina Island Highway for all reasonable alternatives. The SEIS will review and update information presented in the FEIS and supplement the environmental analyses of the alternatives to incorporate the Gravina Island Highway. The SEIS may consider new alternatives if the results of scoping or new cost criteria (per Governor Palin's September 21, 2007, directive) present reasons to do so.

### Project Purpose & Need

The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents with more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned, long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

*Continued on back ...*

Continued from front ...

## Project Participants

**Federal Highway Administration:** Section 6002 requires FHWA take the role of the lead federal agency for all highway projects that receive USDOT funds or require FHWA approval. FHWA has the responsibility and decision making authority for the proposed federal action. As the lead agency, FHWA oversees the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, consults with other agencies, maintains the government-to-government relationships with tribal entities, and is ultimately responsible for the scope and content of the SEIS.

**Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities:** DOT&PF is the direct recipient of federal funds for this project and will serve as the joint lead agency. As the joint lead agency, DOT&PF will collaborate with FHWA on all public and agency coordination for the Gravina Access Project SEIS.

## Project Timeline

2008				2009				2010			
WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
Project Kick Off											
		Public Scoping			Draft SEIS		Final SEIS		Record of Decision		

## For More Information

Visit the project Web site at [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com) or contact:

Deborah Holman, Special Projects Administrative Coordinator

Gravina Access Project SEIS, DOT&PF

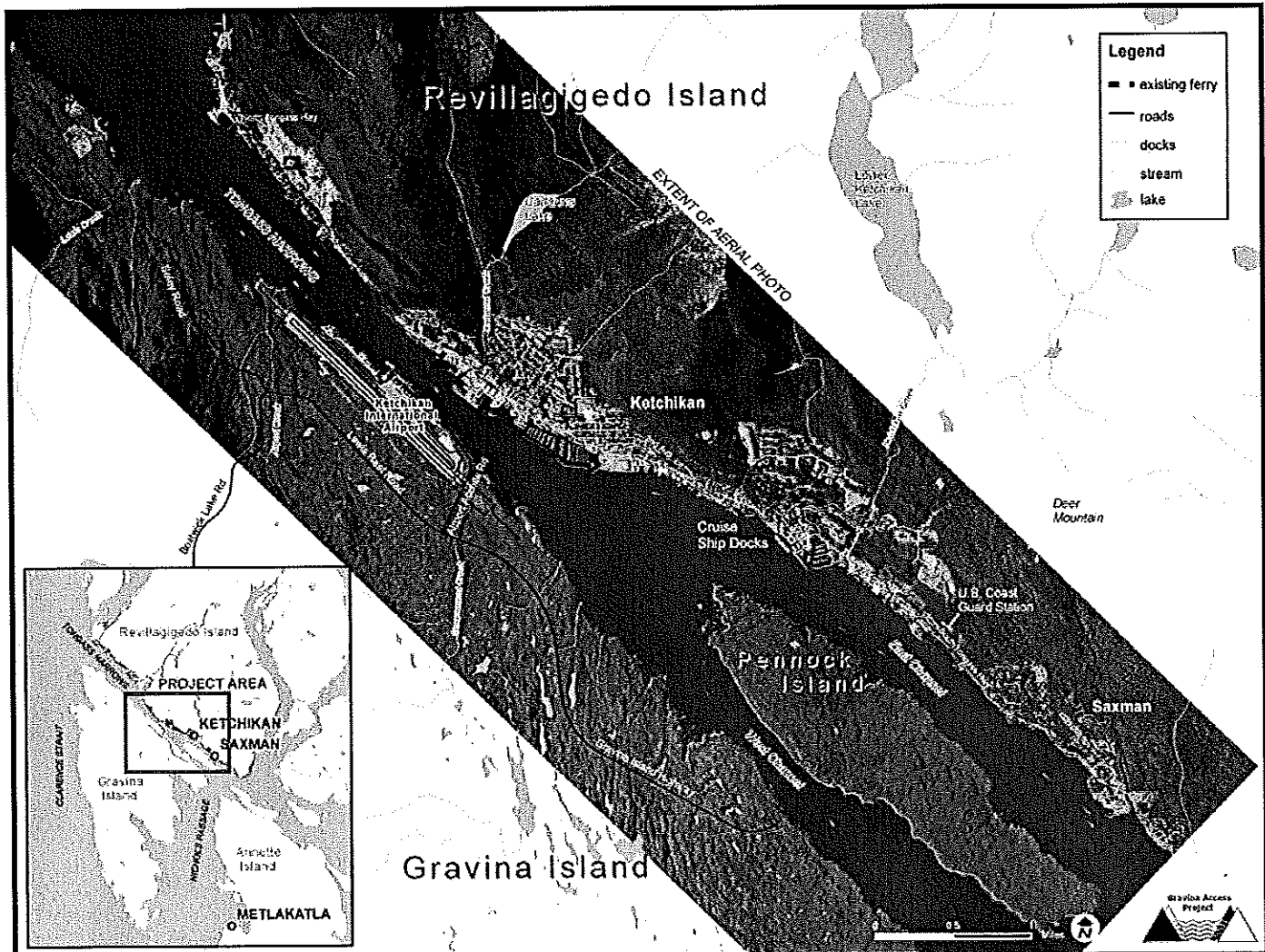
P.O. Box 2506

Juneau, AK 99811-2506

Phone: (907) 465-1828

Fax: (907) 465-2016

## Project Vicinity Map



# **Welcome to the Gravina Access Project SEIS Public Scoping Meeting!**

Please sign in to help us keep you  
informed about the project.



**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)





# Purpose & Need

The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island.

The need for improving access is threefold:

- ◆ To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- ◆ To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- ◆ To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

*We welcome your comments on the Purpose and Need.*



**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)





# Why prepare an SEIS?

On Sept. 21, 2007, Governor Palin announced that the State could not fund the selected bridge alternative identified in the Gravina Access Project Record of Decision and directed the DOT&PF to look for the most fiscally responsible alternative for access. Not all of the reasonable alternatives in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway, which DOT&PF began constructing in 2006, so, DOT&PF is now preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider all reasonable alternatives with the constructed Gravina Island Highway. The No Action Alternative will also be considered. The SEIS will result in a FHWAA Record of Decision selecting a new alternative.

## Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

- ◆ An SEIS is necessary when there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the draft or final EIS (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)).
- ◆ The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reasons why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous draft or final EIS.
- ◆ The SEIS needs to address only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS (23 CFR 771.130(a)).

## Why an SEIS for the Gravina Access Project?

- To consider the uncertainty of funding levels.
- To include Gravina Island Highway as an element of all reasonable alternatives.

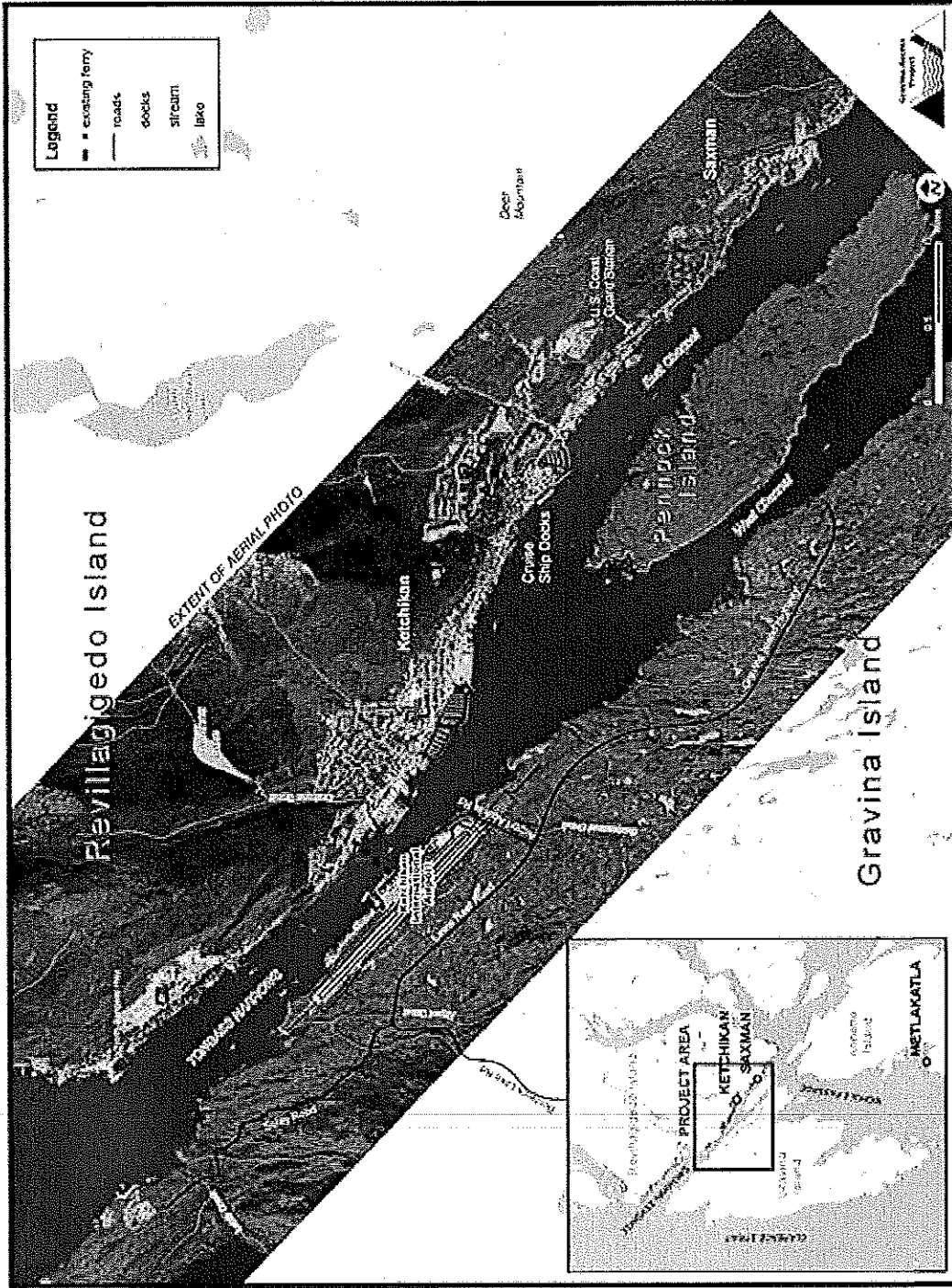


**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-project-access.com](http://www.gravina-project-access.com)



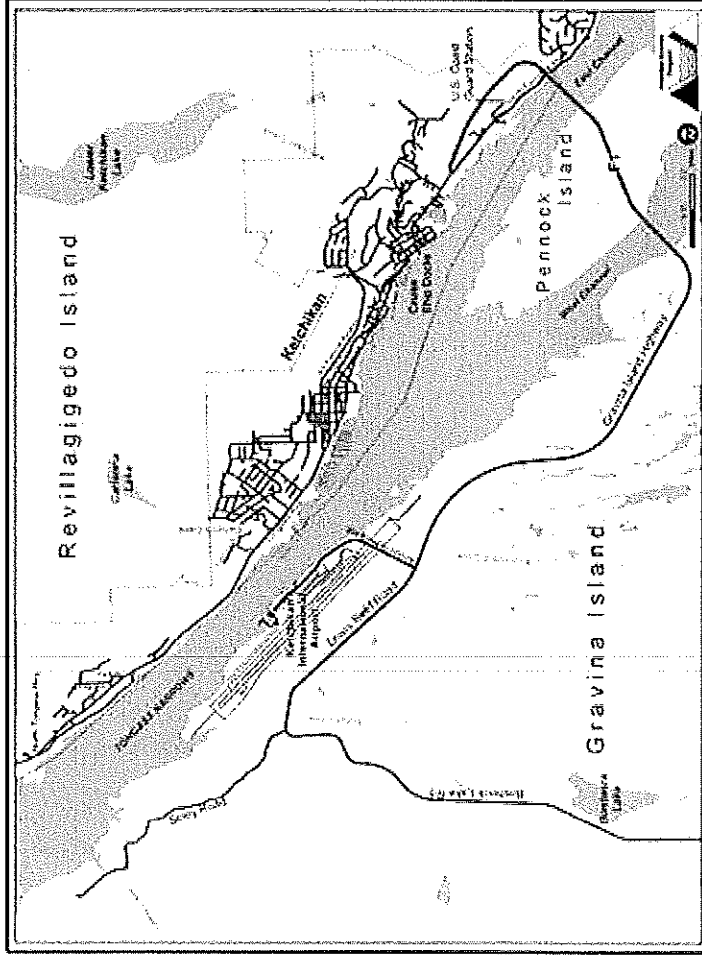
# Project Area



**Gravina Access Project SEIS** [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)

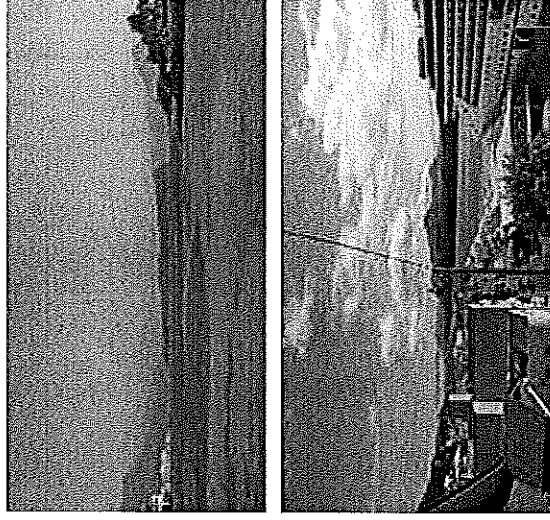


# Alternative F1



Two bridge connection via Pennock Island: East Channel bridge would be approx. 250 feet high and West Channel bridge would be approx. 160 feet high.

Selected Alternative from 2004 Record of Decision.

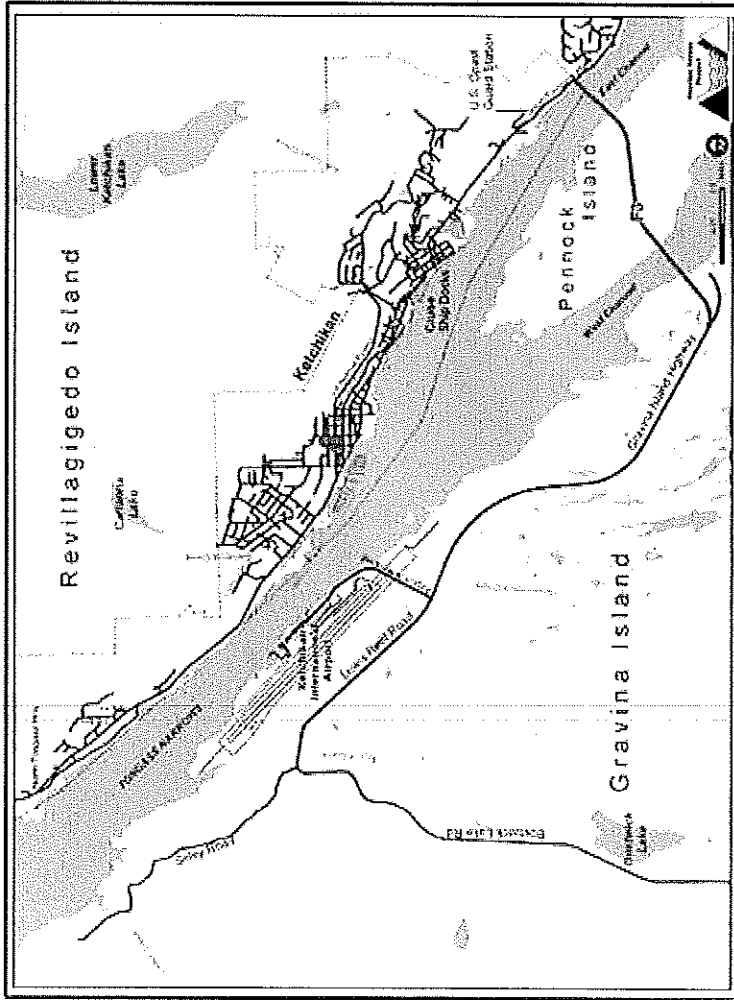


## Gravingina Access Project SEIS

[www.gravingina-access.com](http://www.gravingina-access.com)



# Alternative F3



Two bridge connection via Pennock Island: East Channel bridge would be approximately 140 feet high and West Channel bridge would be approximately 250 feet high.



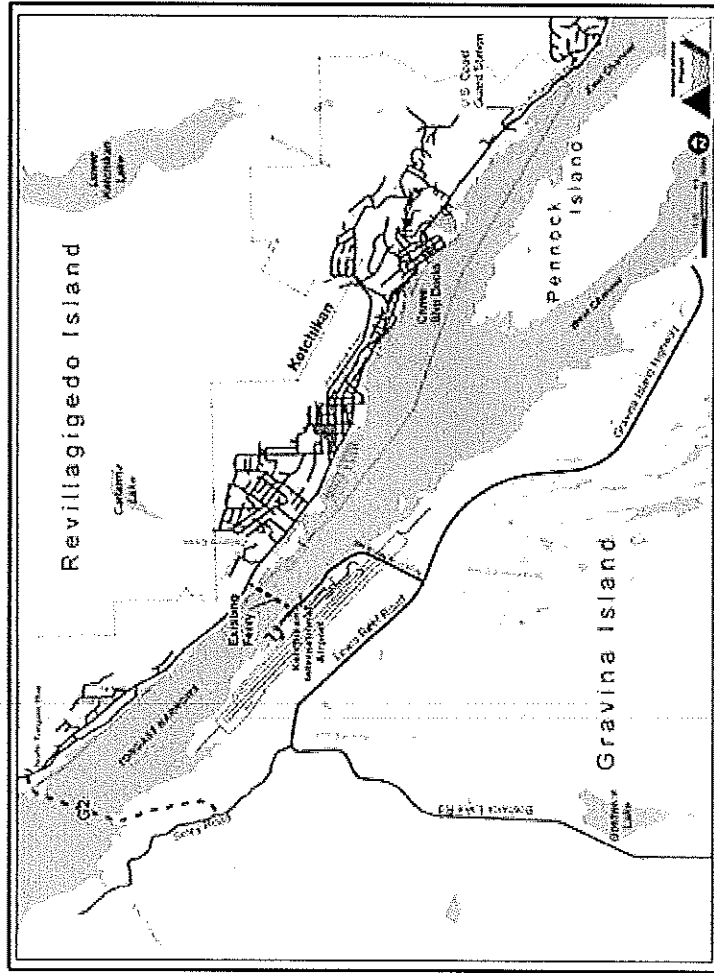
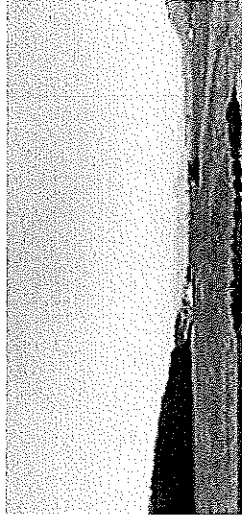
**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)



# Alternative G2

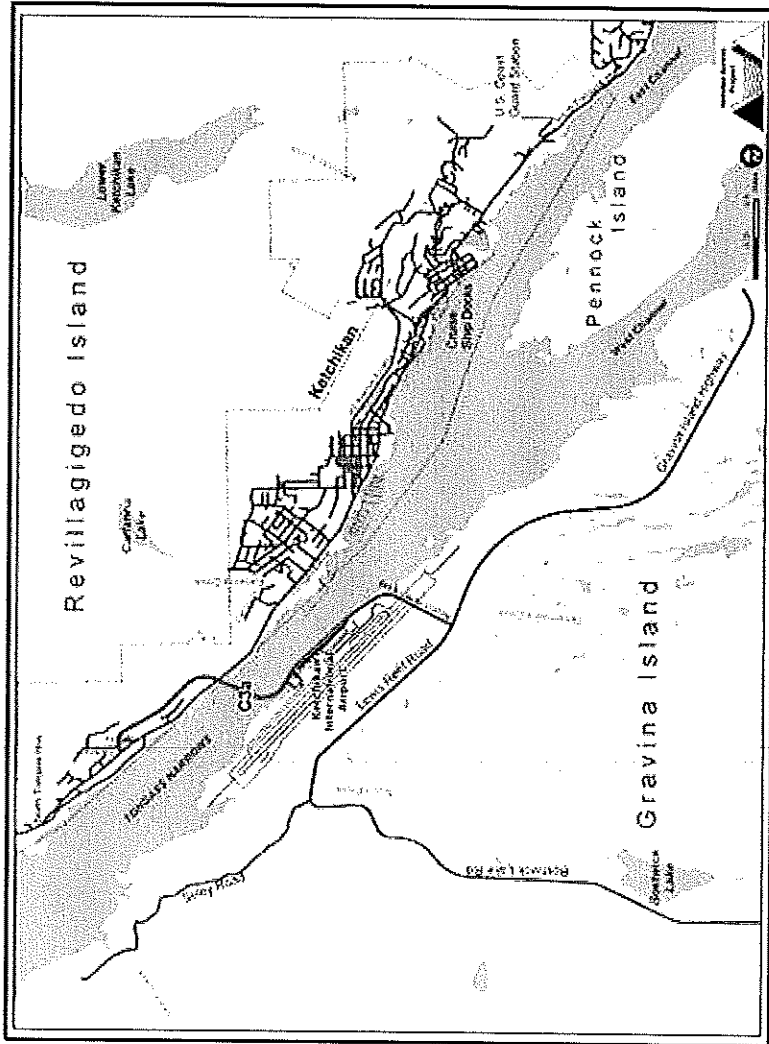
Additional ferry service between Peninsula Point on Revilla Island and Lewis Point on Gravina Island, approximately 2 miles north of the airport.



