



Welcome!

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
Public Open House

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Project Participants

Alaska Railroad Corporation _____ Applicant

Matanuska-Susitna Borough _____ Project sponsor

Surface Transportation Board _____ Lead federal agency

HDR Alaska, Inc. _____ Consultant

TNH-Hanson, LLC _____ Consultant

STB Section of Environmental Analysis _____ NEPA Compliance

To be determined _____ 3rd Party NEPA Contractor





STB Process

Railroad

- Files notice with STB
- Files petition for the construction and operation of railroad

STB

- Considers application based upon Railroad's ability to operate/be stable and market needs
- Incorporates conditions from the SEA upon favorable finding

SEA

- Conducts NEPA process independently of railroad*
- Most likely utilizes 3rd party contractor

*Railroad has very limited role/input in process beyond providing information

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What's Happening Now and Why

- 2003 Study was a reconnaissance study
- Re-evaluating and refining most promising corridors
- Incorporating latest environmental and planning information

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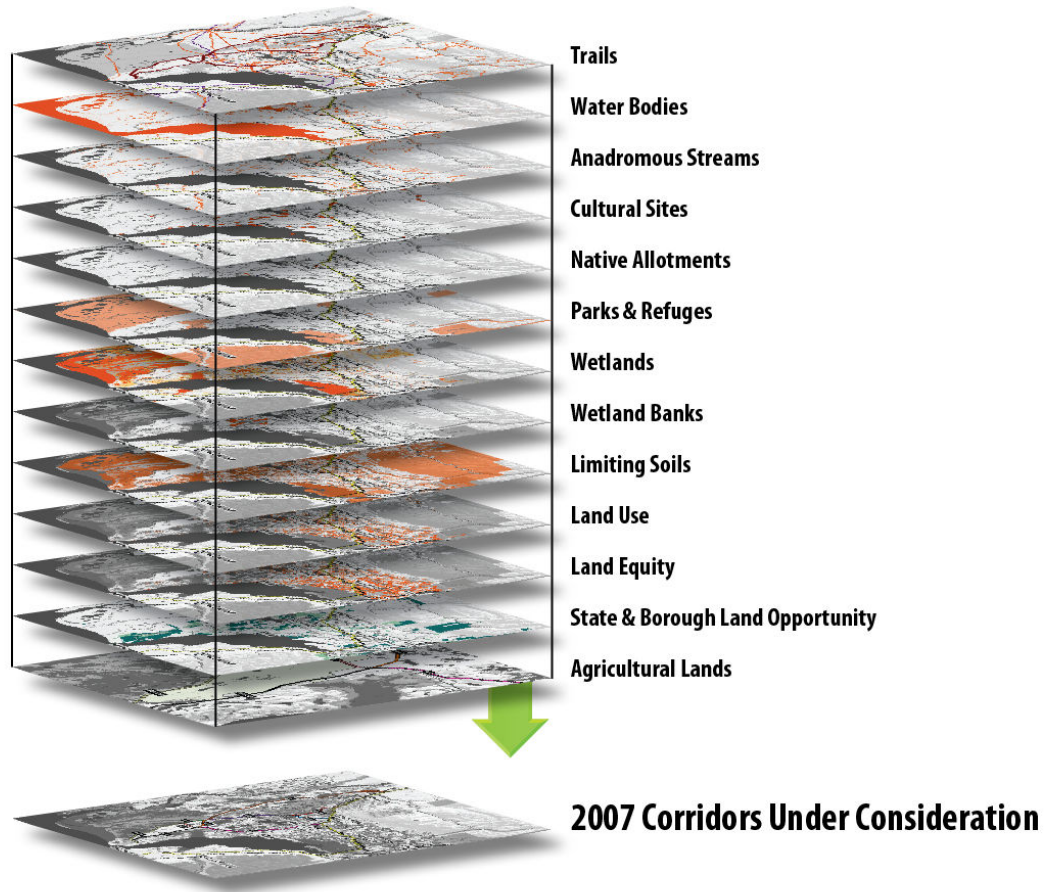
Constraints Mapping

Topics considered:

- Water bodies
- Anadromous streams
- Habitat
- Cultural sites
- Native allotments
- Parks and refuges
- Wetlands and wetland banks
- Limiting soils
- Land use
- Land value
- Land availability
- Agricultural lands
- Trails



