

2.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS

2.1 TRUNK ROAD

Trunk Road links the Parks Highway to Palmer-Wasilla Highway, Bogard Road and Palmer-Fishhook Road; currently, the south end of Trunk Road terminates at the Parks Highway interchange. The ROW is owned and maintained by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF). Based on DOT&PF's Traffic Volume Report, Trunk Road is a major collector. In 1997, DOT&PF advanced the Trunk Road Reconstruction Project with completion of a preliminary engineering report. In 2002, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allowing the design to begin on an alignment to Trunk Road combining part of the existing road with a major new segment. Construction of Phase I, Parks Highway to Palmer-Wasilla Highway, is scheduled to begin in 2009.

2.2 NELSON ROAD

Nelson Road is a gravel road that extends from the Glenn Highway westward to The Ranch Subdivision. For many years it has provided access for gravel extraction operations from the area. The eastern segment of this alignment (approximately 4,200 feet) is within a 100 foot ROW authorized by the Alaska Division of Lands (ROW Permit No. 62486). The remaining segment is within a dedicated 100 foot ROW (The Ranch Subdivision, Phase 4, MSB Plat No. 2006-49).

Currently, Nelson Road is discontinuous and does not extend to Fairview Loop. However, a preliminary plat (Sweeping Vista Subdivision, Case #2007-064) approved by MSB proposes a phased development, including ROW dedication to extend Nelson Road westward from its platted terminus at The Ranch Subdivision to Fairview Loop.

2.3 FAIRVIEW LOOP

Fairview Loop extends southwest from the Parks Highway to Knik-Goose Bay Road. The roadway is owned and maintained by the DOT&PF. Based on the DOT&PF's Traffic Volume Report, Fairview Loop is a minor collector. The DOT&PF currently has funding to make improvements to Fairview Loop; the scope of these improvements is unknown at this time.

There are several at-grade railroad crossings along Fairview Loop in the project vicinity, which the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) would like to eliminate in association with this project, if possible.