**Gravina Access Project SEIS** [www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)



# Alternative C3(a)



200-foot high bridge across the Tongass Narrows from Signal Road to south of the airport.



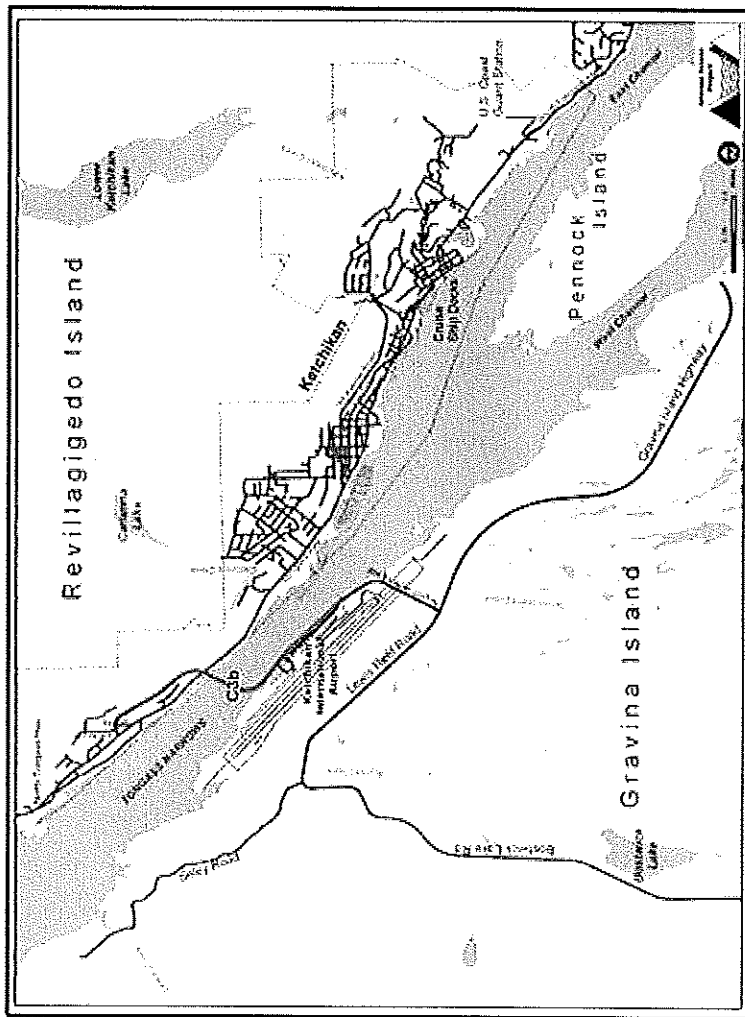
**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)

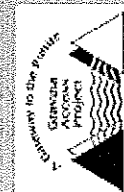




# Alternative C3(b)



120-foot high bridge across the Tongass Narrows from Signal Road to the airport.

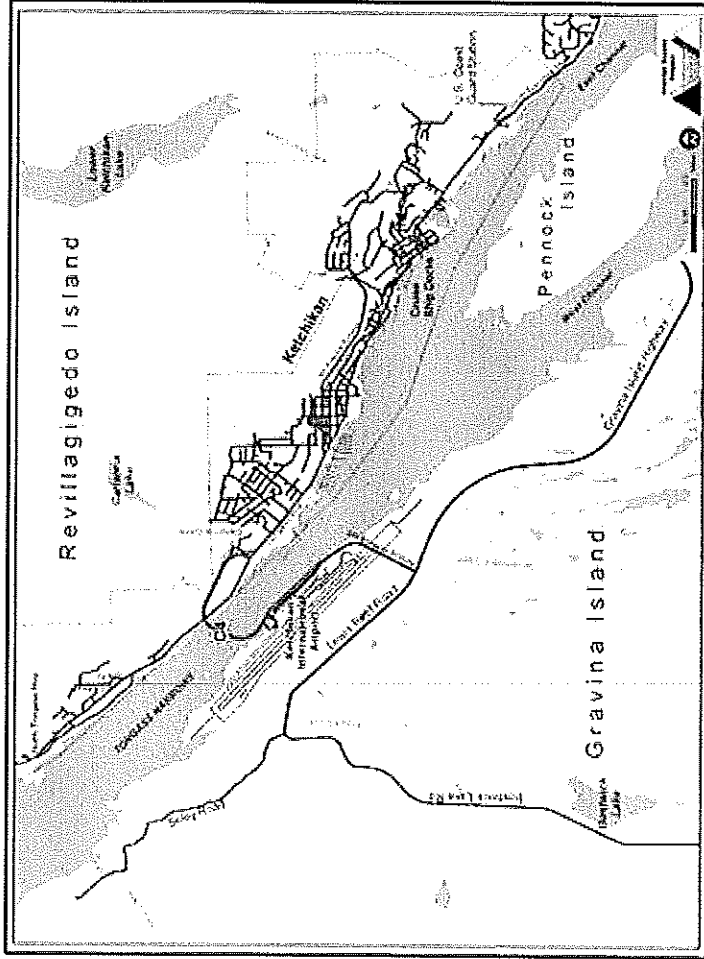


**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)



# Alternative C4



200-foot high bridge from Tongass Avenue north of Cambria Drive to south of the airport.



**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravinaaccess.com](http://www.gravinaaccess.com)

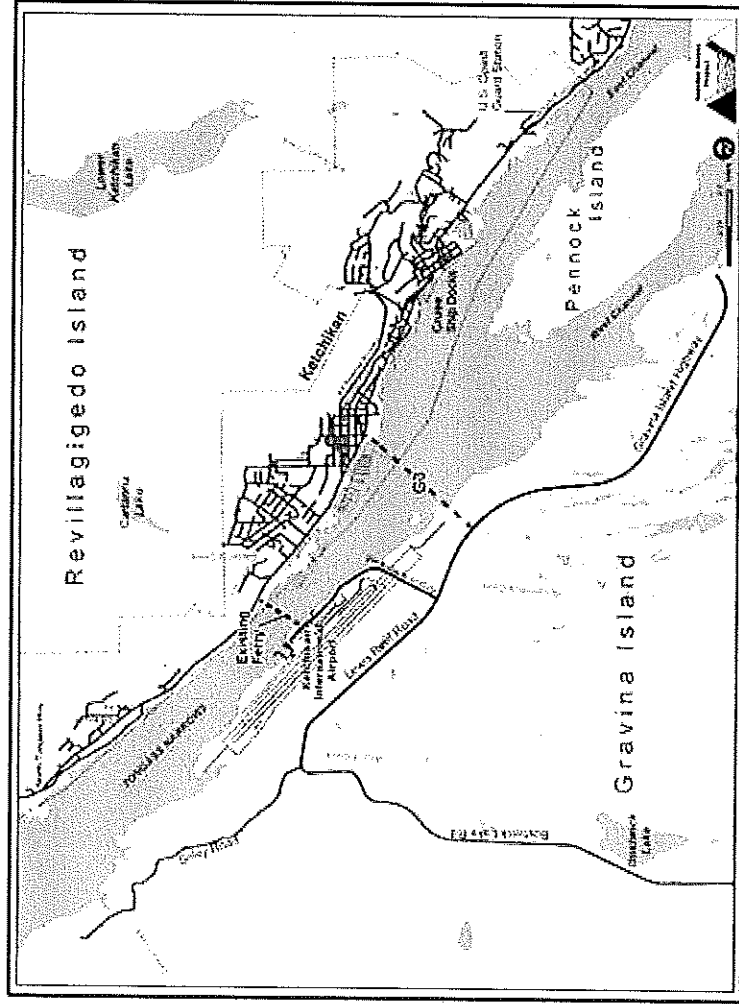




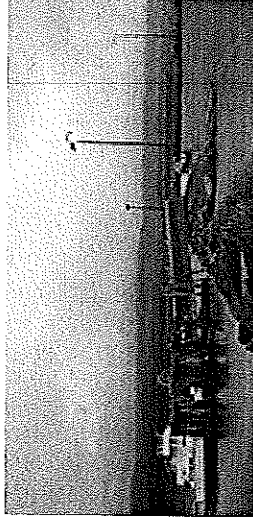




# Alternative G3



Additional ferry service from downtown Ketchikan, near the Plaza Mall at Jefferson Street, to south of the airport.



**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)





# Evaluating the alternatives

Factors to be considered include:

- Cost
- Natural environment
- Cultural and historic resources
- Socioeconomic concerns
- Physical environment



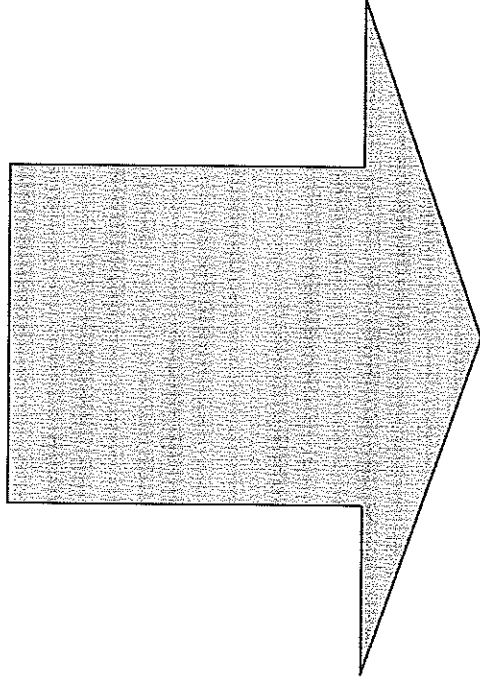
**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

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# We want to hear from you!

Please place your filled out comment form in the box.



**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)



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Reuben Yost,  
DOT&PF Southeast  
Environmental Coordinator  
P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506

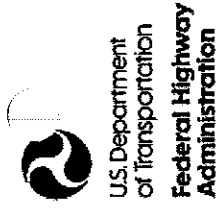
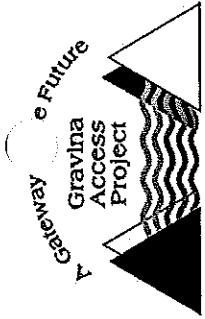
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**Gravina Access Project SEIS**

[www.gravina-access.com](http://www.gravina-access.com)





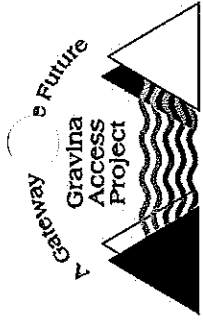
# Gravina Access Project SEIS Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 – 11 am - 1 pm / Ted Ferry Civic Center • Ketchikan, Alaska

Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address If you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address	Gender*	Race*
Rob Skinner	SKINNER SALES & SERVICE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	rob@kpnnet.net	M	W
SHEREE SLICK	AK. COUNCIL DELEGATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	SHEREE SLICK @STEVENS.SENATE.GOV	F	W
JIM YAW HORN	SEN. STEPHAN OFFICE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	LEGION3@KPNET.NET	M	W
Kay D Sims	BW Kundung	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	bwlandung@kpnnet.net	F	C
Wally Klingelhut	self	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.		M	C
Joe Johnston	self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Steelehead@GCI.NET	M	C
Deanna Garrison	KRSB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	123 STEPHAN ST. KETCHIKAN	F	W
Eric Muench	self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	228 Martin St. Ktn 99901	M	W
Bob Weinstar	city	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
Ferry Richards	self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	PO BOX 23174 KTN. 99901	M	W

\* RACE/GENDER - Strictly voluntary. The purpose is to ensure as a recipient of Federal DOT funding we a fulfilling our Title VI responsibilities by ensuring fair and equitable representation by the public. Race Categories are: White (W); American Indian (AI); Alaska Native (AN); Black (B); Hispanic (H); Asian/Pacific Islander (AP); Other (O). Category not listed (please self identify and specify).



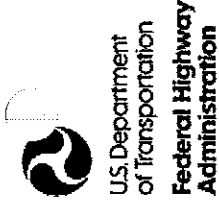
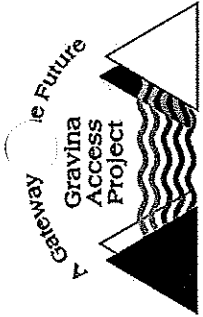


# Gravina Access Project SEIS Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 – 11 am - 1 pm / Ted Ferry Civic Center • Ketchikan, Alaska

Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address If you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address.	Gender*	Race*
Andrew Damstedt	Ketchikan Daily News	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	andrew@ketchikandailynews.com	M	W
Anita Hales	KFMD Radio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	anita@halesmail.net	F	W
Blaine Koonet	Chamber of Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	blaine@kponet.net	M	W
Doreen Caffrey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	pvces@gsi.net	F	W
Tom Caffrey	Parkview Apartment Co.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	pvces@gsi.net	M	W
Steve Williams	Kital Boro	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.		M	T
Mike Hunter	Citizen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	sede@kpa-net.net	M	W
MJ Nurek	Citizen	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	maryjo@kponet.net	F	w
Sharon Elwell	Citizen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	alaskancelt@hotmail.com	F	W

\* RACE/GENDER – Strictly voluntary. The purpose is to ensure as a recipient of Federal DOT funding we a fulfilling our Title VI responsibilities by ensuring fair and equitable representation by the public. Race Categories are: White (W); American Indian (AI); Alaska Native (AN); Black (B); Hispanic (H); Asian/Pacific Islander (AP); Other (O). Category not listed (please self identify and specify).

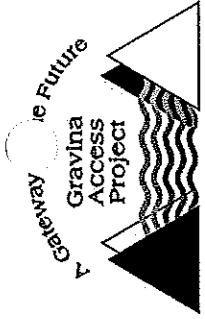


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Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address If you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address.	Gender*	Race*
PATRICK JIRSENCO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	BOX 23492 KETCHIKAN ALASKA 99901 @ KSPUNET.NET		
Barbara Isard		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	2949 S. Tongass Hwy.		
MIKE SALAZAR	KGB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Box 6918 Kika		
FRANCO DINGELO		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	898 monroe ST KTN AK 99901	M	W
Krista D'Angelo		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.		F	W
DAVID SCOTT	PER. JOHANSEN'S OFFICE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	DAVID.SCOTT@LEGIS.STATE.AK.US	M	
Owen Graham	Alaska Forest Assoc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	oigraham@aol.com	M	W
David Hull	NORTH TONGASS V UFD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	314 FRONT STREET KTN		
Mike Carney	KTN Airport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	1000 terminal way	M	W
Tom Williams Ph.D.	KGB Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	344 Front St		

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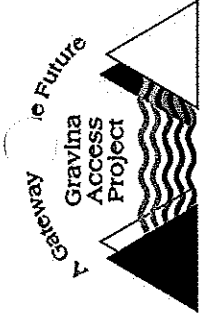


# Gravina Access Project SEIS Public Scoping Meeting

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Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address If you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address.	Gender*	Race*
<i>[Signature]</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White
William Kiene		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	wkiene1200@yahoo.com		
Dolores Kiene		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Po Box 9294 Ketchikan		
Dick Coose	Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			

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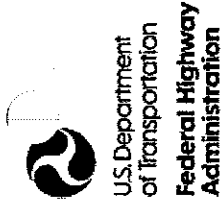


# Gravina Access Project SEIS Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 - 5 pm - 7 pm / Ted Ferry Civic Center • Ketchikan, Alaska

Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address If you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address.	Gender*	Race*
Margot Miller		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	2327 3rd, Ketchikan	F	
Dick Mizer		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	smargotdick@eci.net	M	
LEN LAURANCE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Box 8800, KTN 99901	M	CAUC
Tom Fabry		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Box 9026 KTN 99901		
Teddy Fabry		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Prescott AZ.	F	CAUC
Mary Fabry		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	<del>Prescott AZ.</del> (Tom Fabry's wife)	F	
Bill Smart		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	BTSmart@eci.net	W	
Mary Kowalczyk		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Mary.kowalczyk@alaska.gov	F	
Mal Verzosa		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	MMENZES@eci.net	M	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			

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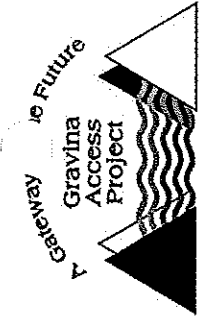


# Gravina Access Project SEIS Public Scoping Meeting

Tuesday, July 22, 2008 - 5 pm - 7 pm / Ted Ferry Civic Center • Ketchikan, Alaska

Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address if you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address	Gender*	Race*
Carol Cairnes	Tongass Conservation Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	ccairnes@gmail		
Susan Peters	Downtown Steerius	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	SUSANESCENONGALLERY.COM	F	C
EARL ALLAIN	MR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.		M	AN
Don + Jan Ross	Self Interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	PO Box 8595 Ketchikan, AK 99901		
Cindy Barber	self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	71 Double Eagle Lane S. Ketchikan, AK 99901		
Carol Murray	self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	Carolmurray99@hotmail.com	F	C
STEPHEN REEVE	RA DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	SHIRVEE@mac.com POB 23154 Ketch	M	C
MIKE SALLEE		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	PO Box 7603 Ketchikan 99901 mikesallee@gmail.com	M	C
Mark Minnilo	ADFRG Habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	PO Box 668 Craig 99921 mark.minnilo@alaska.gov	M	C
JERRET MASTON	SELF	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	941 MOWREY ST, KETCHIKAN, AK 99901		

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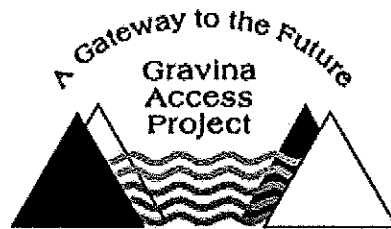


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Name (First and Last, Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Do you want to receive project information?	Mail or E-mail Address If you want to receive project mailings, please provide your mail or e-mail address.	Gender*	Race*
Kristina Fabry	—	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.	kandy_kane53@yahoo.com	F	C
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, add me to the mailing list.			

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## Welcome to the Gravina Access Project Website

Last Update: August 11, 2008

**Scoping Comments Due Aug. 19**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration are seeking comments about the scope of the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. We are particularly interested in comments about the:

- Purpose and Need
- Range of alternatives to be evaluated
- Concerns about historic and/or cultural resources
- Potential impacts on the social, natural, or built environment

To be included in the official scoping report, your written comments on the SEIS scope must arrive by Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008.

Mail your comments to:

Gravina Access Project SEIS  
DOT&PF, P.O. Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

Fax your comments to:  
(907) 465-2016

Submit your comments online

Thanks to everyone who attended and provided comments at the public scoping meetings on July 22 in Ketchikan! Meeting materials are posted on the Project Library page under "Public Meeting Materials."

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Federal Highway Administration are working on the Gravina Access Project's Supplemental Environmental Impact

### WHY AN SEIS?

On Sept. 21, 2007, Governor Palin announced that the State could not fund the selected bridge alternative identified in the Final EIS ([Gravina Access Project Redirected 07-192](#)). However, not all reasonable alternatives in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway, which DOT&PF began constructing in 2006. DOT&PF is now preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider reasonable alternatives with the new highway and address rising construction costs.

Visit the Project Background & Information for details about what's already been done and what's coming up during the SEIS process. [Click on the image below for a larger PDF version of Gravina Access Project SEIS Schedule.](#)

## Project Resource

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ Project Background
- ▶ Project Library
- ▶ Maps & Photos
- ▶ Submit Comments
- ▶ Contact Us

## Related Links

- ▶ Alaska DOT&PF Pr  
Information Home
- ▶ Southeast Region I
- ▶ Southeast Alaska T  
Plan







## Project Resource

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- ▶ [Project Background](#)
- ▶ [Project Library](#)
- ▶ [Maps & Photos](#)
- ▶ [Submit Comments](#)
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## Project Background & Information

Project Numbers: FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/ DOT&PF  
Project 67698/Federal Project ACHP-0922(5)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project is one of 17 high priority projects in the state funded by the "Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century."

