



Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project

Matanuska-Susitna Borough & Alaska Railroad Corporation

November 20, 2007

www.portmacrail.com





Project Participants

Alaska Railroad Corporation _____ Applicant

Matanuska-Susitna Borough _____ Project Sponsor

Surface Transportation Board _____ Lead Federal Agency

HDR Alaska, Inc. _____ Environmental Consultant

TNH-Hanson, LLC _____ Engineering Consultant

STB Section of Environmental Analysis _____ NEPA Compliance

To be determined _____ 3rd Party NEPA Contractor





Project Milestones

- June 29 Initial MOA between MSB and ARRC
- August 7 TNH-Hanson and HDR retained by ARRC to assist in the STB process
- Sept. 18 Met with DNR large projects and permitting agencies, and have had numerous individual meetings since
- Sept. 24-28 Met with
- Mental Health Trust
 - University Land Office
 - Knikatu Corporation
 - CIRI Corporation
- Oct. 1-5 Project Open Houses





Project Milestones

(cont.)

- Oct. 22 Retained legal counsel in Washington DC to represent MSB and ARRC before the STB
- Oct. 24 Met with Iditarod Race Commissioner
- Oct. 24 Met with Willow Dog Musher's Association & Snow Machiners
- Oct. 24 Briefed MSB Transportation Advisory Board
- Oct. 25 Met with Houston City Council
- Oct. 30 Briefed joint MSB Planning Commission and Assembly
- Oct. 31 Introduced project before SEA (STB)
- Nov. 5 Provided information to the Planning Commission
- Nov. 5 Provided project update to Port Commission
- Nov. 6 Issued RFP for 3rd party NEPA contractor



How have we gathered the information?

- Reviewed existing plans and studies
- Conducted public involvement activities
- Met with small stakeholder groups
- Met with large landowners
- Conducted meetings with resource agencies
- Open house meetings

Open Houses

- Wasilla
- Big Lake
- Willow (followed by 3 separate meetings)
- Houston (followed by 2 separate meetings)
- Knik

Results of Public Involvement Activities

Public Comment Statistics

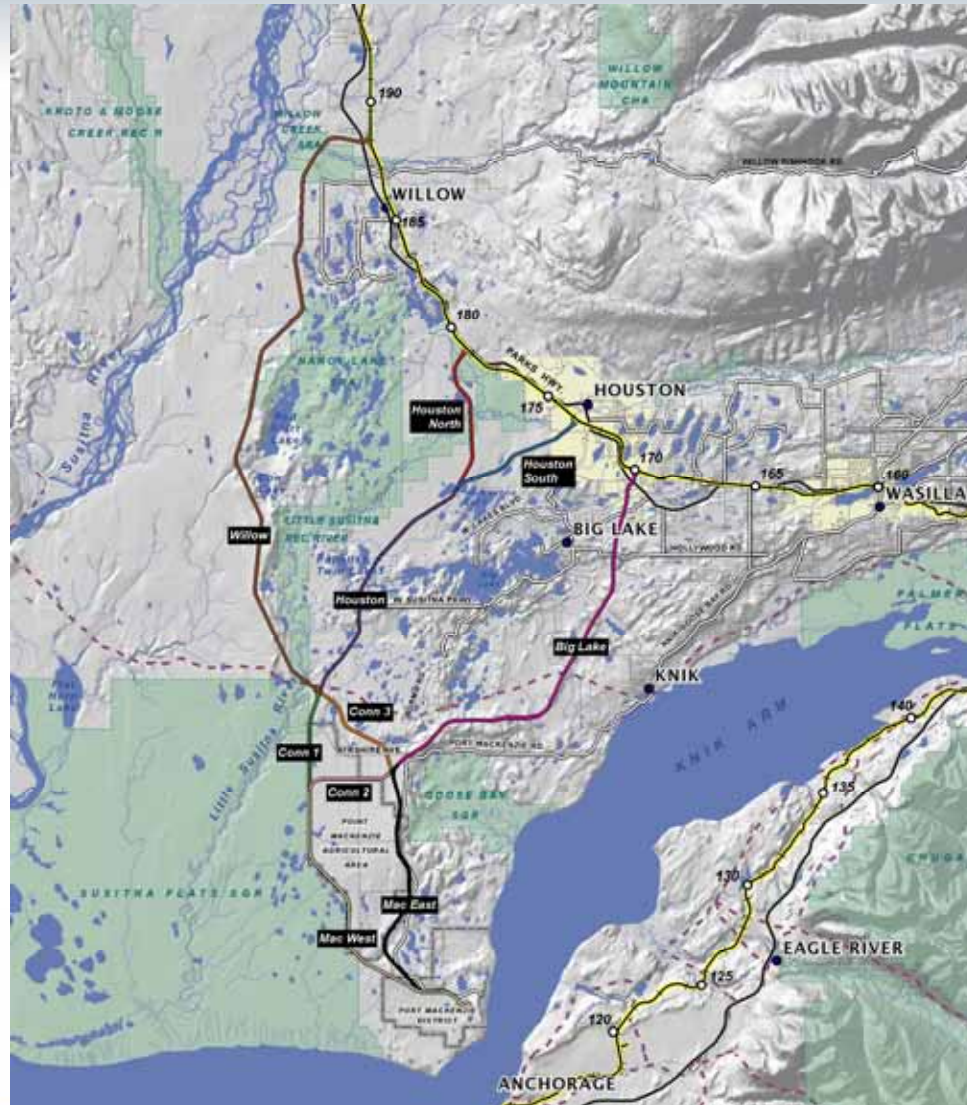
(as of November 2, 2007)