Corridor development process





Working with the Public

- Hosting series of public open house meetings
- Web site – informative and interactive
- Newsletter (forthcoming)
- Requesting public comment and using the comments to help determine corridors
- Meeting with small stakeholder groups
- Identification of mitigation ideas early in the process – Do you have solutions – We want to hear them
- Developing a comprehensive list of criteria to be considered and evaluated in the corridor development
- Conducting a more detailed study of the proposed corridors

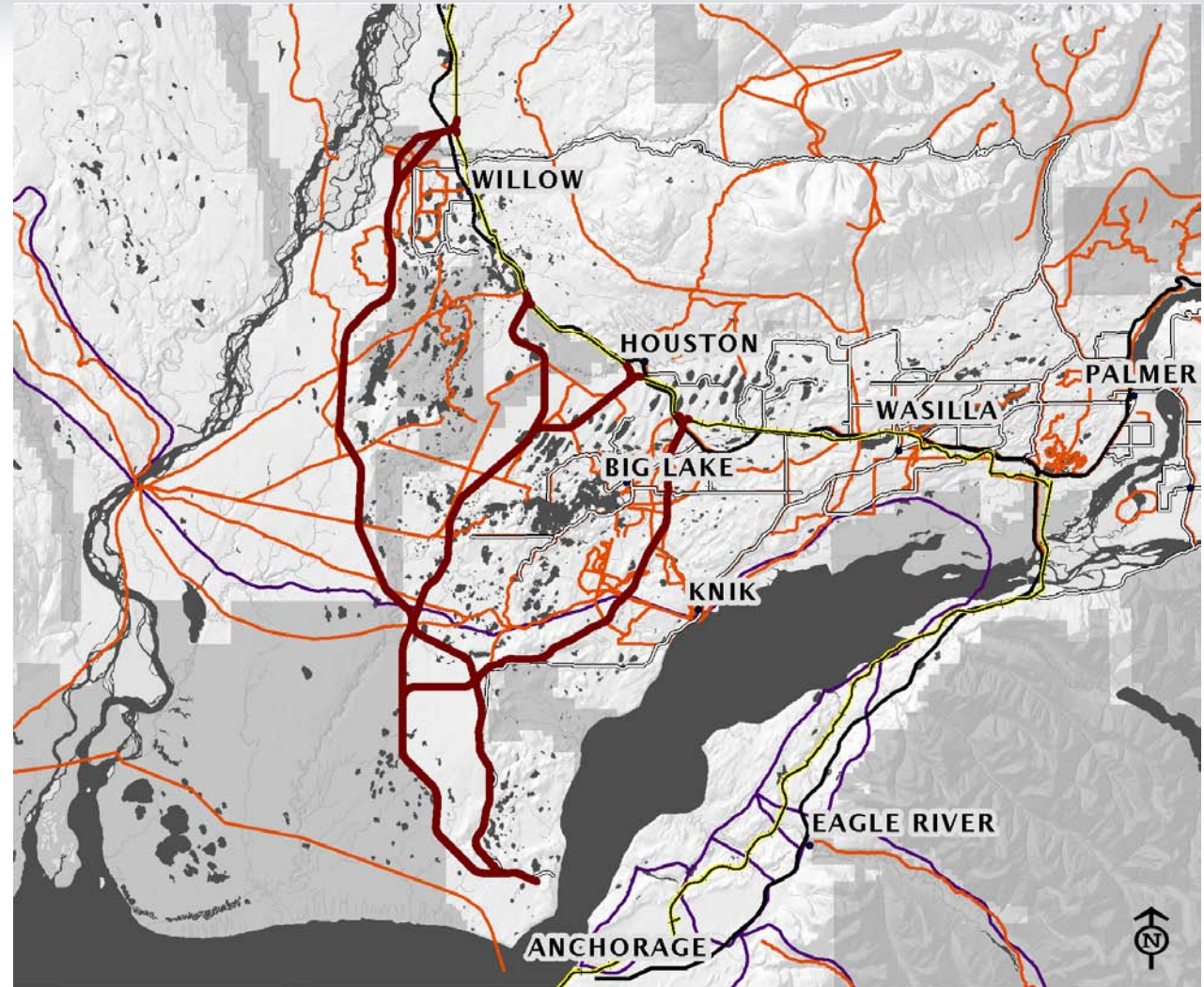
Your comments will help us find the best corridor.