The principal modes of transportation to Ketchikan are airplane, including floatplane, and ship. No "hard-link" surface transportation is available to or between Revillagigedo and Gravina islands, or to other communities in Alaska or the Lower 48. Currently, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough operated ferry system provides the only scheduled surface transportation to Gravina Island. It services mostly foot traffic, but also carries vehicles across Tongass Narrows directly to the airport terminal. Regularly scheduled airline service and ferry connections through the Alaska Marine Highway System link Ketchikan to the rest of Alaska and the Lower 48.

### Purpose and Need

#### Final Environmental Impact Statement

#### The Gravina Island Highway

#### Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

## Project Resource

- ▶ [Alaska DOT&PF Pr Information Home](#)
- ▶ [Southeast Region I](#)
- ▶ [Southeast Alaska T Plan](#)

### **Purpose and Need [TOP]**

The purpose of the Gravina Access Project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, and Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Improved transportation access to Gravina Island would provide better service to the airport and allow for development of large tracts of land on the island.

The need for improving access is threefold:

To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreational lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.

To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.

To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Final Environmental Impact Statement [TOP]**

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) examined nine build alternatives and the No Build Alternative. Alternative F1: Bridges 200-foot East and 120-foot West Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island, was identified as DOT&PF's and FHWA's Preferred Alternative. The FEIS was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on

July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative.

### The Gravina Island Highway [\[TOP\]](#)

Before and during the preparation of the Gravina Island Access Draft EIS and Final EIS, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough was separately planning development of a new road around the west side of the airport to the Lewis Reef development area. Based on consultation with the Borough, DOT&PF configured all build alternatives to include construction of the Lewis Reef Road around the west side of the airport to access Borough and other developable lands, which serve many of the same general purposes envisioned by the Borough.

In addition to Lewis Reef Road, Alternative F1 and Alternative F3: Bridges 60-foot East and 200-foot West Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island, included an additional road segment. The road segment would start on Gravina Island about 3.4 miles south of the airport runway and continue to the intersection of the Airport Access Road and Lewis Reef Road. This road is the Gravina Island Highway.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of the Gravina Island Access: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes the site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installing drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be complete in Fall 2008.

### Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement [\[TOP\]](#)

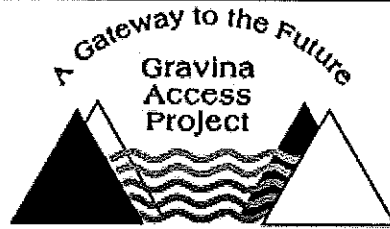
On Sept. 21, 2007, Governor Palin announced that the State could not fund the selected bridge alternative identified in the Gravina Access Project Record of Decision (Gravina Access Project Redirected 07-192) and directed the DOT&PF to look for the most fiscally responsible alternative for access. Not all of the reasonable alternatives in the Final EIS included the Gravina Island Highway, which DOT&PF began constructing in 2006, so DOT&PF is now preparing a Supplemental EIS to consider all reasonable alternatives with the Gravina Island Highway. The No-Action Alternative will also be considered. The SEIS will result in a new Record of Decision approved by the FHWA.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate local, State and Federal agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in the project. A series of agency and public scoping meetings will be held in Ketchikan throughout the SEIS study process, and a public hearing will be held.

The Draft SEIS will be made available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing and public notice will be given regarding the availability of the Draft SEIS for review. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments are invited from all interested parties.

Go to the [Submit Comments](#) page to send your comments to the project team online, or visit the [Contact Us](#) page for mail, phone, fax, and email information.





### Project Resou

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- ▶ Submit Comme
- ▶ Contact Us

## Project Library

## ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

### Related Links

### FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (2004)

(Note: Unrevised Appendices are available in Draft EIS downloads)

The FEIS Record of Decision from September 2004 identifies Alternative F1 as the selected alternative for the project and briefly discusses the background of the project, states the decision and discusses the basis for it, describes other alternatives considered, identifies measures adopted to minimize potential environmental harm, summarizes the comments received during the review of the Final EIS, and provides responses to the substantive comments.

- ▶ AKDOT Project
- ▶ Southeast Regi
- ▶ Southeast Alas Plan



Final EIS Documents (Note: Unrevised Appendices are available in Draft EIS downloads)

SELECT AN ITEM TO VIEW

Go



Draft EIS Documents

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Go

### Previous Reports and Technical Studies



Reports and Technical Studies 1999-2002

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### Newsletters and Newspaper Arcticles



Newsletters and Newspaper Arcticles 1999-2004

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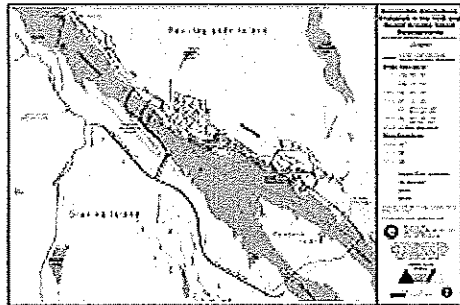
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### Maps & Photos

Note: All previous maps, diagrams and photos, including an overview of the Selected Alternative from the 2004 FEIS, are archived on the [Project Library](#) page.

Click on the map below for a larger PDF version of [Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments](#).



### Project Resource

- ▶ Alaska DOT&PF Pr Information Home
- ▶ Southeast Region
- ▶ Southeast Alaska T Plan





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### Submit Comments

First/Last Name:

Email Address:

Street Address/P.O. Box:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

Comments:

### Related Links

- ▶ Alaska DOT&PF Pr Information Home
- ▶ Southeast Region I
- ▶ Southeast Alaska T Plan








## Contacts

For information or to obtain a copy of a particular project document contact:


**Deborah Holman**

 **Phone: (907)465-1828**

 **Fax: (907)465-4414**

 [deborah.holman@alaska.gov](mailto:deborah.holman@alaska.gov)

To make comments about the website email the Website Manager at:

 [gravina-access@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:gravina-access@dot.state.ak.us)

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## Related Links

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- ▶ Southeast Region I
- ▶ Southeast Alaska T Plan



## Section 2: Tribal Scoping & Materials



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Lee Wallace, President  
Organized Village of Saxman  
Route 2, Box 2  
Saxman, Alaska 99901

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. The FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website:  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1, construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. The FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to

**MOVING THE**  
**AMERICAN**  
**ECONOMY**





briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of a SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA is now required to identify *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Organized Village of Saxman. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your tribe's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. Written responses to this invitation are due no later than August 19, 2008. Even if you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and potential field work required is still desired along with any other scoping comments. Also, please indicate if there are any places of traditional religious or cultural importance within the vicinity of the project and we can arrange for a follow up contact by a cultural resource professional.

The FHWA is committed to developing a positive and meaningful relationship with you and your tribe. This request is being made by the FHWA in consideration of the government-to-government consultation requirements described in Federal Executive Order 13175 "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Michael Vanderhoof at the address above, or by phone at (907) 586-7464 or by email at Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov.

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Norman Arriola, President  
Ketchikan Indian Community  
2960 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Arriola:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. The FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website:  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

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**ECONOMY**



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### **Purpose and Need**

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- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

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The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Ketchikan Indian Community. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your tribe's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

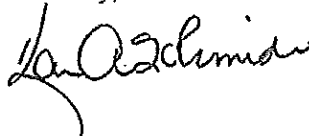
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Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc with enclosure:

✓ Debbie Patton, MPA, General Manager Ketchikan Indian Community

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Karl Cook Jr., Mayor  
Metlakatla Indian Community  
P.O. Box 8  
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Cook:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Metlakatla Indian Community. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

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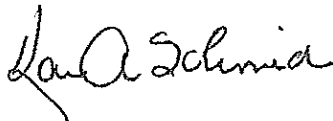
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We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. William Martin, President  
Central Council Tlingit and Haida  
Indian Tribes of Alaska  
320 W. Willoughby Ave. Suite 300  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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**ECONOMY**



Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

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The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

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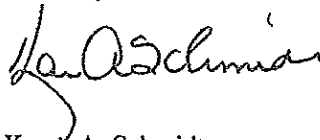
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We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Sid Edenshaw, President  
Hydaburg Cooperative Association  
P.O. Box 349  
Hydaburg, Alaska 99922

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Edenshaw:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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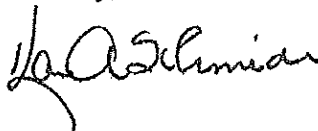
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Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads
- common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS

### Bridge Alternatives\*:

- C3a (200' x 650')
- C3b (210' x 600')
- C4 (200' x 650')
- D1 (120' x 600')
- F1 (WEST 1150' x 600')
- F2 (EAST 1200' x 600')
- F3 (EAST 1670' x 600')

### multiple alignments

### Ferry Alternatives:

- G2\*\*
- G3
- G4

- - - Bypass Road (proposed)
- - - city boundary
- - - existing road
- - - docks
- - - stream

\*Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening  
(vertical x horizontal)

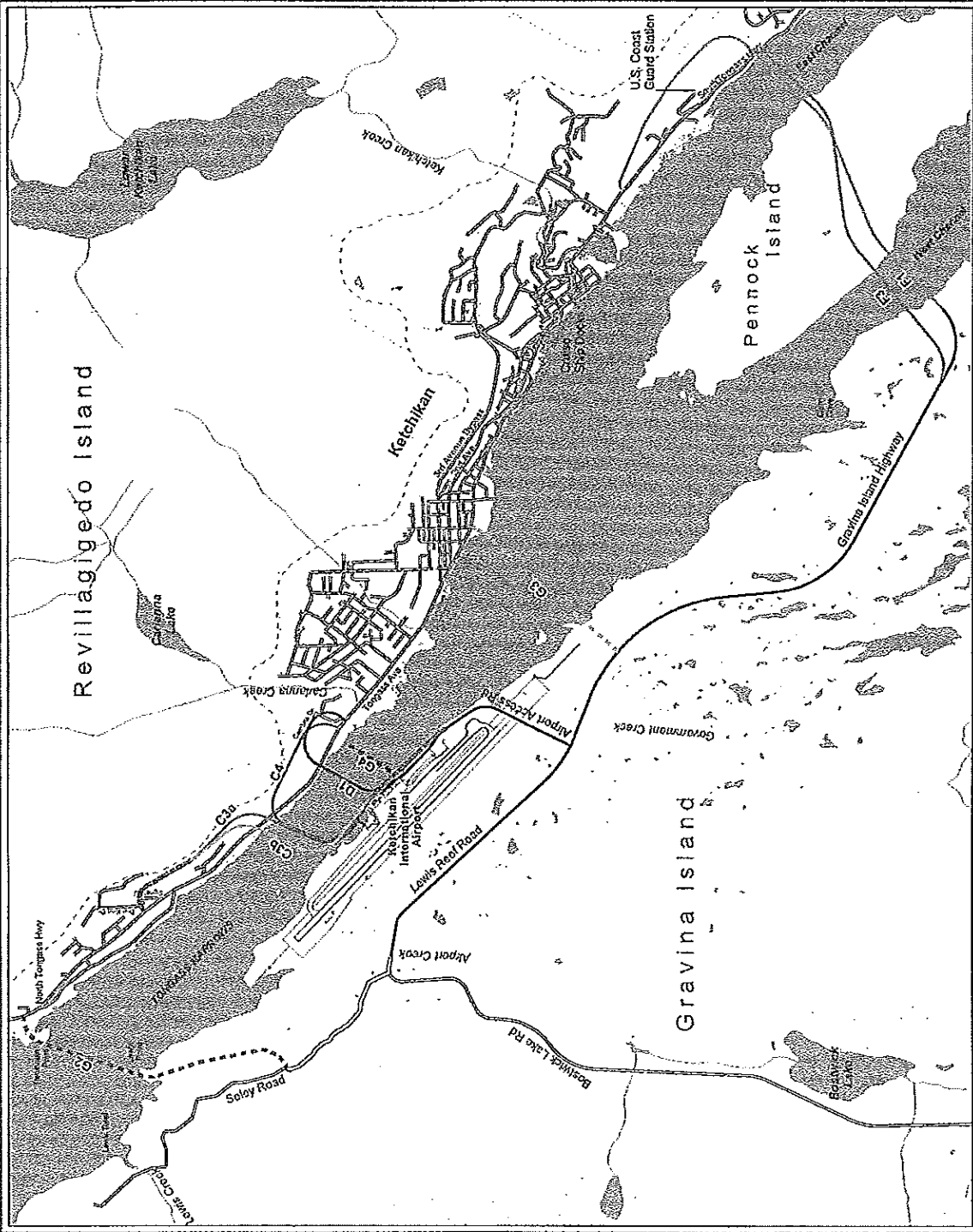
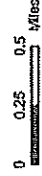
\*\*G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



Date: May 10, 2006  
 Author: USCG Alaska, Inc.  
 Shrinker: KOB, HRT Alaska, Inc.

The information displayed herein is for planning purposes only and is not intended to be used for any other purpose. These drawings are for review purposes only and are not intended for use in issuing permits or for construction purposes.

### Gravina Access Project





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Clinton Cook, President  
Craig Community Association  
P.O. Box 828  
Craig, Alaska 99921

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Cook:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

#### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. The FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website:  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1, construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. The FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to

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ECONOMY**



briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of a SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA is now required to identify *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Craig Community Association. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your tribe's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

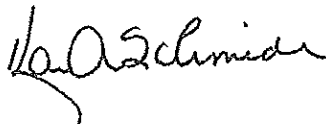
1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. Written responses to this invitation are due no later than August 19, 2008. Even if you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and potential field work required is still desired along with any other scoping comments. Also, please indicate if there are any places of traditional religious or cultural importance within the vicinity of the project and we can arrange for a follow up contact by a cultural resource professional.

The FHWA is committed to developing a positive and meaningful relationship with you and your tribe. This request is being made by the FHWA in consideration of the government-to-government consultation requirements described in Federal Executive Order 13175 "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Michael Vanderhoof at the address above, or by phone at (907) 586-7464 or by email at Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov.

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc with enclosure:

Debbie Patton, MPA, General Manager Ketchikan Indian Community

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

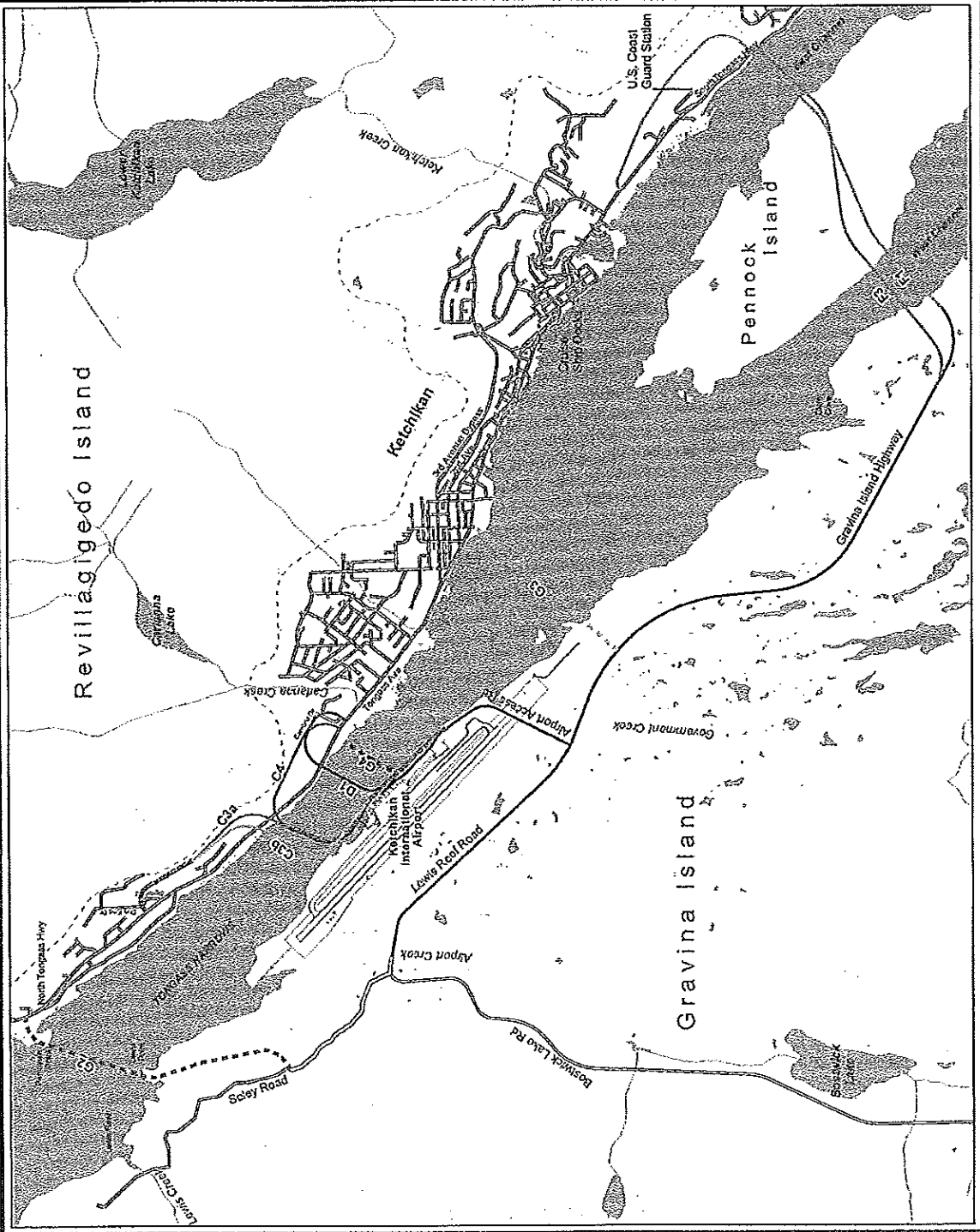
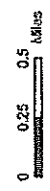
- recently constructed roads
- common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS
- Bridge Alternatives\*:**
  - C3a (200' x 600')
  - C3b (120' x 600')
  - C4 (200' x 650')
  - D1 (120' x 600')
  - F1 (VESST (120' x 600') GAST (200' x 650'))
  - F3 (VESST (200' x 650') GAST (60' x 600'))
- multiple alignments
- Ferry Alternatives:**
  - G2\*\*
  - G3
  - G4
- Bypass Road (proposed)
- - - city boundary
- existing road
- docks
- stream

\* Connections listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical clearance)

\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS

Date: May 16, 2002  
 Project: Alaska State Theme Zone 1, 1940-27  
 Prepared by: SAIC, Inc., 1000 North 17th Street, Anchorage, AK 99503  
 Sponsors: KOD, HDR Alaska, Inc.

The information displayed here is for planning purposes only. It does not constitute a final design or construction permit. The information is for informational purposes only and should not be used for any other purpose.





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Archie Demmert, President  
Klawock Cooperative Association  
P.O. Box 430  
Klawock, Alaska 99925

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation as Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Demmert:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. The FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website:  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1, construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. The FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to

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ECONOMY**





briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of a SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA is now required to identify *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Klawock Cooperative Association. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your tribe's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

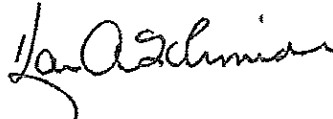
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If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. Written responses to this invitation are due no later than August 19, 2008. Even if you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and potential field work required is still desired along with any other scoping comments. Also, please indicate if there are any places of traditional religious or cultural importance within the vicinity of the project and we can arrange for a follow up contact by a cultural resource professional.