Meetings and Comment Format	Public Meeting Attendees	Written Comments	Recorder Comments	Map Comments
Oct.1 – Wasilla	68	4	6	18
Oct. 2 – Big Lake	124	15	5	28
Oct. 3 – Willow	86	30	11	28
Oct. 4 – Knik	45	4	4	28
Oct. 5 – Houston	33	3	11	35
Mailed Comments		2		
Electronic Comments		32		
Letters		5		
<i>Total</i>	<i>356</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>137</i>

Sample of what we heard...

- The rail extension would provide future business and employment opportunities.
- Choose a route that is logistical, economic, and best for communities who live near the rail belt.
- Concerns for wetlands, wildlife habitat, and agricultural lands.
- Recreation and trails are important to the area and the communities.

Corridors Under Consideration



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

3rd party contractor may arrive at additional routes as part of EIS process.

Evaluation Matrix

REVISED 12/6/07

PROPOSED ROUTES	CRITERION ^{1, 2}										Preliminary Cost Estimate (millions) ⁵	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	Poor or highly compressible soils (cubic yards)	New road crossings (#)	Land availability ³ (acres/mile)	Developed parcels (#)	Designated land use ⁴ (acres)	Train Energy (horsepower)						
Mac West - Willow	0											\$320
Mac West - Houston North											-	\$250
Mac West - South								0	+	0		\$220
Mac West - Big Lake							-	0	-	-	0	\$290
Mac East - Willow				+	+	0	+	+	-	-		\$330
Mac East - Houston North		0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	-		\$260
Mac East - Houston South	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+		\$230
Mac East - Big Lake	+	-	0	-	+	-	+	-	-	+		\$285

UPDATE!

The Criteria Matrix has been updated since the Nov. 20, 2007, presentation to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly.
 Go to: http://www.portmacrail.com/documents/matrix_12-18-07.pdf

- (+) Positive; (0) Neutral; (-) Negative
- Criteria not weighted / Routes are unranked
- Large parcels of undeveloped land owned by State of Alaska MSB, University of Alaska, Mental Health Trust, and Alaska Native corporations
- Lands that are designated for parks, refuges, residential, or agricultural uses
- Costs do not include approximately \$10 million for loop track construction within the port (all alternatives)