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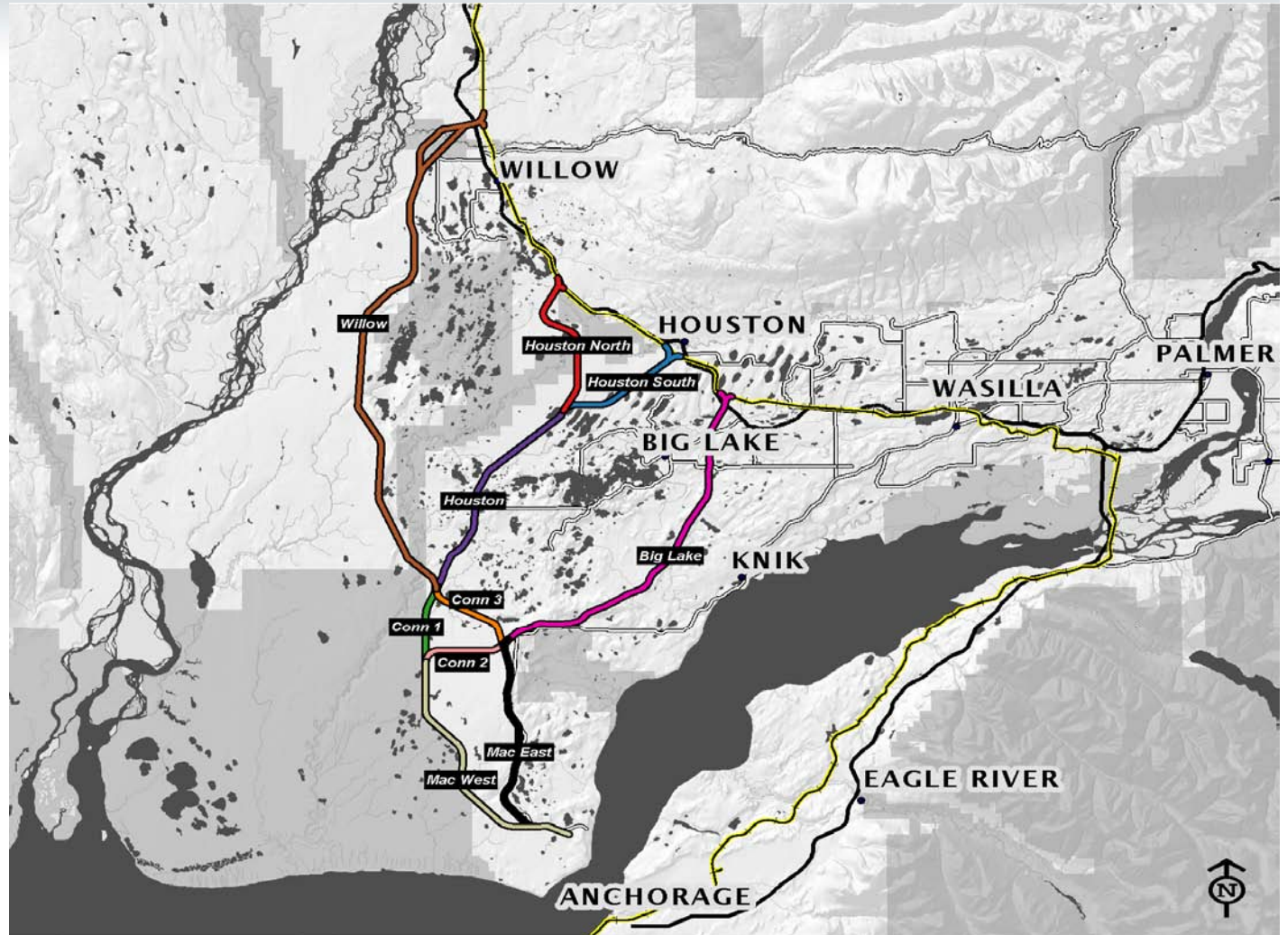


Trails

Trails are an important consideration, especially as they relate to the quality of life concerns and recreational opportunities in the area.



Corridors Under Consideration



Note: These lines represent possible corridors and are subject to change.



Anticipated Project Schedule

October 2007

- Solicit input from public and regulatory agencies
- Consider possible impacts and mitigation associated with route alternatives
- File notice with STB end of October

November 2007

- Finalize route considerations
- Refine possible mitigation based upon potential impacts

December 2007

- Complete Route Alternatives document and submit to STB
- Develop possible MOA's/MOU's as appropriate
- Anticipate the STB to select 3rd Party NEPA contractor by end of 2007

2008 - 2009

- File petition in early spring 2008
- Anticipate the STB 3rd Party Contractor to complete environmental document by mid-2009

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Thank You for coming!

Please visit the stations in the room and provide input and ask questions.