The FHWA is committed to developing a positive and meaningful relationship with you and your tribe. This request is being made by the FHWA in consideration of the government-to-government consultation requirements described in Federal Executive Order 13175 "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Michael Vanderhoof at the address above, or by phone at (907) 586-7464 or by email at [Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Richard Peterson, President  
Organized Village of Kasaan  
P.O. Box 26-KXA  
Kasaan, Alaska 99950

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Invitation of Participating Agency

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. The FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website:  
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**AMERICAN**  
**ECONOMY**



briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of a SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

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- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
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### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

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The FHWA has determined that the project may affect lands of interest to the Organized Village of Kasaan. Therefore, the FHWA is inviting your tribe to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your tribe supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your tribe's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
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We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS

### Bridge Alternatives:

- C3a (204' x 650')
- C3b (125' x 650')
- C4 (207' x 650')
- D1 (170' x 600')
- F1 WEST (150' x 600')
- F1 EAST (200' x 650')
- F3 WEST (200' x 650')
- F3 EAST (107' x 600')

### Reasonable Multiple Alignments

### Ferry Alternatives:

- G2\*
- G3
- G4

- - - Bypass Road (proposed)
- - - city boundary
- - - existing road
- - - docks
- - - stream

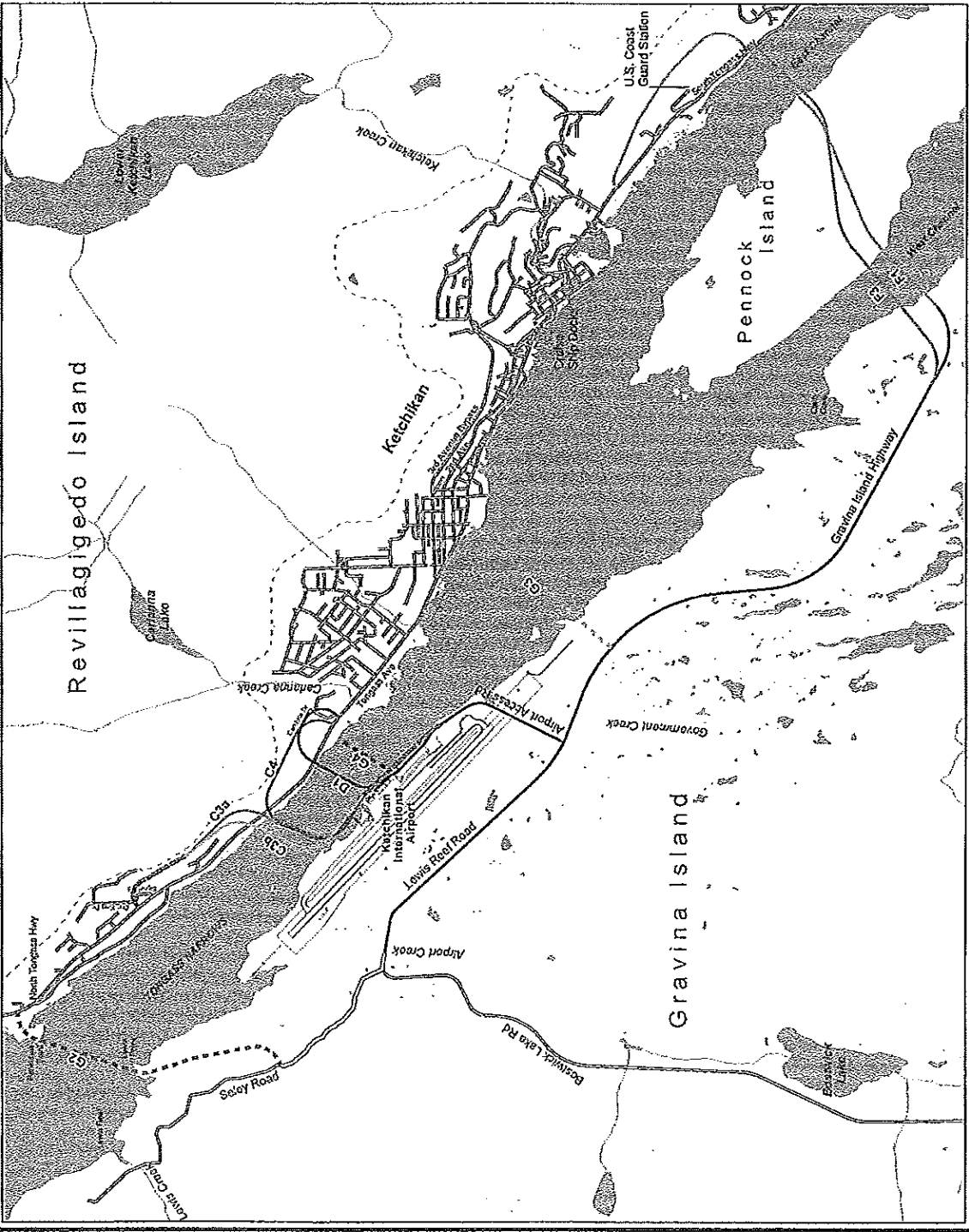
\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



Date: May 18, 2005  
 Project: Alaska Coast Ferry Zone 1 MAO 27  
 Author: HOK USA, Inc.  
 Sponsor: HOK USA, Inc.  
 Consultant: HOK USA, Inc.

The information displayed here is for planning purposes only. Data information shown constitutes a preliminary design and is not intended to be used for construction purposes. These drawings are for information only and are not intended for use in securing permits or for construction purposes.





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

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Chris McNeil  
Sealaska Corporation  
One Sealaska Plaza  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. McNeil:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

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The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1, construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. The FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal-aid.

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AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**





Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically, an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough has adopted land use plans.
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### **Scoping Comments**

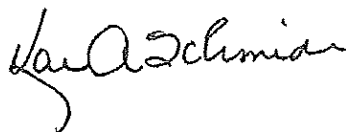
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We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS

### Bridge Alternatives\*\*:

- C3a (500' x 650')
- C3b (120' x 660')
- C4 (200' x 660')
- D1 (120' x 660')
- F1 WEST (60' x 660')
- F1 EAST (200' x 660')
- F3 WEST (300' x 660')
- F3 EAST (60' x 660')

### multiple alignments

### Ferry Alternatives:

- G2\*\*
- G3
- G4

- Bypass Road (proposed)
- - - city boundary
- existing road
- - - docks
- stream

\*\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS

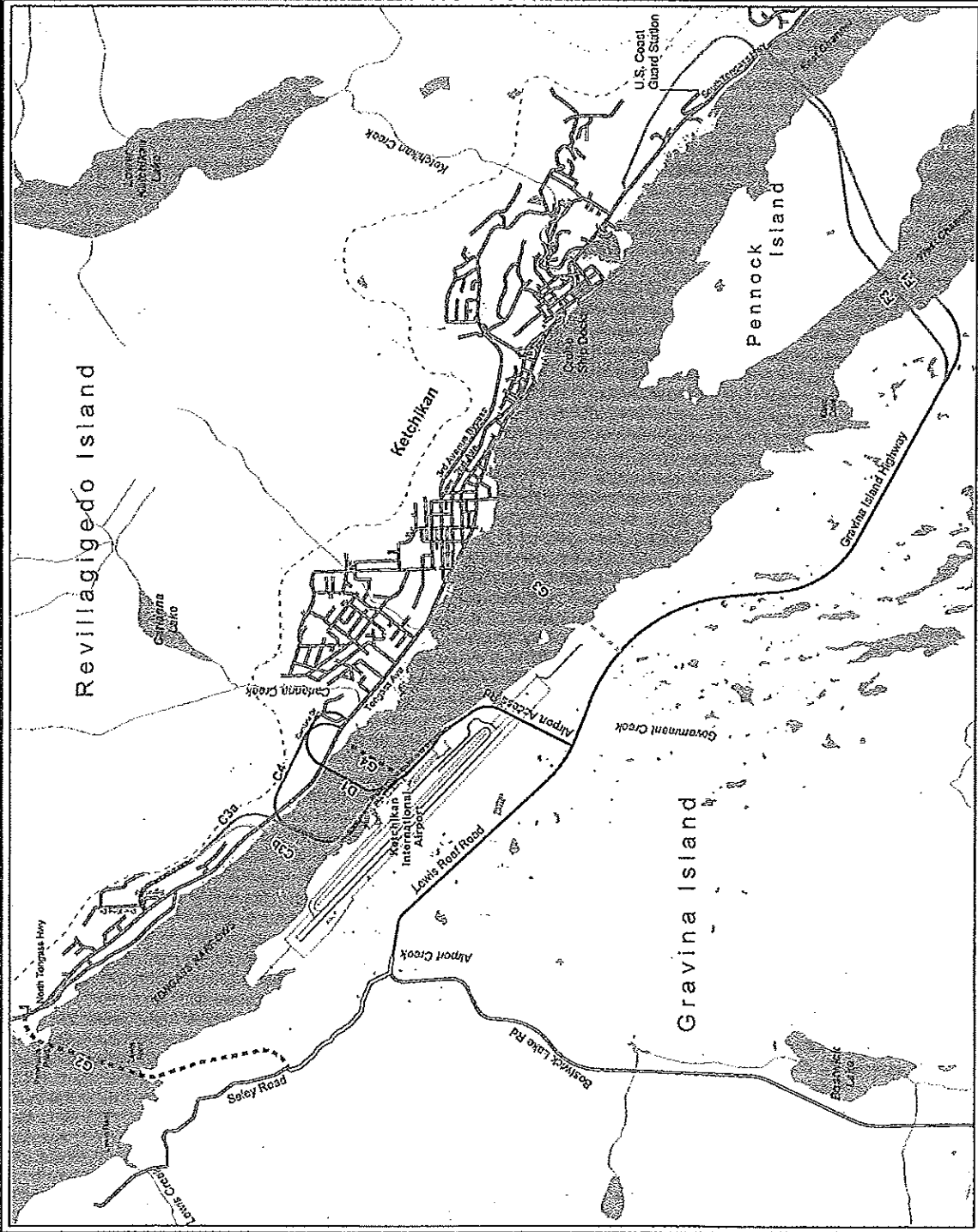


Date: May 16, 2008  
 Project: Gravina Island  
 Author: HDR Alaska, Inc.  
 Contact: KGA, HDR/Alaska, Inc.

The information included here is for planning purposes only. Detailed information is available from various federal, state, public, and private sources. These drawings are for reference purposes only and are not intended for construction purposes.



0 0.25 0.5 Miles





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

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Franklin Jones, President  
Cape Fox Corporation  
Box 8558  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

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**MOVING THE  
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ECONOMY**



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In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

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### **Scoping Comments**

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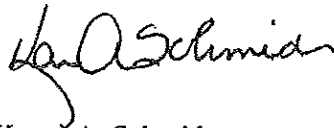
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The FHWA is committed to developing a positive and meaningful relationship with you and your council. This request is being made by the FHWA in consideration of the government-to-government consultation requirements described in Federal Executive Order 13175

"Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Michael Vanderhoof at the address above, or by phone at (907) 586-7464 or by email [Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

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- recently constructed roads common to multiple alternatives
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### Bridge Alternatives\*\*:

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- D1 (120' x 600')
- F1 WEST (200' x 650')
- F2 WEST (200' x 650')
- F3 EAST (200' x 650')

### sewer multiple alignments

- G2\*\*
- G3
- G4

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- city boundary
- existing road
- decks
- stream

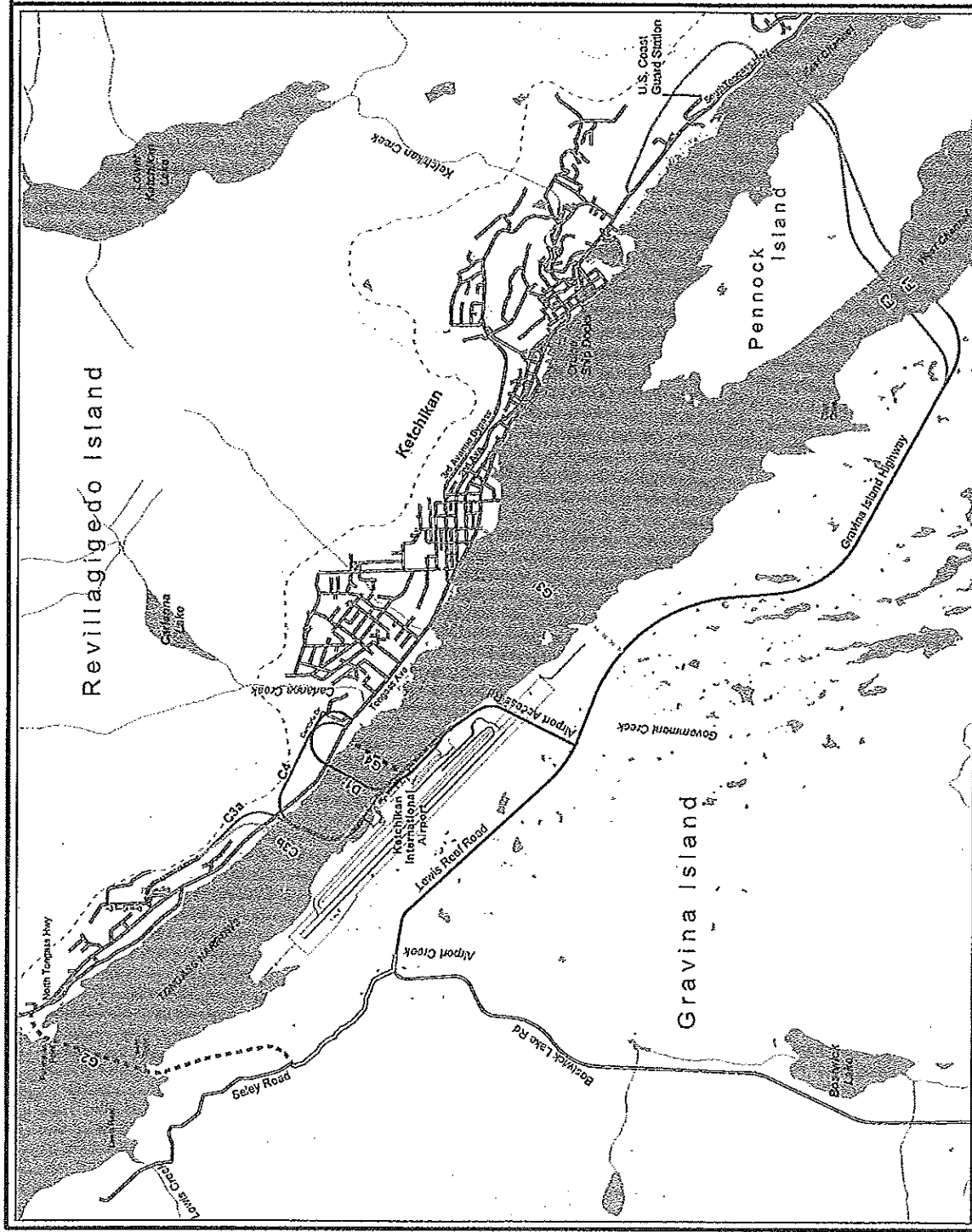
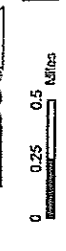
\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



Date: May 16, 2008  
 Author: M&E Associates, Inc.  
 Designer: M&E Associates, Inc.  
 Reviewer: M&E Associates, Inc.

This information is provided here for planning purposes only. It is not intended to be used for final design or construction. These drawings are for review purposes only and are not intended for use in securing permits or for construction purposes.





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

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. James H. Carle, President  
Shaan-Seet, Inc.  
P.O. Box 690  
Craig, Alaska 99921

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Carle:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the enclosed map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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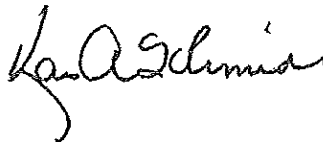
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Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager





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

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Leonardo Kato, President  
Klawock Heenya Corporation  
P.O. Box 129  
Klawock, Alaska 99925  
Participating Agency

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Kato:

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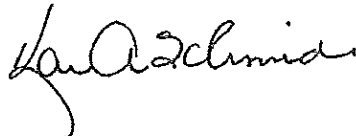
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Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager

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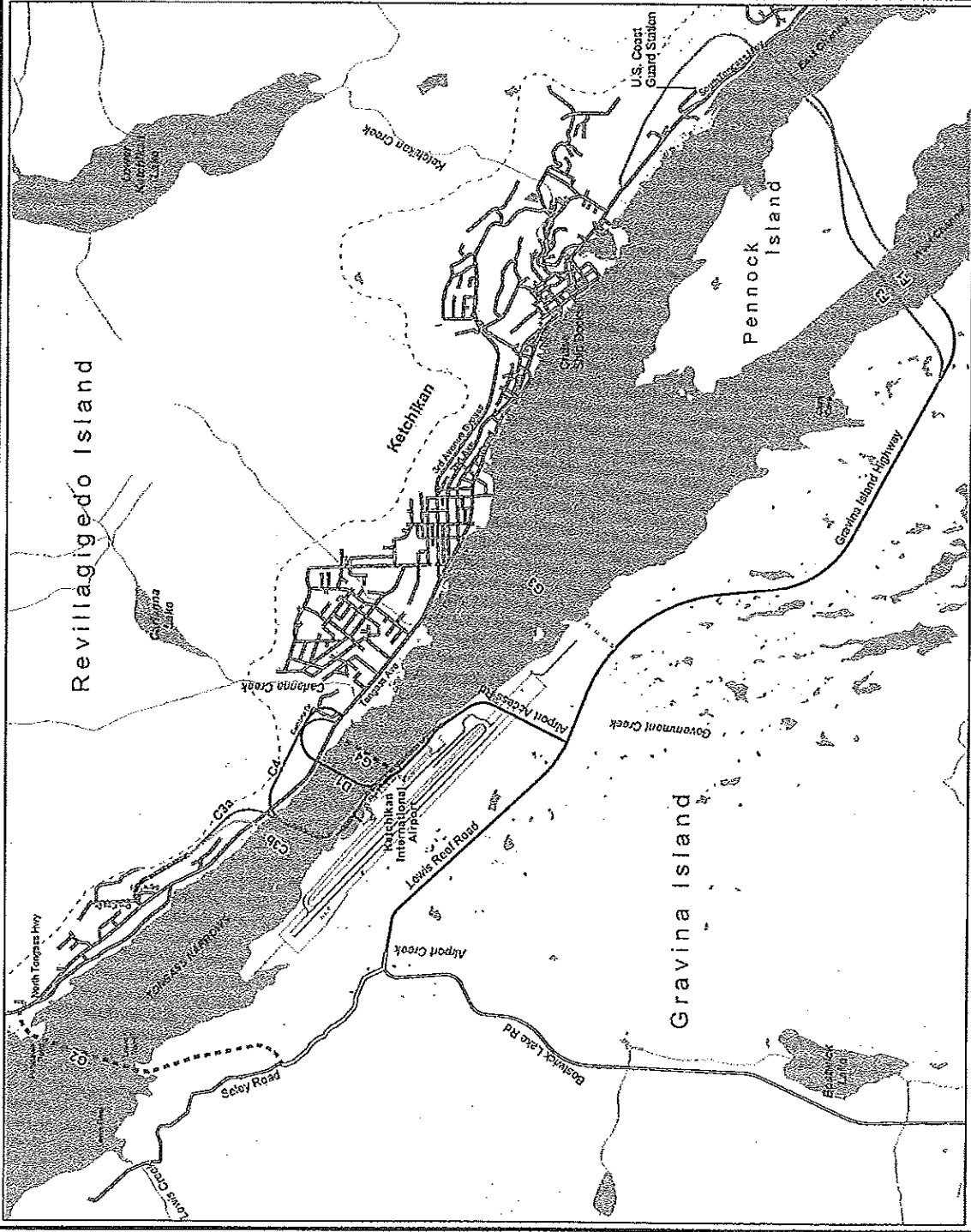
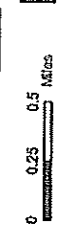
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Date: May 16, 2005  
 Author: HSR/ASMA, Inc.  
 Governor: WED, HSR/ASMA, Inc.

The information displayed here is for planning purposes only and does not constitute a final design. The drawings are for review purposes only and are not intended for use in advisory permits or for construction purposes.

### Gravina Access Project



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

Alaska Division

July 21, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Ms. Lisa M. Lang, President  
Haida Corporation  
P.O. Box 446  
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

In Reply Refer To:  
NCPD-0922(5)/67698  
Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Lang:

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**ECONOMY**





Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically, an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough has adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Scoping Comments**

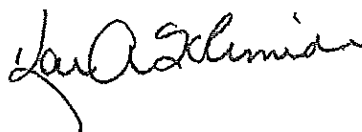
At this point, we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered and possible additional fieldwork that should be conducted. Also, please indicate if there are any places of traditional religious or cultural importance within the vicinity of the project, therefore we can correspond with a cultural resource professional. The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008. Your comments should be sent via mail to Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska

99802, by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)), or by fax (907) 586-7420; however, the FHWA and DOT&PF will continue to welcome comments throughout the project's development.

The FHWA is committed to developing a positive and meaningful relationship with you and your council. This request is being made by the FHWA in consideration of the government-to-government consultation requirements described in Federal Executive Order 13175 "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Michael Vanderhoof at the address above, or by phone at (907) 586-7464 or by email [Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Schmidt  
Deputy Division Administrator

Enclosure: Project Location Map

cc w/o enclosure:

Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager





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## **Gravina Access Project SEIS Informational Meeting**

**Ketchikan Indian Community**

**June 10, 2008  
2960 Tongass Avenue  
Ketchikan, Alaska  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

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### **Agenda**

- Introduction and meeting objectives
- Review project history
- Purpose of the SEIS
- Project schedule
- Opportunities for participation
- Range of alternatives
  - Alternatives considered in original EIS
  - Alternatives screening process
  - Reasonable alternatives to be carried forward in the SEIS
- Questions related to process
- Other?

### **Questions for the Ketchikan Indian Community**

1. What is the best way to contact you (letter, email, fax, or phone)?
2. Are there opportunities where we can share project information with you and your organization (regularly scheduled meetings, for example)?
3. Have there been any updates in local plans since 2004?
4. Are there any economic development projects that we should be aware of?
5. Is there anyone else you recommend we talk to?
6. Is there a point of contact, other than yourself, with whom we should have regular contact concerning the project?



