

**Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project
Cultural Resources Survey Report**

**Archaeological Field Survey
and
Identification and Evaluation of Buildings and Structures for the
National Register of Historic Places**

Prepared for

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Public Release Version with No Sensitive Site Information

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In association with the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project, R&M Consultants, Inc. (R&M), under contract with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), contracted Stephen R. Braund & Associates (SRB&A) to conduct cultural resource surveys, systematic subsurface testing, and the identification and evaluation of buildings and structures along Fairview Loop in Wasilla, Alaska. This report describes the results of SRB&A's literature and archival review and ground and built environment surveys for the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project. Pedestrian reconnaissance surveys were conducted in September and October of 2010 and intensive built environment surveys were conducted in November 2010 and February 2011.

The Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project is located in south central Alaska near the community of Wasilla, Alaska on the northern side of Knik Arm. The 11-mile project will result in a restored roadbed with possibly wider lanes, shoulders and minor realignment depending on motor vehicle crash history. There are 39 previously documented Alaska Historical Resources Survey (AHRS) sites within one mile of the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project. Cultural resources work during September and October of 2010 included a survey of areas located within an area of potential effects (APE) of 11 miles of roadway from the back of ditch or toe of slope plus 25-feet on each side (i.e., direct APE) for buried resources and "within" reasonable line of sight of the road for buildings and structures (i.e., visual APE).

No cultural resources were identified during the pedestrian survey of the proposed Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project direct APE. SRB&A conducted 16 shovel tests and 56 soil probe tests, all of which produced negative results for cultural materials. [REDACTED] which was previously documented as within the direct APE was later identified by SRB&A as having been inaccurately mapped in the AHRS database. SRB&A's corrected site location place [REDACTED] well outside the direct APE.

SRB&A identified 164 properties featuring buildings and/or structures within the visual APE and conducted nine determinations of eligibility. SRB&A also identified six previously listed AHRS sites that had been removed, demolished, or were otherwise not visible at the time of the survey. Based on these evaluations, SRB&A recommends that one property (2801 Old Knik Road [ANC-03068]) located within the visual APE of the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project be found eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A (association with an important event[s]) and C (distinct architecture). One AHRS site, the Carson Colony Farm (ANC-00139), located within the visual APE of the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project had previously been evaluated for inclusion on the NRHP and been determined eligible.

SRB&A's literature review identified five trails including the Wet Gulch/Willow Creek, Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Route, Iditarod National Historic Trail, Hanson, and Watson/Knik to Matanuska Trails within or in close proximity to the direct APE. SRB&A's fieldwork did not identify any evidence for these trails in the direct APE with the possible exception of a modern driveway identified on a MSB Traffic Map (2010) as the Hanson-Watson Trail. SRB&A is unsure whether this driveway marks the actual Hanson Trail. Other previous evidence of these trails within the direct APE has likely been destroyed with the original construction of Fairview Loop.

The two buildings recommended eligible to the National Register (ANC-03068 and ANC-00139) are located within the visual APE (i.e., within reasonable line of sight of the road). The history of both properties is tied to the construction of Fairview Loop. The proposed project will restore portions of the

roadbed with possibly wider lanes, shoulders and minor realignment. Depending on the degree of improvement within the line of sight of these two buildings, there is potential for the integrity of setting for these two properties to be diminished. However, the buildings were built after the original road construction and the earliest setting of the properties incorporated the road. Furthermore, the other six aspects of integrity for both properties and eligibility for the National Register would remain intact. For these reasons SRB&A recommends no adverse effect to ANC-03068 and ANC-00139. No other eligible properties are located within the direct or visual APEs of the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project. Pursuant to AS 41.35.070, Preservation of Historic, Prehistoric, and Archaeological Resources Threatened by Public Construction, SRB&A recommends the department find that the Fairview Loop Rehabilitation Project will not have an adverse effect on any historic properties.