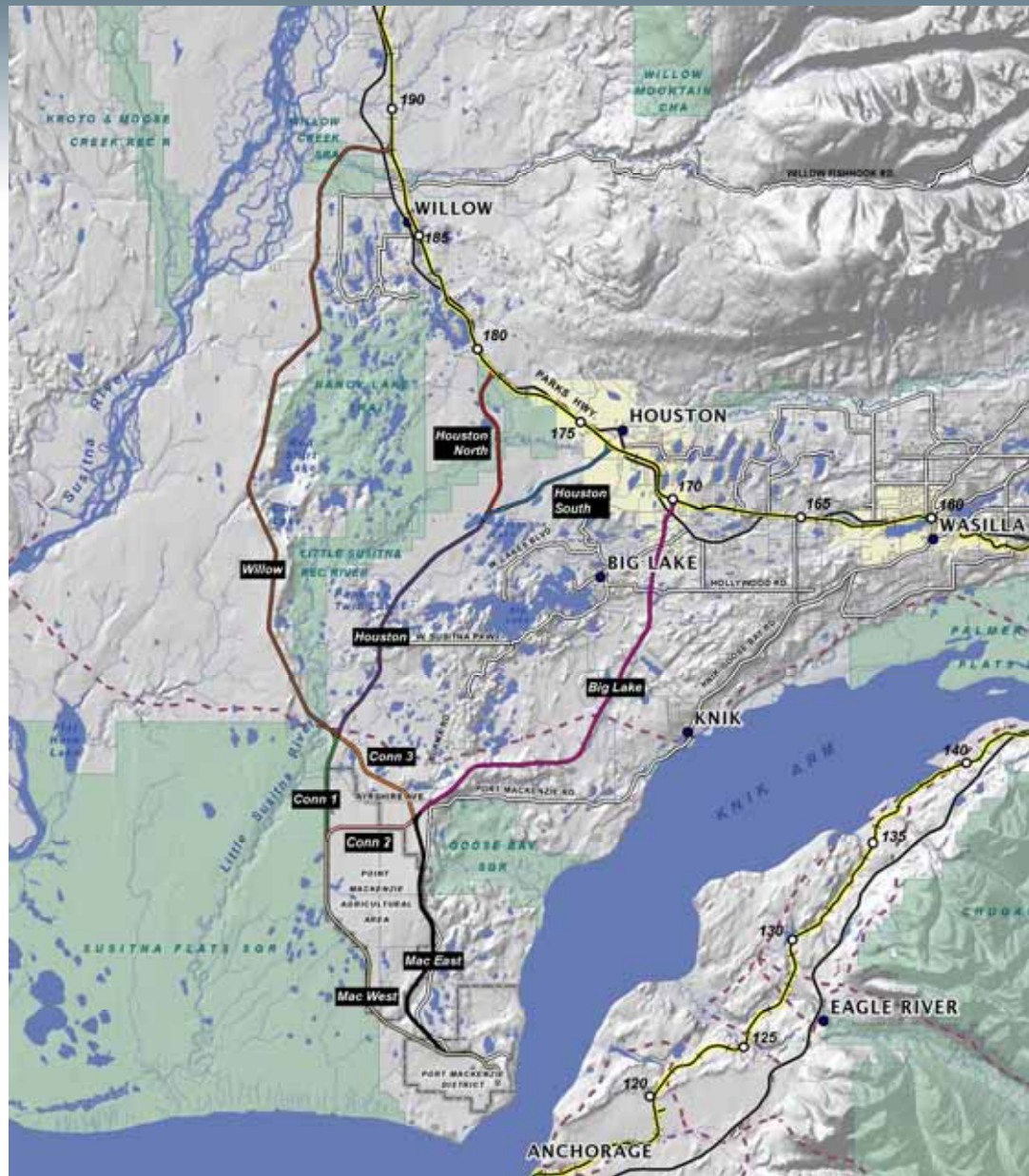


Now What?

- Railroad files application with STB around end of year
- SEA (STB) selects 3rd party contractor beginning 2008
- SEA prepares environmental document through 2008 and beginning of 2009
- STB issues decision (est. mid 2009)

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RAIL EXTENSION



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