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**Gravina Access Project SEIS  
Ketchikan Indian Community  
Information Meeting**

**June 10, 2008  
KIC Manager's Office  
Ketchikan, Alaska**

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## **Participants**

- Debbie Patton, General Manager
- Thomas Gubatayao, Deputy General Manager
- Jim Lowell, Project Manager, DOT&PF
- Kristin Maines, HDR
- Rosetta Alcantra, HDR

The meeting began at 4:05 pm with introductions (see participants list). Mr. Lowell began the meeting by explaining what the purpose of the meeting was and why the project team came to meet with the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC). The DOT&PF is revisiting the Gravina Access Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study that was recently completed. This effort is supplementary to the existing document and is an effort to demonstrate to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that the construction of the Gravina Highway Access Road does meet what was presented in the EIS. The goal for the meeting is to discuss if there have been any changes different from the prior effort.

Ms. Patton asked about if the project would be retaining the appropriations for the project. Mr. Lowell explained that this was a question for the state planning department.

How much has been spent on the project? The estimate is approximately \$45 to \$50 million.

Mr. Lowell then asked Kristen Maines to explain the EIS and the schedule. Ms. Maines said a Public Scoping meeting would be held in Ketchikan on July 22, 2008 and that there would be two sessions to accommodate the public participation. These sessions would be from 11 am to 1:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A letter would also be forthcoming to the KIC to ask them if they would like to be a participating agency, in addition the letter would be requesting formal scoping comments be provided to the project team by August 19, 2008. Ms. Maines also mentioned the goal is to have a draft of the SEIS by December 2008.

Thomas Gubatayao asked if the alternatives were ranked in the initial study. Ms. Maines indicated there were levels of screening for each of the alternatives, such as the natural environment, economic opportunities, existing planning efforts and aviation impacts. The alternatives were not ranked, but looked at individually.

Following the discussion on the EIS and the schedule, Ms. Maines asked Rosetta Alcantra to discuss the involvement of the tribes in the project. Ms. Alcantra explained that the lead federal agency for the project is the Federal Highway Administration. Since this is a federally funded project, FHWA will be the agency conducting Government to Government consultation with the tribes in the project area. Ms. Alcantra explained that any correspondence to the tribe will be coming from the FHWA representative, likely Mr. Mike Vanderhoof. Ms. Alcantra further



reiterated that this meeting is an informational meeting and is to explain the project and to talk about the schedule. Ms. Alcantra also explained that in addition to the consultation, the tribe can expect to be consulted during the Section 106 process to discuss historic and cultural properties. She explained it is important to recognize that Government to Government consultation is a relationship that continues throughout the life of the project and the tribes should expect this. Section 106 is just one part of consultation under the larger National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Mr. Gubatayao asked about the discovery of sacred sites in the project and how this would be handled. Ms. Alcantra explained that this is one of the reasons it is so important to have the tribes actively participating and communicating in projects. The more information known upfront can help minimize potential impacts to these resources.

Before closing the meeting, Rosetta asked about who would be the appropriate point of contact for KIC. Ms. Patton said that she would be the primary contact and preferred email for communication. She will then forward communication to the council. KIC also has a newsletter, the next one will be in September/October, this would be a good place to have information. KIC is also willing to help post information and to have a presentation at their Subsistence Committee meeting, this committee is made up of very active tribal members. The committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month and the KIC council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.



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## **Gravina Access Project SEIS Informational Meeting**

**City of Saxman & Organized Village of  
Saxman**

**June 11, 2008  
Route 2  
Saxman, Alaska  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

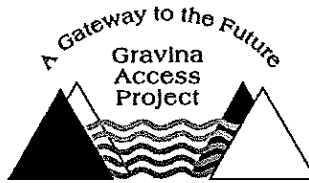
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### **Agenda**

- Introduction and meeting objectives
- Review project history
- Purpose of the SEIS
- Project schedule
- Opportunities for participation
- Range of alternatives
  - Alternatives considered in original EIS
  - Alternatives screening process
  - Reasonable alternatives to be carried forward in the SEIS
- Questions related to process
- Other?

### **Questions for the City of Saxman & Organized Village of Saxman**

1. What is the best way to contact you (letter, email, fax, or phone)?
2. Are there opportunities where we can share project information with you and your organization (regularly scheduled meetings, for example)?
3. Have there been any updates in local plans since 2004?
4. Are there any economic development projects that we should be aware of?
5. Is there anyone else you recommend we talk to?
6. Is there a point of contact, other than yourself, with whom we should have regular contact concerning the project?



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**Gravina Access Project SEIS  
Organized Village of Saxman  
Information Meeting**

**June 11, 2008  
Route 2  
Saxman, Alaska**

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## **Participants**

- Lee Wallace, President, Organized Village of Saxman
- Ginger Fox, Council Member, Organized Village of Saxman
- Winona Wallace, Staff, Organized Village of Saxman
- Jim Lowell, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Mark Dalton, Project Manager, HDR Alaska
- Rosetta Alcantra, Public Involvement Specialist, HDR Alaska

The meeting began at 1:00 pm at the Organized Village of Saxman's (OVS) tribal office. See the participant list above. Jim Lowell began the meeting by explaining the purpose of the meeting with the OVS. The goal of the meeting is to provide an update on the Gravina Access Project, explain the background of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) study and discuss the schedule. Mr. Lowell explained this is an informational meeting. Highlights from the meeting include:

- There will be a public scoping meeting on July 22, 2008 at the Ted Ferry Civic Center from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and another session from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity to get information on the project and provide comments to be considered.
- There are six hard link alternatives and three ferry alternatives in the SEIS.
- OVS is a federally recognized tribe and will be consulted with by the Federal Highway Administration, lead agency for the Gravina Access Project, in the government to government relationship. The government to government relationship will remain throughout the life of the project. Another important place for tribes assert themselves in the process is during the discussion on Section 106 relating to cultural and historic properties.
- A financial bar will need to be set by the Administration for the project. Alternative F1 has been dismissed by Governor Palin and DOT&PF has been asked to go back to each of the alternatives to provide costs and identify a more fiscally responsible alternative.
- HDR Alaska, Inc. recalled the Saxman Tribe's comments regarding Gravina as being a tribal community "bread basket" whereby subsistence useage occurs.
- There is an FHWA expectancy of a return of funds for federal project that are abandoned, and the incentive to re-visit the EIS is important since it still fits the original need of the EIS, which was to improve access to the airport and open up Borough and public lands for development on Gravina.





- Alternative G4 reflects the addition of doubling the current ferry and ferry location and having two ferry locations next to each other - in the same location as the present airport ferry.
- There is no represented "No Action Alternative", which would reflect leaving access "as is".

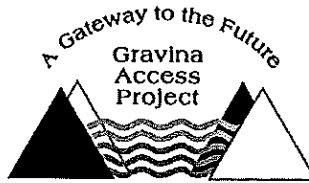
Tribal participation/questions/ and highlight included:

- The desire for continued tribal and federal government to government consultation, with communication directed to President Lee Wallace.
- Protection of historically cultural findings and properties as addressed in Section 106.
- Local preference for employment and training.
- Protection and enforcement plan for subsistence areas.
- Request for technical assistance regarding historic plan development for the Tribe.
- Since F1 and F3 are obsolete alternatives and will not happen, the Tribe gains a sense of relief, because the Tribe was against these alternatives.
- Scoping meetings announcement will be posted.

Overall discussion highlights:

- For the City of Ketchikan and the southeast area it is estimated that road construction is approximately \$4-\$6million/mile.
- The Gravina Access Project began with a different Governor who set road construction in motion, and today Governor Palin has a different fiscal thought for access.
- The draft SEIS is expected to be available by December 2008.
- Suggestion was made to contact:
  - Tongass Tribe, the representative for the organization is Richard Jackson
  - Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #14 – Joe Reeves
  - Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #14 – Ceceila
  - Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #15 – Woody Watson
  - Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #15 – Lavern John
  - Alaska Native Community Council – Barbara Fields
  - Charles Denny
  - Central Council Tligit & Haida – William Martin, President
  - Cape Fox Corporation – Micheal Dewitt
  - Metlakatla Indian Community
  - Prince of Whales
- OVS would be interested in a presentation, they meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, the next meeting would be July 7, 2008 and then August 4, 2008
- Concern about noise during construction and how that may impact the fish. It was mentioned that hooligan has depleted in recent years. The City of Ketchikan has a noise ordinance.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.**



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**Gravina Access Project SEIS  
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida  
Information Meeting**

**June 12, 2008  
320 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 300  
Juneau, Alaska**

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## **Participants**

- Rayann, CCTHA Assistant to the President
- Rosetta Alcantra, HDR

Ms. Alcantra briefly met with Rayann to introduce herself and discuss communication with the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida in the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) study. Rayann explained the CCTHA Executive Council was out of town this week and the president was on personal leave, and she appreciated Ms. Alcantra coming by to introduce herself. Rayann explained that CCTHA has a member on their executive committee from Ketchikan, Barbara Fields and a transportation staff person. She suspected they would be interested in the project. Rayann also explained that all correspondence should be directed to Mr. William Martin.

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

---

**From:** Alcantra, Rosetta M.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2008 12:15 PM  
**To:** Winona Wallace (saxmanira@kpunet.net)  
**Subject:** Gravina Access Project SEIS meeting in June  
**Contacts:** Winona Wallace

Dear Winona,

Thanks for helping me to arrange the meeting with the Organized Village of Saxman. As I mentioned in our conversation I am part of the project team (I work for HDR Alaska, Inc.) working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. We are in the initiation phase of the project and would like to begin by meeting with the Organized Village of Saxman to discuss the project, project schedule and to listen to what concerns or issues the tribe may have regarding the project. A formal government to government letter will be sent to the Tribal President, Lee Wallace once we can confirm a date and time to meet.

Following is a list of days and times available for meetings. I am hopeful we can meet at your office, however please let me know if this is not an option and I will work to secure another venue. Currently there are 5 people in our party. Please let me know at your earliest convenience what will work.

June 10 – Tuesday

- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

June 11 – Wednesday

- 8:00 am – 10:00 am
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Again, thank you for your assistance and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Regards,

Rosetta Alcantra

Rosetta Alcantra, Public Outreach Specialist  
HDR Alaska, Inc.  
2525 C Street, Suite 305  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2632  
Phone: (907) 644-2074  
Fax: (907) 644-2022  
Email: [rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com](mailto:rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com)

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

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**From:** Alcantra, Rosetta M.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 1:25 PM  
**To:** mkookesh@ccthita.org  
**Cc:** Dalton, Mark; Maines, Kristen  
**Subject:** Gravina Access Project SEIS - meeting request with CCTHITA  
**Importance:** High

Dear Melissa:

I recently left a message on the phone number 463-7105 to request a meeting with the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Executive Council and/or President regarding the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The Gravina project team is going to be in Juneau on June 12 and would like to provide CCTHITA with an update on the project, discuss the project schedule and to understand any issues or concerns the council may have regarding the project. CCTHITA is being contacted as a tribal organization that represents tribes in the project area (Ketchikan Indian Community and Organized Village of Saxman) and as part of the Federal Highway Administration's government to government responsibility.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if there is an interest regarding this project. Once I have secured a time to meet on June 12, FHWA will be sending out a formal invitation letter. Thank you in advance for assisting with this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Regards,

Rosetta

Rosetta Alcantra, Public Outreach Specialist  
HDR Alaska, Inc.  
2525 C Street, Suite 305  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2632  
Phone: (907) 644-2074  
Fax: (907) 644-2022  
Email: [rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com](mailto:rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com)

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

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**From:** Melissa Kookesh [mkookesh@ccthita.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 2:51 PM  
**To:** Alcantra, Rosetta M.  
**Subject:** RE: Gravina Access Project SEIS - meeting request with CCTHITA

Rosetta,  
I thought when I saw that name – it can't be! But it is...:)

Unfortunately, all of the Executive Council will not be in town on June 12<sup>th</sup>, but they are meeting here in Juneau on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Smiles,  
Melissa

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**From:** Alcantra, Rosetta M. [mailto:Rosetta.Alcantra@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 1:25 PM  
**To:** Melissa Kookesh  
**Cc:** Dalton, Mark; Maines, Kristen  
**Subject:** Gravina Access Project SEIS - meeting request with CCTHITA  
**Importance:** High

Dear Melissa:

I recently left a message on the phone number 463-7105 to request a meeting with the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Executive Council and/or President regarding the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The Gravina project team is going to be in Juneau on June 12 and would like to provide CCTHITA with an update on the project, discuss the project schedule and to understand any issues or concerns the council may have regarding the project. CCTHITA is being contacted as a tribal organization that represents tribes in the project area (Ketchikan Indian Community and Organized Village of Saxman) and as part of the Federal Highway Administration's government to government responsibility.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if there is an interest regarding this project. Once I have secured a time to meet on June 12, FHWA will be sending out a formal invitation letter. Thank you in advance for assisting with this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Regards,

Rosetta

Rosetta Alcantra, Public Outreach Specialist  
HDR Alaska, Inc.  
2525 C Street, Suite 305  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2632  
Phone: (907) 644-2074  
Fax: (907) 644-2022  
Email: [rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com](mailto:rosetta.alcantra@hdrinc.com)

10/8/2008

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

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**From:** saxmanira [saxmanira@kpunet.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2008 9:27 AM  
**To:** Alcantra, Rosetta M.  
**Subject:** RE: Gravina Access Project SEIS meeting in June

Dear Rosetta,

Hi, Good Morning. I cornered our President before he left for Juneau this morning and he has selected the date of **Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 1-3pm**. Most of our council members work, and it may be that he will be the only one present for this meeting. So, he has decided this will work out. Hope this is helpful as you schedule your visits to our island. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Winona Wallace

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**From:** Alcantra, Rosetta M. [mailto:Rosetta.Alcantra@hdrinc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2008 12:15 PM  
**To:** saxmanira@kpunet.net  
**Subject:** Gravina Access Project SEIS meeting in June

Dear Winona,

Thanks for helping me to arrange the meeting with the Organized Village of Saxman. As I mentioned in our conversation I am part of the project team (I work for HDR Alaska, Inc.) working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. We are in the initiation phase of the project and would like to begin by meeting with the Organized Village of Saxman to discuss the project, project schedule and to listen to what concerns or issues the tribe may have regarding the project. A formal government to government letter will be sent to the Tribal President, Lee Wallace once we can confirm a date and time to meet.

Following is a list of days and times available for meetings. I am hopeful we can meet at your office, however please let me know if this is not an option and I will work to secure another venue. Currently there are 5 people in our party. Please let me know at your earliest convenience what will work.

June 10 – Tuesday

- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

June 11 – Wednesday

- 8:00 am – 10:00 am
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Again, thank you for your assistance and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Regards,

Rosetta Alcantra

10/8/2008

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

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**From:** saxmanira [saxmanira@kpunet.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 09, 2008 9:42 AM  
**To:** Alcantra, Rosetta M.  
**Subject:** Combined Meeting with Tribe and City of Saxman

Dear Rosetta,

I received your phone request per Mayor Charles Denny to have the Gravina Access Supplemental EIS tribal consultation meeting with the Tribe on Wednesday. It is fine to join the two groups together. We will see you on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm. Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
WW

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

---

**From:** saxmanira [saxmanira@kpunet.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2008 3:38 PM  
**To:** 'iragovt'; 'Sylvia Banie'; 'Chuck Denny'; ovstribaloffice@kpunet.net; Alcantra, Rosetta M.; 'Kelly Ludwig-Johnson'  
**Subject:** Informational Meeting with HDR Alaska, Inc. on July 11, 2008  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red  
**Attachments:** HDR Alaska, Inc. June 11, 2008.doc

Dear Leaders,

I have attached notes from the meeting held on Wednesday, July 11, 2008 with HDR Alaska, Inc. and the Tribe (City asked to be present at this meeting also, and they were expected), which occurred from 1-2:15 pm. The HDR and DOT folks brought maps and good discussion. The Tribe had good questions and overall the meeting was good. The Tribe provided refreshments and will keep council members informed. Those that could not make it were missed.

Please look forward to the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Scoping Meetings to be held in Ketchikan at the Ted Ferry Civic Center next month. I have maps to disperse to the tribal council members, also.

Sincerely,  
Winona Wallace  
Tribal Administrator



**HDR Alaska, Inc./ Organized Village of Saxman/City of Saxman Informational Meeting**  
**on**  
**Gravina Access Project SEIS - June 11, 2008; 1-3 pm; Notes**

**Present:** Jim Lowell, State DOT, Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc., Rosetta Alcantra, HDR Alaska, Inc., OVS President Lee Wallace, Ginger Fox, OVS Council Member, and OVS Staff, Winona Wallace.

HDR Alaska, Inc. along with the State DOT representative, (Mark Dalton, Rosetta Alcantra, and Jim Lowell) basically conveyed their business was to bring updated information to the Tribe regarding the Gravina Access Project and explain the background of the SEIS. The SEIS work is being updated, but much of the work only needs to be brought current. Some highlights shared were:

- It may be that the public has new ideas, nonetheless, HDR Alaska, Inc. wants to receive public considerations and comments.
- There are six hard link alternatives and three ferry alternatives in the SEIS.
- Future scoping meeting will take place July 22, 2008 at the Ted Ferry Civic Center.
- OVS is a federally recognized Tribe and through the life of the Gravina Access Project, the government to government relationship between the Federal Highways and the Tribe(s) will remain, in which the Tribe can assert themselves regarding cultural or historic properties.
- A financial bar will be set – and has occurred, since the F1 Alternative has been nixed by Governor Palin as a project beyond possible financial means.
- HDR Alaska, Inc. recalled the Saxman Tribe's comments regarding Gravina as being a tribal community "bread basket" whereby subsistence useage occurs.
- There is an FHWA expectancy of a return of funds for federal project that are abandoned, and the incentive to re-visit the EIS is important since it still fits the original need of the EIS, which was to improve access to the airport and open up Borough and public lands for development on Gravina.
- Alternative G4 reflects the addition of doubling the current ferry and ferry location and having two ferry locations next to each other - in the same location as the present airport ferry.
- There is no represented "No Action Alternative", which would reflect leaving access "as is".

Tribal participation/questions/ and highlight included:

- The desire for continued tribal and federal government to government consultation.
- Protection of historically cultural findings and properties as addressed in Section 102.
- Local preference for employment and training.
- Protection and enforcement plan for subsistence areas.
- Request for technical assistance regarding historic plan development for the Tribe.
- Since F1 and F3 are obsolete alternative and will not happen, the Tribe gains a sense of relief, because the Tribe was against these alternatives.
- Scoping meetings announcement will be posted.

Overall discussion highlights:

- For the Ketchikan/SE area it is estimated that road construction is approximately \$4-\$6million/mile.
- The Gravina Access Project began with a different Governor who set road construction in motion, and today Governor Palin has a different fiscal thought for access.
- Completion of SEIS work is August 2008.
- The intent of the SEIS is begin formal consultation, to provide regular updates, and a final decision will be made next year. The decision of FWHA alternative decision will appear in a "Record of Decion".

**Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.**

Project: Gravina Access Project SEIS	Project No: 07072-81225
Date: July 2, 2008	Subject: Point of Contact for Metlakatla
Call to: Lindarae Shearer	Phone No: 907.886.4441
Call from: Rosetta Alcantra (HDR)	Phone No: 907.644.2074

**Discussion, Agreement and/or Action:**

I called Lindarae Shearer based on a recommendation from Tom Brigham, HDR to discuss who would be the point of contact for the Metlakatla Indian Community. Linda is working on an Administration for Native American grant with Tom and discussed there were a couple of points from her perspective that MIC would be interested, these include economic development and planning.

Ms. Shearer confirmed Karl Cook, Jr., Mayor is the primary contact. She also indicated that she would be able to assist in hanging posters and getting information out to the community.

## Section 3: Agency Scoping & Materials

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*Design and Engineering Services – Southeast Region  
Preconstruction – Special Projects*

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1828  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Jim Rypkema  
Program Manager  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Air and Water Quality  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Rypkema,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 2001, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced

*"Providing for the safe movement of people and goods and the delivery of state services."*

that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process.

The FHWA and DOT&PF are now required to identify potential *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Department of Environmental Conservation become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

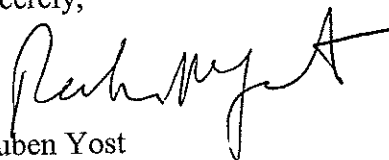
1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

***If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. The acceptance may be transmitted electronically to me at the email address below; please include the title of the official responding. Written responses to this invitation are due 30 days after receipt of this letter.***

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. If you become a participating agency, you will participate in scoping through that role. Should you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis is still needed. Please submit comments on the project via mail to DOT&PF, PO Box 112506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506 (Attn: Reuben Yost), or by e-mail (reuben.yost@alaska.gov), or by fax (907-465-2016). The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008; however, DOT&PF will continue to take comments on this project throughout the project's development.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact me by phone or email. I look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Reuben Yost  
DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

Gravina Access Project SEIS  
Project No. FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

6/26/08

enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads
- common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS

### Bridge Alternatives\*:

- C3a (200' x 550')
- C3b (120' x 500')
- C4 (200' x 550')
- D1 (120' x 500')
- F1 (WEST 120' x 500')
- F3 (WEST 200' x 550')
- F3 (EAST 60' x 500')

### Ferry Alternatives:

- G2\*\*
- G3
- G4

### Other Features:

- - - Bypass Road (proposed)
- ..... city boundary
- existing road
- docks
- ~ stream

\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

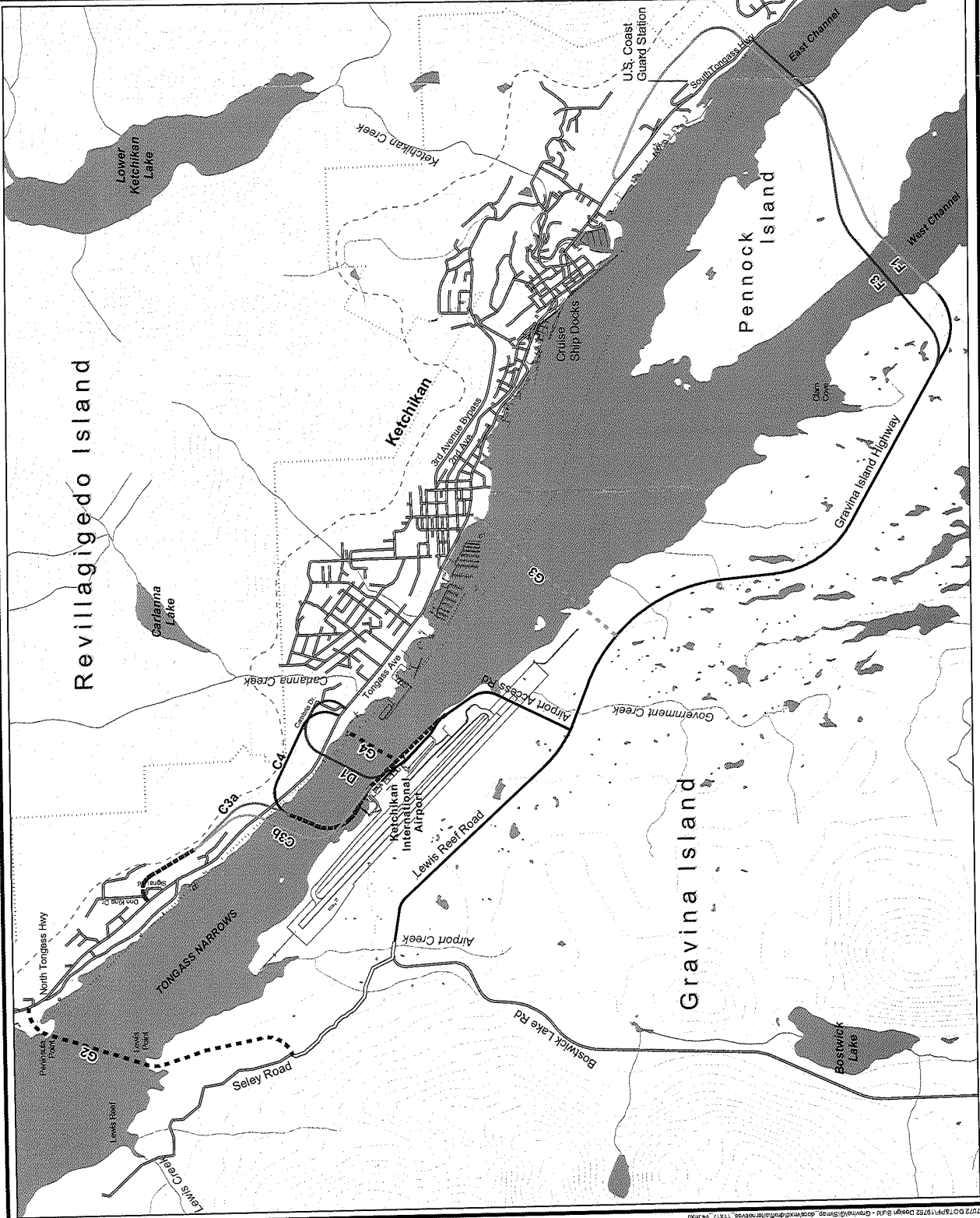
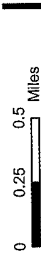
\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



Date: May 16, 2009  
 Project: Alaska State, Phase Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Prepared by: HDR, Inc.  
 Sources: KGS, HDR, Alaska, Inc.

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### Gravina Access Project





# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*Design and Engineering Services – Southeast Region  
Preconstruction – Special Projects*

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1828  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Mark Minillo  
Area 7 Manager - Habitat Biologist  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Habitat  
P O Box 668  
Craig, AK 99921

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Minillo,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced

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In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

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- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
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### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

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Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
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This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. If you become a participating agency, you will participate in scoping through that role. Should you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis is still needed. Please submit comments on the project via mail to DOT&PF, PO Box 112506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506 (Attn: Reuben Yost), or by e-mail (reuben.yost@alaska.gov), or by fax (907-465-2016). The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008; however, DOT&PF will continue to take comments on this project throughout the project's development.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact me by phone or email. I look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Reuben Yost  
DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.  
Jackie Timothy, Southeast Regional Habitat Supervisor – ADF&G

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

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- recently constructed roads common to multiple alternatives
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### Bridge Alternatives\*:

- C3a (200' x 550')
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- multiple alignments
- G2\*\*
- G3
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\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



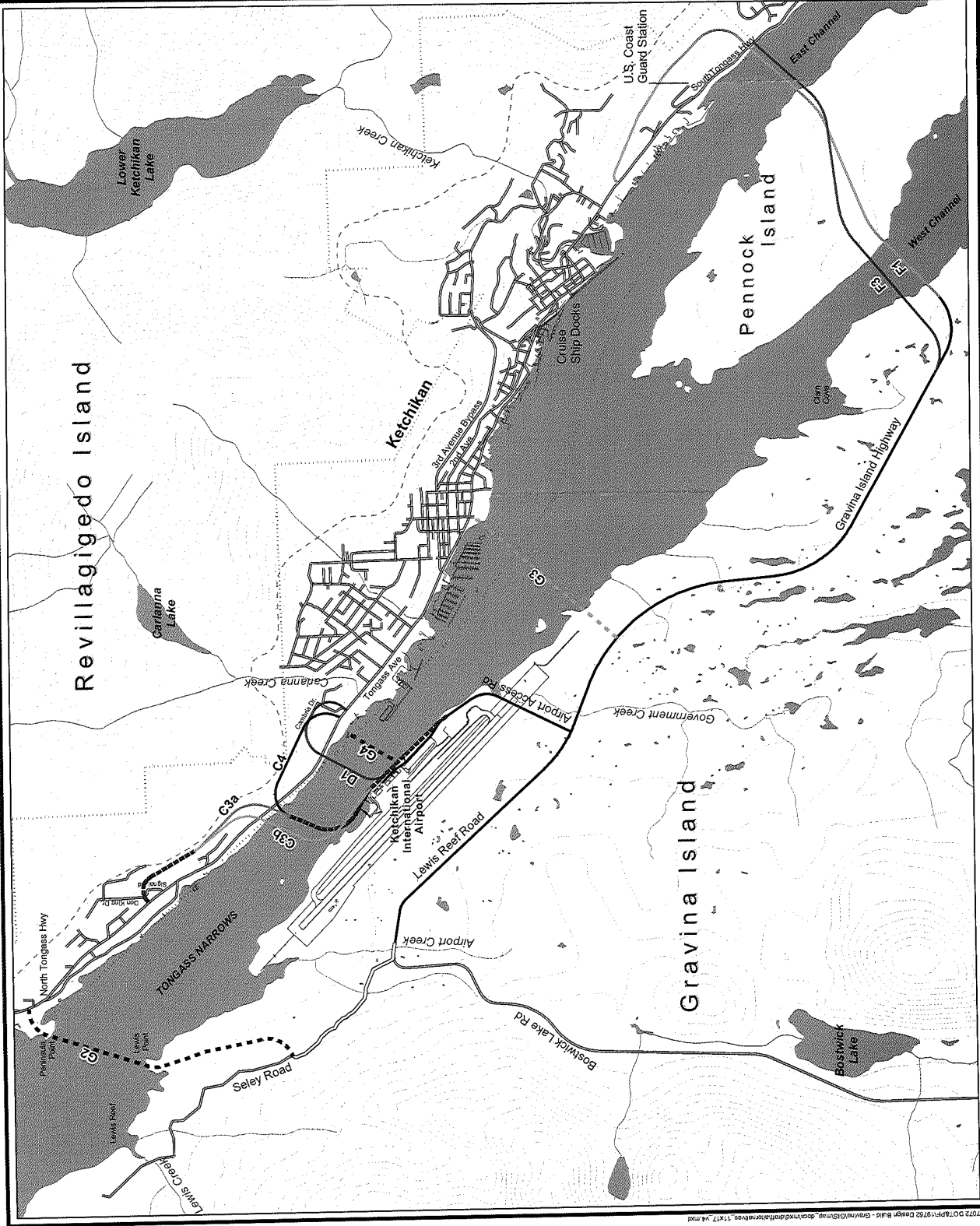
Date: May 16, 2008  
 Projection: Alaska State Plane Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Sources: KGS, HDR, Alaska, Inc.

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### Gravina Access Project



0 0.25 0.5 Miles



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*Design and Engineering Services – Southeast Region  
Preconstruction – Special Projects*

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1828  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Harry Noah  
Executive Director  
The Trust Land Office  
Department of Natural Resources  
718 L Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Noah,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
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The FHWA and DOT&PF are now required to identify potential *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the The Trust Land Office become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

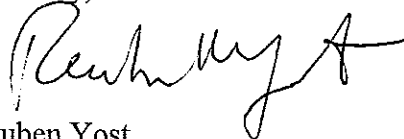
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If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact me by phone or email. I look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Reuben Yost  
DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator



enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.



**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

---

**From:** Maines, Kristen  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2008 2:07 PM  
**To:** Longtin, Wendy; Alcantra, Rosetta M.  
**Cc:** Dalton, Mark  
**Subject:** FW: Div of Forestry participation  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

---

**From:** Yost, Reuben M (DOT) [mailto:reuben.yost@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 18, 2008 3:05 PM  
**To:** Holman, Deborah L (DOT)  
**Cc:** Maines, Kristen  
**Subject:** FW: Div of Forestry participation

fyi

---

**From:** Slenkamp, Paul E (DNR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2008 5:05 PM  
**To:** Yost, Reuben M (DOT)  
**Subject:** Div of Forestry participation

Mr. Yost,  
The Division of Forestry (DOF) appreciates and accepts your invitation to be a participating agency in the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. My understanding is that the previous Area Forester, Mike Curran, was involved with the initial review. The DOF interest is primarily that of fielding questions and concerns regarding our harvest and access operations on Gravina Island. I look forward to working with you and would you please advise me when our input is requested. I will be the primary contact person for DOF.  
Thank You,  
Paul Slenkamp  
Southern Southeast Area Forester

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*Design and Engineering Services – Southeast Region  
Preconstruction – Special Projects*

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1828  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Randy Bates  
Division Director  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Coastal and Ocean Management  
P O Box 110030  
Juneau, AK 99811-0030

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Bates,

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### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process.

The FHWA and DOT&PF are now required to identify potential *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Alaska Department of Natural Resources become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

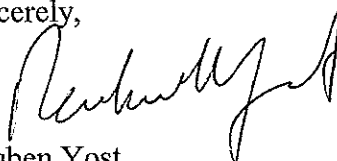
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2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

***If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. The acceptance may be transmitted electronically to me at the email address below; please include the title of the official responding. Written responses to this invitation are due 30 days after receipt of this letter.***

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. If you become a participating agency, you will participate in scoping through that role. Should you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis is still needed. Please submit comments on the project via mail to DOT&PF, PO Box 112506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506 (Attn: Reuben Yost), or by e-mail (reuben.yost@alaska.gov), or by fax (907-465-2016). The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008; however, DOT&PF will continue to take comments on this project throughout the project's development.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact me by phone or email. I look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Reuben Yost  
DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.  
Erin Allee, Project Review Specialist – ADNR  
Paul Slenkamp, Area Forester – ADNR  
Ed Fogels, Division Director – ADNR  
Jim Anderson, Southeast Regional Manager - ADNR

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS

### Bridge Alternatives\*:

- C3a (200' x 550')
- C3b (120' x 500')
- C4 (200' x 550')
- D1 (120' x 500')
- F1 WEST (120' x 500')
- F1 EAST (200' x 550')
- F3 WEST (200' x 550')
- F3 EAST (60' x 500')

### Ferry Alternatives:

- multiple alignments
- G2\*\*
- G3
- G4

- Bypass Road (proposed)
- city boundary
- existing road
- docks
- stream

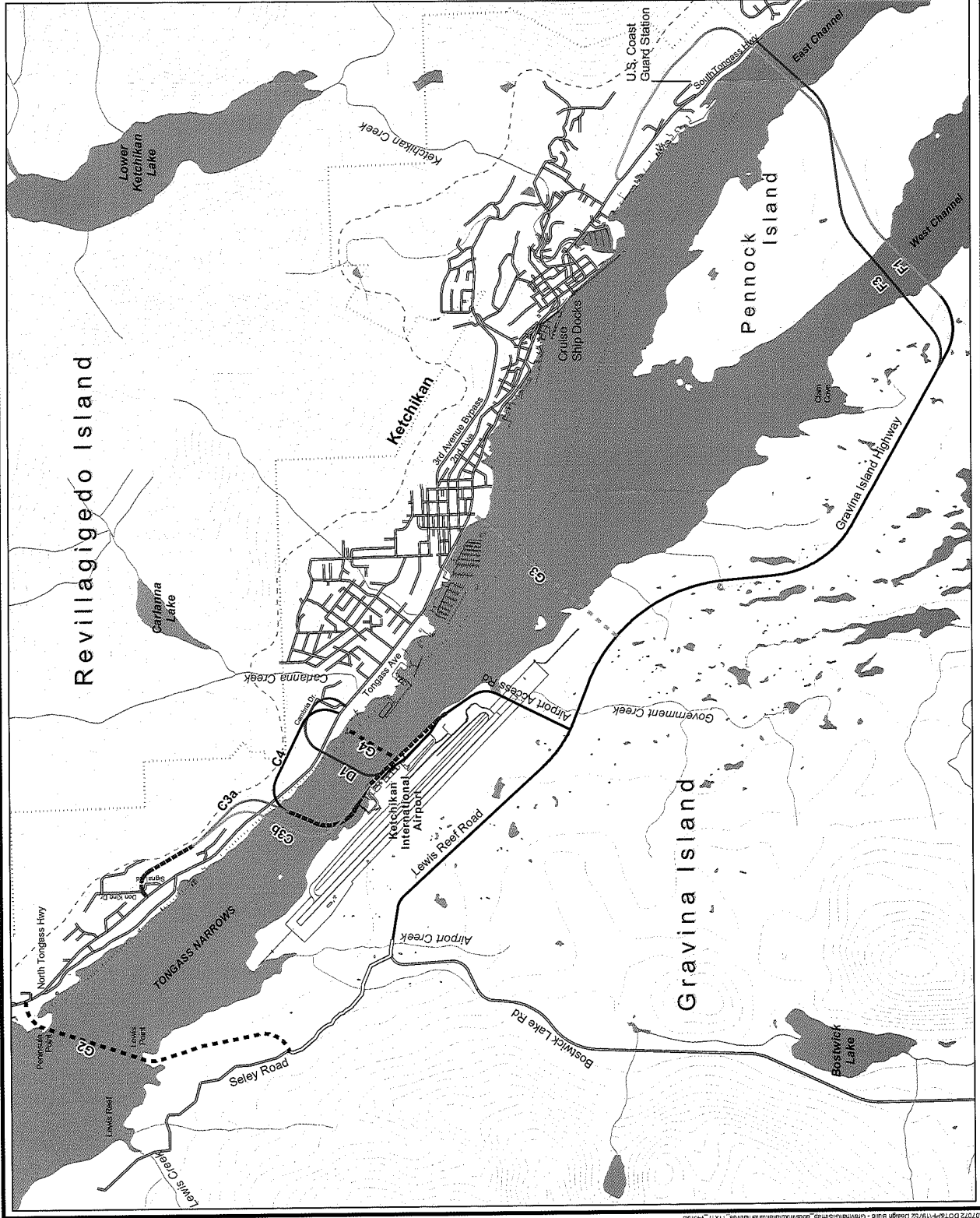
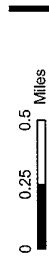
\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

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Date: May 16, 2008  
 Projector: Alaska State Plane Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Author: HDR Alaska, Inc.  
 Sources: KGB, HDR Alaska, Inc.

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# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

*Design and Engineering Services – Southeast Region  
Preconstruction – Special Projects*

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1828  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008

FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 West 7th, Suite 1380  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Bittner,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 2001, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced

*"Providing for the safe movement of people and goods and the delivery of state services."*

that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

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### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

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The FHWA and DOT&PF are now required to identify potential *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Department of Natural Resources become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

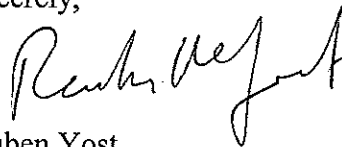
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If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact me by phone or email. I look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Reuben Yost  
DOT&PF Project Environmental Coordinator

enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.  
Bill Ballard, State Environmental Coordinator - DOT&PF

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads
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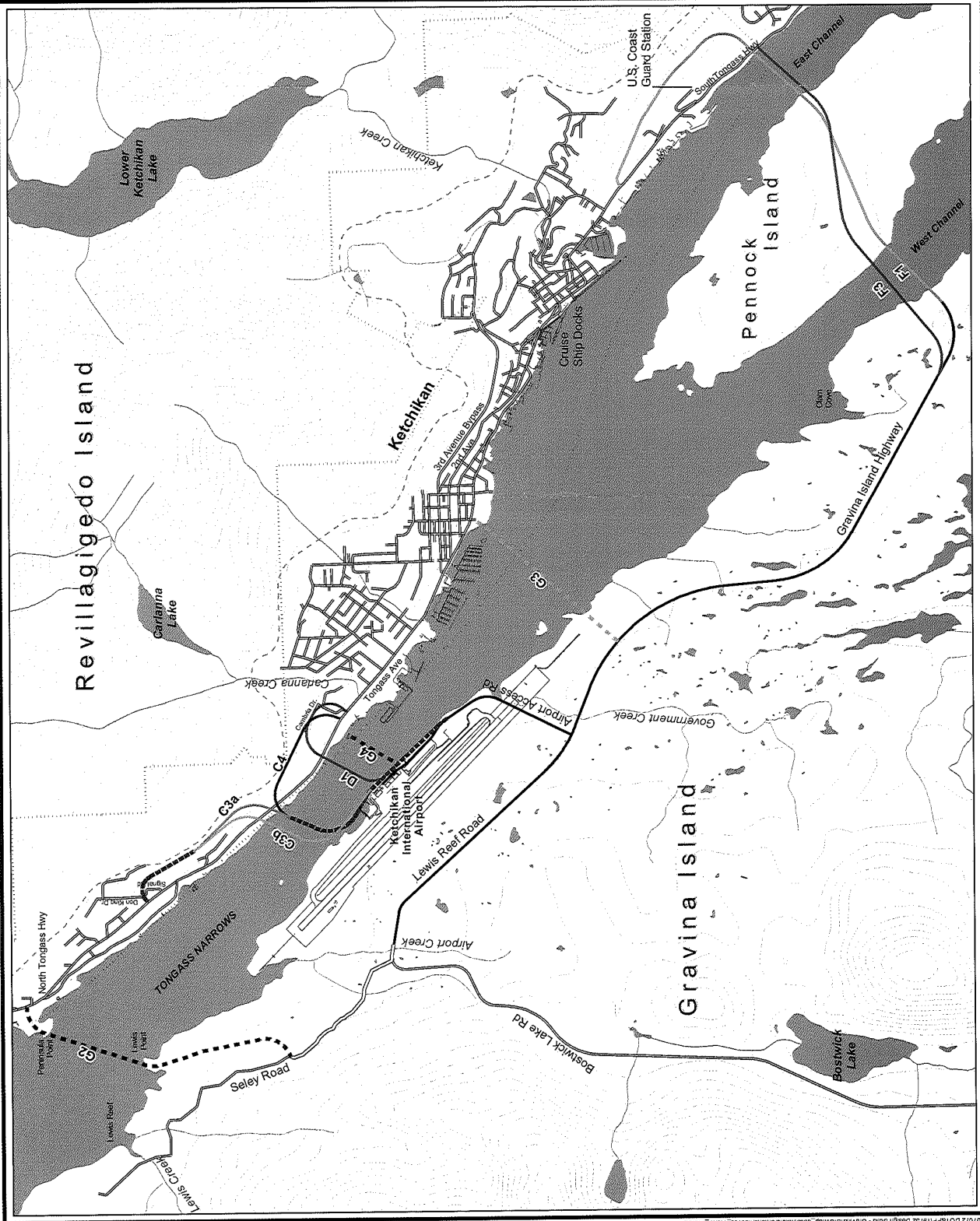


### Gravina Access Project



Date: May 16, 2009  
 Projection: Alaska State Plane Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Author: HDR Alaska, Inc.  
 Sources: KGB, HDR Alaska, Inc.

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# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR  
PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1763  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008

The Honorable Mayor Joe Williams  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
334 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments -  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698**

Dear Mayor Williams,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

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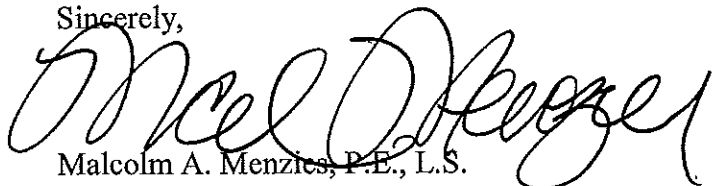
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If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Reuben Yost, Project Environmental Manager by phone or email at reuben.yost@alaska.gov. We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S.  
Regional Director



enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.  
Dan Bockhorst, Manager – Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
Tom Williams, Director – Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
Mike Carney, Manager – Ketchikan International Airport  
Andy Hughes, Planning Chief - DOT&PF

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads
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### Bridge Alternatives\*:

- C-3a (200' x 550')
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- multiple alignments

### Ferry Alternatives:

- G-2\*\*
- G-3
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### Bypass Road (proposed)

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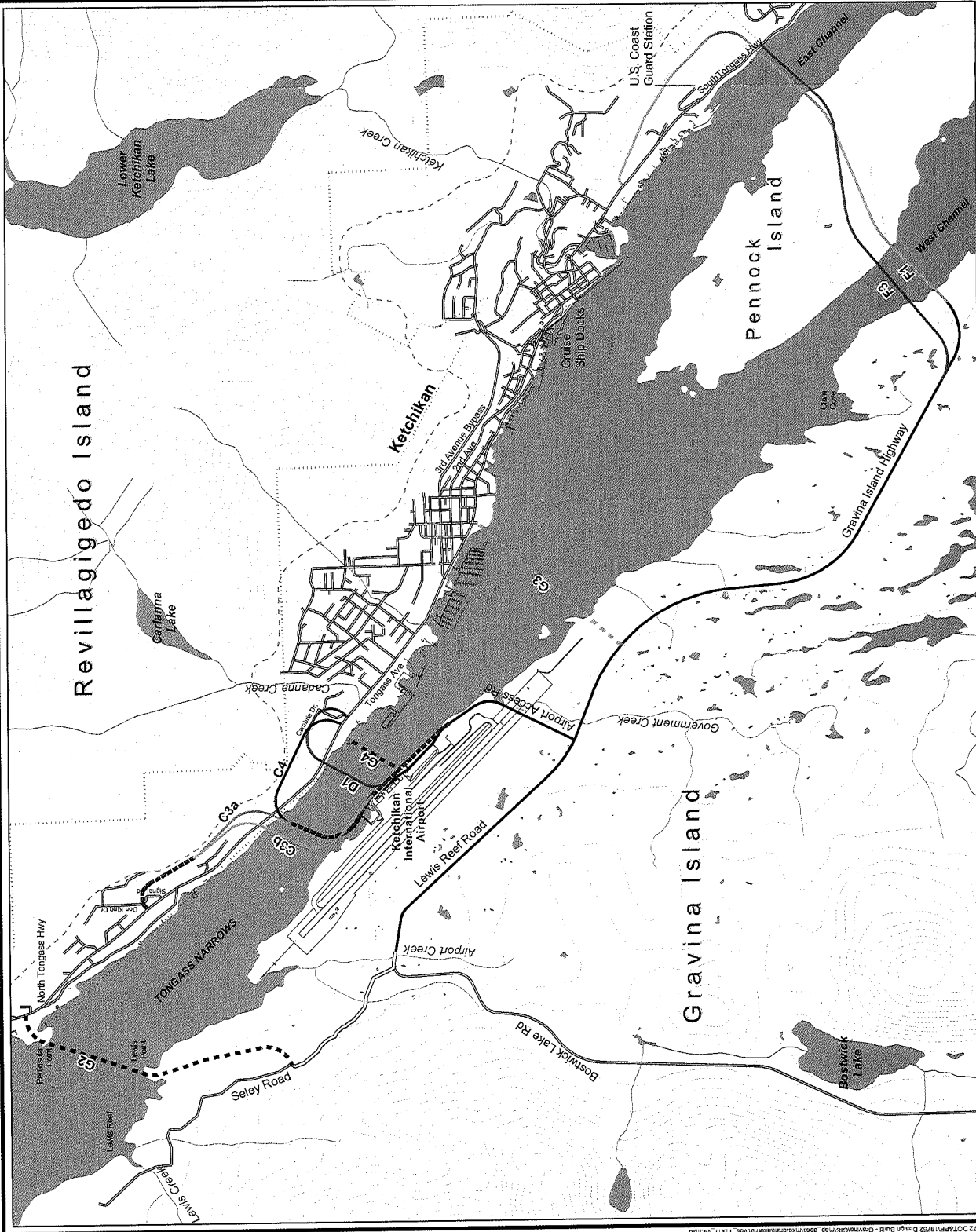


Date: May 16, 2006  
 Projection: Alaska State Plane Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Source: KGB, HDR Alaska, Inc.

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0 0.25 0.5 Miles





# KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

344 FRONT STREET • KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901  
• 907/228-6625 • fax 907/247-6625

OFFICE OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

July 23, 2008

Mr. Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S.  
Southeast Regional Director  
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
P.O. Box 112506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506

**Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency:  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement & Request for Scoping Comments  
Gravina Access Project FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698**

Dear Mr. Menzies,

Thank you for addressing the Mayor and Assembly at the Borough Assembly meeting on July 21, 2008. The Mayor and Assembly have accepted your invitation for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough to become a participating agency in the Gravina Access Project referenced above.

As you heard during the Assembly meeting, in the event some form of enhanced ferry service is designated as the preferred alternative in the Record of Decision following the preparation of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, there is a strong desire among elected officials of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough in having all airport ferry service provided without charge (or at least at fares *significantly* less than the current fares). That position reflects three fundamental concerns.

The first is a matter of broad public policy. Ketchikan is the only community in Alaska whose residents must pay a fare to travel to and from the airport. Throughout Alaska, but particularly in communities including Ketchikan that lack highway connections elsewhere, air transportation is an essential service. As a matter of public policy, local residents and businesses should not be charged to gain access to the airport.

The second primary concern, as was stressed during the meeting of July 21, is that operation of the existing airport ferry system already imposes a substantial financial drain on our community – nearly \$1.7 million annually. For a community of 5,400 households,<sup>1</sup> that is equivalent to an annual cost of \$315 annually per household just to

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<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau reports that there were 14,070 residents in 5,399 occupied housing units in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough during the most recent federal decennial census. The average number of residents per occupied housing unit in the Borough at the time of that census was 2.6. The Alaska Department of Labor projects that the July 2007 population of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough is 13,160. If the current number of residents per household is the same that which was reported at the time of the last federal decennial census, the number of currently occupied households in Ketchikan would be 5,062. The fiscal burden of operating the ferry would then be and the cost per household

Mr. Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S.  
July 23, 2008  
Page 2

gain access to the airport.

The cost of operating the present ferry system, particularly the high cost of fuel, is a major concern to the Borough. Moreover, maintenance costs, especially those required to sustain the annual Certificate of Inspection by US Coast Guard, are substantial.

With the existing high fares, the Borough's ferry operation is projected to break even during the current year. However, that is only because of an unusually high number of users due to extensive construction work on Gravina Island. That circumstance has greatly increased the revenue from ferry operations. However, when that construction work ceases in the near future, revenues will decline by a margin far greater than costs. The already-high fares will no longer cover the cost of operations.

Please keep in mind that ferry-system fares represent only a tiny fraction of the substantial fiscal burden imposed on local citizens and businesses by local governments in Ketchikan. Currently, that burden includes:

\$22,420,023 in taxes levied by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, the majority of which pays for unfunded mandates and penalties imposed upon the Ketchikan Gateway Borough by the State of Alaska.<sup>2</sup>

\$ 7,489,429 in charges and fees for service imposed by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. These include charges such as \$750,000 in airport

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would be even higher.

<sup>2</sup> Forty-five years ago, the Alaska Legislature mandated the creation of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. To defuse the contentious nature of that action (i.e., imposition of a form of local government having significant duties on selected Alaskans without the consent of those affected), the Alaska Legislature offered the following promise in Section 1 of the bill:

**No area incorporated as an organized borough shall be deprived of state services, revenues, or assistance or be otherwise penalized because of incorporation.**

Governor Egan signed the legislation into law and thereby joined the Alaska State Legislature in promising that organized boroughs would not be deprived of state services, revenues, or assistance, and that boroughs would not be otherwise penalized by the State of Alaska. Regrettably, the 1963 promise by the legislative and executive branches of the State of Alaska was breached in a serious manner more than two decades ago. The greatest impact is felt with respect to funding for public education -- a constitutional duty of the State of Alaska that has been delegated to borough governments in those parts of Alaska where boroughs exist. In the current fiscal year alone, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough will be deprived of nearly \$9.5 million in State funding for schools compared to what it would receive had the 1963 promise been upheld. Other mandates applied to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough will add nearly \$2.3 million in additional burdens during the current fiscal year (see enclosure for details). For a community of 13,160 residents, the fiscal impact of the penalties and unfunded mandates is enormous.

landing fees (such fees are not imposed on airports operated by the State of Alaska), which reportedly make the Ketchikan International Airport one of the more expensive airports in Alaska for air carriers.

\$14,210,799 in taxes levied by the City of Ketchikan.

\$19,739,150 in charges and fees imposed by the City of Ketchikan.<sup>3</sup>

The figures above total \$63,859,401, which is equivalent to \$11,826 per household.

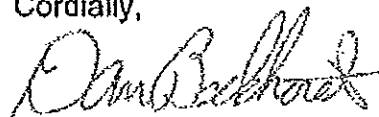
The third essential issue recognizes that a ferry link has the highest average annual operation and maintenance (O&M) cost of any Gravina Access alternative (except for the "no action" alternative). According to the *Gravina Action Project EIS* (p. 2-3), the O&M costs of the ferry alternatives were projected to be 31 to 45 times greater than the O&M costs of the bridge alternatives. The O&M costs of the ferry alternatives were also nearly 2.5 times the cost of the existing ferry service.

There is great concern locally that the current onerous burden of operating the ferry system would become untenable with "improved" ferry service. Accordingly, any ferry alternative that does not include a dedicated fund or endowment to cover operating costs may not be a viable alternative.

If you would like further information or clarification concerning the issues addressed here, please contact me.

The Borough looks forward to working with your agency in the preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement concerning improved access to Gravina Island.

Cordially,



Dan Bockhorst  
Borough Manager

cc: Mayor and Assembly Members, Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
Karl Amylon, City Manager, City of Ketchikan

---

<sup>3</sup> The figure above does not include \$43.6 million in charges by the Ketchikan Public Utilities operated by the City of Ketchikan.

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR  
PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1763  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008

The Honorable Mayor Bob Weinstein  
City of Ketchikan  
334 Front St.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments -  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698**

Dear Mayor Weinstein,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 2001, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and

directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA and DOT&PF are now required to identify potential *participating agencies* that may

have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the City of Ketchikan become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

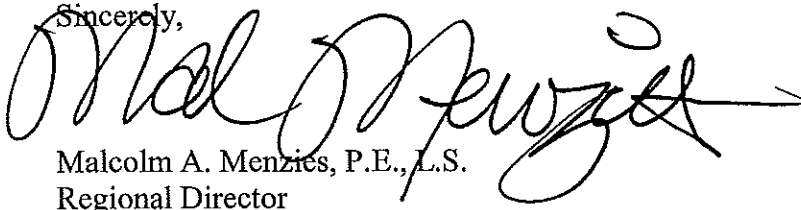
1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

***If you elect to become a participating agency, you must accept this invitation in writing. The acceptance may be transmitted electronically to me at the email address below; please include the title of the official responding. Written responses to this invitation are due 30 days after receipt of this letter.***

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. If you become a participating agency, you will participate in scoping through that role. Should you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis is still needed. Please submit comments on the project via mail to DOT&PF, PO Box 112506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506 (Attn: Reuben Yost), or by e-mail (reuben.yost@alaska.gov), or by fax (907-465-2016). The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008; however, DOT&PF will continue to take comments on this project throughout the project's development.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Reuben Yost, Project Environmental Manager by phone at 465-1828 or email at reuben.yost@alaska.gov. We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S.  
Regional Director



enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.  
Harvey Hansen, Public Works Director – City of Ketchikan  
Karl R. Amylon, City Manager/KPU General Manager – City of Ketchikan

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads
- common to multiple alternatives
- road constructed independent of FEIS

### Bridge Alternatives\*

- C3a (200' x 550')
- C3b (120' x 500')
- C4 (200' x 550')
- D1 (120' x 500')
- F1 WEST (120' x 500')
- F1 EAST (200' x 550')
- F3 WEST (200' x 550')
- F3 EAST (60' x 300')

### Ferry Alternatives:

- G2\*\*
- G3
- G4

- Bypass Road (proposed)
- city boundary
- existing road
- docks
- stream

\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

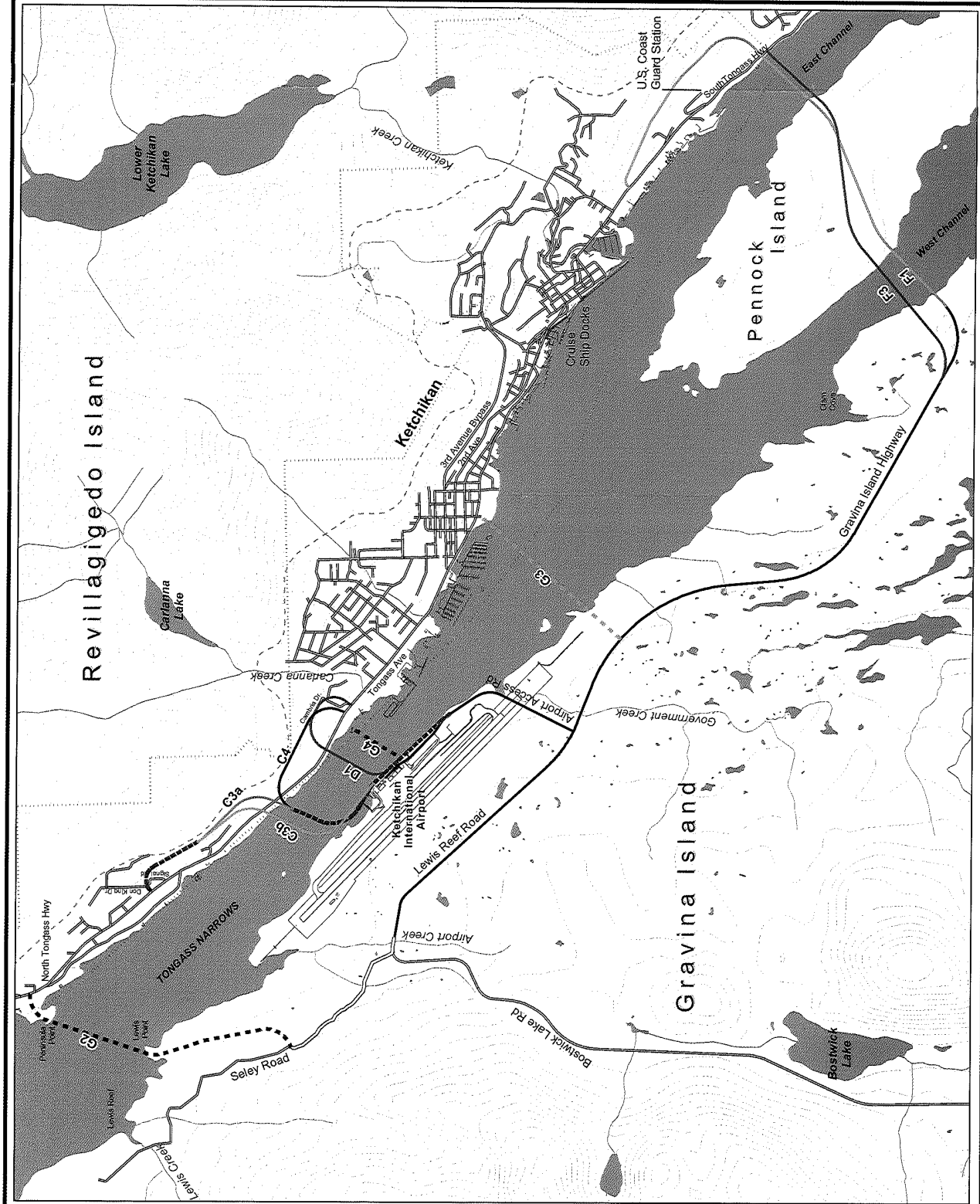
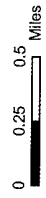
\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



Date: May 16, 2008  
 Projection: Alaska State Plane Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Author: HDR Alaska, Inc.  
 Sources: KGB, HDR Alaska, Inc.

The information displayed here is for planning purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a basis for design or construction. Data from various federal, state, public, and private sources. These drawings are for review purposes only and are not intended for use in securing permits or for construction purposes.

### Gravina Access Project





City Manager  
334 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK. 99901

Phone (907) 228-5603  
Fax: (907) 225-5075

July 18, 2008

Mr. Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S.  
Southeast Regional Director  
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
PO Box 112506  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2506

Dear Director Menzies:

**Re: Invitation To Become A Participating Agency And Request For Scoping Comments – Gravina Access Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698**

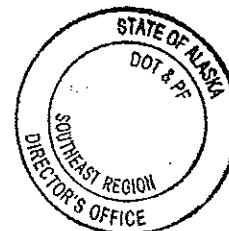
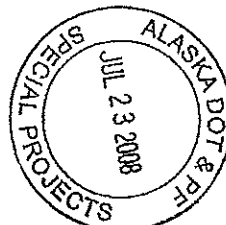
With regard to the above referenced subject, please be advised that at its meeting of July 17, 2008 the City Council adopted a motion directing my office to advise the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities of the City of Ketchikan's intent to become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. Although the City is not submitting official scoping comments at this time, the City Council is reserving its right to do so prior to the August 19, 2008 deadline for the Scoping Summary Report and throughout the duration of the project.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Karl R. Amylon  
City Manager

- cc: Mayor and City Councilmembers
- Katy Suiter, City Clerk
- David Martin, Assistant City Manager
- Harvey Hansen, Public Works Director
- Christopher Brewton, Electric Division Manager
- Van Abbott, Telecommunications Division Manager
- John Kleinegger, Water Division Manager
- Dan Bockhorst, Borough Manager



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR  
PO Box 112506  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-2506

PHONE: (907) 465-1763  
FAX: (907) 465-2016

June 26, 2008

The Honorable Mayor Charles Denny  
City of Saxman  
Rt 2, Box 1  
Saxman  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

RECEIVED

JUL 03 2008

**Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the Gravina Access Project  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Request for Scoping Comments-  
FHWA-AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698**

Dear Mayor Denny,

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

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The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and

directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

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- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process.

The FHWA and DOT&PF are now required to identify potential *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the City of Saxman become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

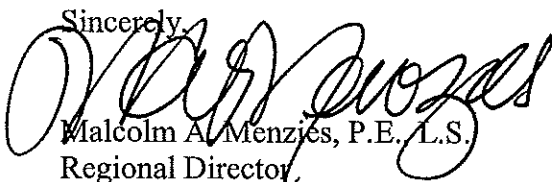
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This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. If you become a participating agency, you will participate in scoping through that role. Should you decide against becoming a participating agency, your input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis is still needed. Please submit comments on the project via mail to DOT&PF, PO Box 112506, Juneau, AK 99811-2506 (Attn: Reuben Yost), or by e-mail (reuben.yost@alaska.gov), or by fax (907-465-2016). The deadline for submitting comments to be included in the official Scoping Summary Report is August 19, 2008; however, DOT&PF will continue to take comments on this project throughout the project's development.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the SEIS, please contact Reuben Yost, Project Environmental Manager by phone at 465-1828 or email at reuben.yost@alaska.gov. We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



Malcolm A. Menzies, P.E., L.S.  
Regional Director

enclosure: Project Location Map

cc: Mike Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, Project Manager - DOT&PF  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.

# Reasonable Alternatives Evaluated in the FEIS and Recent Gravina Island Developments

## LEGEND

- recently constructed roads common to multiple alternatives
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- Bridge Alternatives\*:**
  - C3a (200' x 500')
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  - G2\*\*
  - G3
  - G4
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- docks
- stream

\* Dimensions listed refer to bridge navigation opening (vertical x horizontal)

\*\* G2 connection slightly modified from FEIS



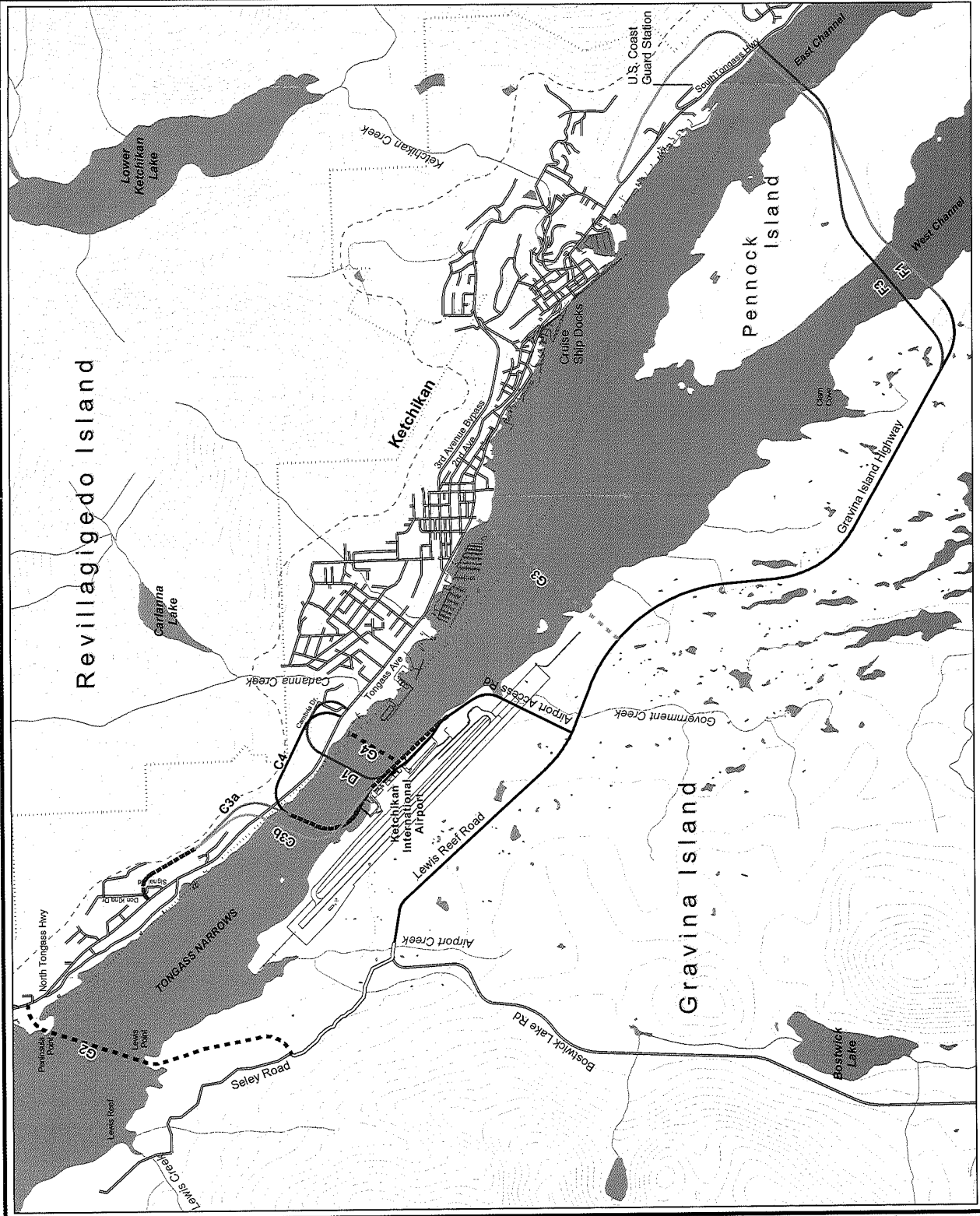
Date: May 16, 2008  
 Projection: Alaska State Plane Zone 1, NAD 27  
 Author: HDR Alaska, Inc.  
 Sources: KGB, HDR Alaska, Inc.

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## Gravina Access Project



0 0.25 0.5 Miles







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

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Pat Oien, Lead Civil Engineer  
Federal Aviation Administration  
222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Box 14  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-7587

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Mr. Oien:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

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**MOVING THE  
AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

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Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.

3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

*Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation prior to August 1, 2008. If your agency declines, the response must state your reason for declining the invitation. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline the invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state in its response that it:*

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

Per the provision of SAFETEA-LU, if your response does not state the agency's position in these terms, or if no agency response is provided within the allotted 30-day time frame, then the FAA will be designated a participating agency.

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. At this point we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered, and possible additional field work that should be conducted. If you have any questions and or comments or would like to discuss in more detail about the project, please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator via mail to the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464 or by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



David C. Miller  
Division Administrator

enclosures:

Project Location Map

cc w/ enclosures:

Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Project Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.



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

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Jack Oien, Roads Program Manager  
US Forest Service – Alaska Region  
PO Box 21628  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Mr. Oien:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 2001, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public and federal and state agencies on July 30, 2004. The FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website:  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. The FHWA informed DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by an SEIS, otherwise, the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that results in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of

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the previous Draft or Final EIS. Typically an SEIS addresses only those changes or new information that are the basis for preparing the supplement and were not addressed in the previous EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of an SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA is now required to identify *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. Therefore, we respectfully request that the US Forest Service (USDA-FS), become a participating agency in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal. Rather, it provides you a more defined role in project development.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.

3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate.

*Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation prior to August 1, 2008. If your agency declines, the response must state your reason for declining the invitation. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline the invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state in its response that it:*

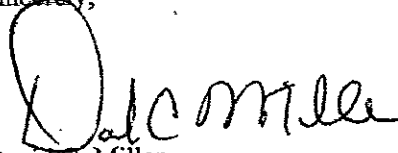
- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

Per the provision of SAFETEA-LU, if your response does not state the agency's position in these terms, or if no agency response is provided within the allotted 30-day time frame, then the USDA-FS will be designated a participating agency.

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. At this point we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered, and possible additional field work that should be conducted. If you have any questions and or comments or would like to discuss in more detail about the project, please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator via mail to the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464 or by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



David C. Miller  
Division Administrator

enclosures:

Project Location Map

cc w/ enclosures:

Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Project Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, IIDR Alaska, Inc.



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

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Ms. Christine Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Ms. Reichgott:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, and constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by SEIS; otherwise, the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

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Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as Cooperating Agency or a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA is now required to identify *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods, and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern



regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

SAFETEA-LU did not change the role of cooperating agencies established in 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act. Your agency has been identified as an agency that not only may have an interest in the project but also has special expertise and/or jurisdiction. With this letter, we invite the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to become a cooperating agency with the FHWA in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
4. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation (cooperating agencies only).

The roles and responsibilities of cooperating and participating agencies are similar, but cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. One distinction is that, pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.3, "a cooperating agency may adopt without recirculating the environmental impact statement of a lead agency when, after an independent review of the statement, the cooperating agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied." Also as indicated above, preliminary draft and final supplemental environmental impact statements will only be circulated to cooperating agencies.

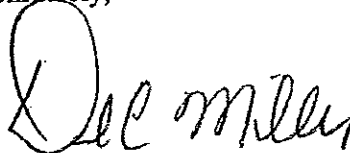
***Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation to be a cooperating agency prior to August 1, 2008. If your agency declines to be a cooperating agency, your agency will be designated a participating agency, unless, pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, your agency indicates within 30 days that it:***

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. At this point, we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered and possible additional fieldwork that should be conducted. If you have any questions and or comments or would like to discuss in more detail about the project, please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator via mail to the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464 or by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

David Miller  
Division Administrator, FHWA

Enclosures: Project Location Map

cc: Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.



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

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Jim Helfinstine, Chief  
United State Coast Guard  
Management and Navigation Safety Branch  
P.O. Box 25517  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Mr. Helfinstine:

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### **Purpose and Need**

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### **Involvement as Cooperating Agency or a Participating Agency**

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regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

SAFETEA-LU did not change the role of cooperating agencies established in 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act. Your agency has been identified as an agency that not only may have an interest in the project but also has special expertise and/or jurisdiction. With this letter, we invite the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to become a cooperating agency with the FHWA in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
4. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation (cooperating agencies only).

The roles and responsibilities of cooperating and participating agencies are similar, but cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. One distinction is that, pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.3, "a cooperating agency may adopt without recirculating the environmental impact statement of a lead agency when, after an independent review of the statement, the cooperating agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied." Also as indicated above, preliminary draft and final supplemental environmental impact statements will only be circulated to cooperating agencies.

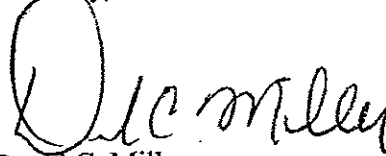
***Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation to be a cooperating agency prior to August 1, 2008. If your agency declines to be a cooperating agency, your agency will be designated a participating agency, unless, pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, your agency indicates within 30 days that it:***

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
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- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. At this point, we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered and possible additional fieldwork that should be conducted. If you have any questions and or comments or would like to discuss in more detail about the project, please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator via mail to the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464 or by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



David C. Miller  
Division Administrator

Enclosures: Project Location Map

cc: Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.



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

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Glen Justis, East Branch Chief  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
P.O. Box 6898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Mr. Justis:

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We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
4. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation (cooperating agencies only).

The roles and responsibilities of cooperating and participating agencies are similar, but cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. One distinction is that, pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.3, "a cooperating agency may adopt without recirculating the environmental impact statement of a lead agency when, after an independent review of the statement, the cooperating agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied." Also as indicated above, preliminary draft and final supplemental environmental impact statements will only be circulated to cooperating agencies.

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- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. At this point, we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered and possible additional fieldwork that should be conducted. If you have any questions and or comments or would like to discuss in more detail about the project, please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator via mail to the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464 or by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,



David C. Miller  
Division Administrator

Enclosures: Project Location Map

cc: Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. John Kurland, Director for Habitat Conservation  
US Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Mr. Kurland:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/scr/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, and constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina

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Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by SEIS; otherwise, the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

Whenever there are changes, new information, or further developments on a project that result in significant environmental impacts not identified in the most recently distributed version of the Draft or Final EIS, an SEIS is necessary (40 CFR 1502.9 (c)). The SEIS should provide sufficient information to briefly describe the proposed action, the reason(s) why a supplement is being prepared, and the status of the previous Draft or Final EIS.

In the case of the Gravina Access Project, the changes requiring the preparation of SEIS are the need to identify a new preferred alternative and to consider the construction of the Gravina Island Highway. With the exception of Alternatives F1 and F3, reasonable alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS and Final EIS did not include potential impacts associated with construction of the Gravina Island Highway so that segment must be added to those alternatives. The SEIS will evaluate the reasonable alternatives that were presented in the Final EIS, with all of them including the Gravina Island Highway.

### **Purpose and Need**

The Gravina Access Project involves examining ways to link Revillagigedo Island, home of Ketchikan and Saxman, to Gravina Island, the location of the Ketchikan International Airport and adjoining lands that offer recreational and development potential. Currently, a ferry across Tongass Narrows provides the only regular access to Gravina Island. Access to the remainder of the island is not available except by air or watercraft. Improved access to Gravina Island would provide better transportation to the airport and facilitate the development of the large tracts of land situated on the island. The purpose of this project is to improve surface transportation between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. The need for improving access is threefold:

- To provide the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and its residents more reliable, efficient, convenient, and cost-effective access for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians to Borough lands and other developable or recreation lands on Gravina Island in support of the Borough's adopted land use plans.
- To improve the convenience and reliability of access to Ketchikan International Airport for passengers, airport tenants, emergency personnel and equipment, and shipment of freight.
- To promote environmentally sound, planned long-term economic development on Gravina Island.

### **Involvement as Cooperating Agency or a Participating Agency**

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) made changes to how the FHWA and their partners complete the EIS process. The FHWA is now required to identify *participating agencies* that may have an interest in the project and involve them in development of the project purpose and need, alternatives, methods,

and a coordination plan. Additionally, Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU indicates that participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

SAFETEA-LU did not change the role of cooperating agencies established in 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act. Your agency has been identified as an agency that not only may have an interest in the project but also has special expertise and/or jurisdiction. With this letter, we invite NOAA -- NMFS Alaska Region to become a cooperating agency with the FHWA in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis:
3. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
4. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation (cooperating agencies only).

The roles and responsibilities of cooperating and participating agencies are similar, but cooperating agencies have a higher degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. One distinction is that, pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.3, "a cooperating agency may adopt without recirculating the environmental impact statement of a lead agency when, after an independent review of the statement, the cooperating agency concludes that its comments and suggestions have been satisfied." Also as indicated above, preliminary draft and final supplemental environmental impact statements will only be circulated to cooperating agencies.

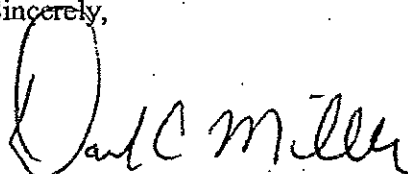
***Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation to be a cooperating agency prior to August 1, 2008. If your agency declines to be a cooperating agency, your agency will be designated a participating agency, unless, pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, your agency indicates within 30 days that it:***

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

This letter also serves as a formal request for scoping comments on the Gravina Access Project SEIS. At this point, we are particularly interested in your input on the purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be considered and possible additional fieldwork that should be conducted. If you have any questions and or comments or would like to discuss in more detail about the project, please contact Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Coordinator via mail to the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464 or by email ([Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.vanderhoof@dot.gov)).

We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

David C. Miller  
Division Administrator

Enclosures: Project Location Map

cc: Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.



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

Alaska Division

July 1, 2008

709 West 9th Street, Rm. 851  
P.O. Box 21648  
Juneau, AK 99802  
(907) 586-7418  
(907) 586-7420 Fax

Mr. Bill Hanson, Deputy Field Supervisor  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
3000 Vintage Blvd. Suite 201  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

In Reply Refer To:  
AK-EIS-03-01-F/67698

Dear Mr. Hanson:

The Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), is initiating a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Gravina Access Project near Ketchikan, Alaska. The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for the project. The project limits are shown on the attached map. The purpose of the project, as currently defined, is to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island. Project background information, including the reasons for preparing an SEIS, and additional information pertaining to the purpose and need for the project are provided below.

### **Project Background**

In 1999, the FHWA, in cooperation with DOT&PF, identified a need to improve access between Revillagigedo Island and Gravina Island in Southeast Alaska. The Gravina Access Project was one of 17 high priority projects funded in Alaska by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. The Final EIS for the project identified Alternative F1: *Bridges (200-foot East and 120-foot West) Between South Tongass Avenue and the Airport, via Pennock Island*, as FHWA's and DOT&PF's Preferred Alternative and was distributed to the public, federal, and state agencies on July 30, 2004. FHWA issued a Record of Decision on September 15, 2004, and identified Alternative F1 as the Selected Alternative. More information can be found at the project website: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/projectinfo/ser/Gravina/documents.shtml>.

The DOT&PF has moved forward with the first phase of implementing Alternative F1: construction of the Gravina Island Highway. The work includes site grading, placing embankment, and constructing bridges over Government Creek and Gravina Creek, installation of drainage structures, and other improvements. Construction of the Gravina Island Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. On September 21, 2007, Governor Sarah Palin announced that due to increases in the estimated cost, the State cannot fund the Selected Alternative and directed the DOT&PF to look for a less costly alternative for access to Gravina Island instead of proceeding further with Alternative F1. FHWA informed the DOT&PF that the Gravina Island Highway would need to be incorporated into any new preferred alternative by SEIS; otherwise, the Highway may be declared ineligible for federal aid.

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substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

SAFETEA-LU did not change the role of cooperating agencies established in 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act. Your agency has been identified as an agency that not only may have an interest in the project but also has special expertise and/or jurisdiction. With this letter, we invite the US Fish and Wildlife Service to become a cooperating agency with the FHWA in the environmental review process for the Gravina Access Project. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

We request that your agency's role in the development of the above project include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Identify early any issues or concerns that may delay the project or permitting.
2. Provide meaningful and early input on the purpose and need, range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
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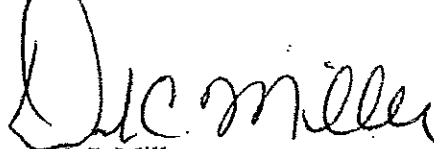
***Please respond to FHWA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation to be a cooperating agency prior to August 1, 2008. If your agency declines to be a cooperating agency, your agency will be designated a participating agency, unless, pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, your agency indicates within 30 days that it:***

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- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
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We look forward to working with you on this important transportation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D.C. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David C. Miller  
Division Administrator

Enclosures: Project Location Map

cc: Michael Vanderhoof, FHWA  
Jim Lowell, DOT&PF Project Manager  
Reuben Yost, DOT&PF Southeast Environmental Coordinator  
Mark Dalton, HDR Alaska, Inc.

**Alcantra, Rosetta M.**

---

**From:** Dalton, Mark  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 16, 2008 10:22 AM  
**To:** Maines, Kristen; Alcantra, Rosetta M.; Longtin, Wendy  
**Subject:** FW: Information Packets  
**Attachments:** GAP KGB BULLETS2.pdf; GAP SEIS Schedule 7-16-08 condensed.pdf

---

**From:** Lowell, James A (DOT) [mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 16, 2008 10:20 AM  
**To:** Dan Bockhorst  
**Cc:** Menzies, Malcolm A (DOT); Yost, Reuben M (DOT); Dalton, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Information Packets

Dan,  
Attached is the information for the assembly members.

*James A. Lowell, PE, RLS*  
**Special Projects Manager**  
DOT&PF Southeast Region Construction  
PO Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506  
Ph: 907.465.8884  
Fax: 907.465.2030  
mobile: 907.723.6592  
[jim.lowell@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov)

---

**From:** Lowell, James A (DOT)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2008 1:32 PM  
**To:** Dan Bockhorst  
**Subject:** RE: Information Packets

That's my plan.

*James A. Lowell, PE, RLS*  
**Special Projects Manager**  
DOT&PF Southeast Region Construction  
PO Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506  
Ph: 907.465.8884  
Fax: 907.465.2030  
mobile: 907.723.6592  
[jim.lowell@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov)

---

**From:** Dan Bockhorst [mailto:danb@borough.ketchikan.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2008 1:30 PM  
**To:** Lowell, James A (DOT)  
**Subject:** RE: Information Packets

Are you going to send a packet in electronic format? If so, we can provide printed copies to the Assembly.

---

**From:** Lowell, James A (DOT) [mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2008 1:29 PM  
**To:** Dan Bockhorst

7/16/2008

**Cc:** Dalton, Mark; Menzies, Malcolm A (DOT)  
**Subject:** RE: Information Packets

Thanks Dan. We will expedite.

*James A. Lowell, PE, RLS*  
**Special Projects Manager**  
DOT&PF Southeast Region Construction  
PO Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506  
Ph: 907.465.8884  
Fax: 907.465.2030  
mobile: 907.723.6592  
[jim.lowell@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov)

---

**From:** Dan Bockhorst [<mailto:danb@borough.ketchikan.ak.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2008 1:20 PM  
**To:** Lowell, James A (DOT)  
**Subject:** RE: Information Packets

Jim: Thanks for the note. I just tried to call you to discuss the deadline for receipt of the material. "Officially," the deadline is tomorrow by noon, but if you can't meet that deadline, I can submit it to the Clerk as late as Thursday morning.

You can send the information in electronic format.

---

**From:** Lowell, James A (DOT) [<mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2008 11:41 AM  
**To:** Dan Bockhorst  
**Cc:** Dalton, Mark; Menzies, Malcolm A (DOT)  
**Subject:** Information Packets

Dan,  
We are putting together some information for distribution to the assembly members. How far in advance of the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> do you need this information so that there is adequate time to get it in their packets?

*James A. Lowell, PE, RLS*  
**Special Projects Manager**  
DOT&PF Southeast Region Construction  
PO Box 2506  
Juneau, AK 99811-2506  
Ph: 907.465.8884  
Fax: 907.465.2030  
mobile: 907.723.6592  
[jim.lowell@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.lowell@alaska.gov)

7/16/2008