

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project is located within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) and is bounded by the Parks Highway to the north, Glenn Highway to the east, Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge to the south, and Fairview Loop to the west (Figure 1). It proposes to extend Trunk Road south (approximately 500') to the Nelson Road right-of-way (ROW); further to the west Nelson Road will be extended to Fairview Loop.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The area south of the Parks Highway, west of Glenn Highway and east of Fairview Loop is poised for development and lacks a sufficient roadway network to accommodate the anticipated traffic demand. Proposed development includes The Ranch Subdivision (a 1,750-acre subdivision), a small business park and an elementary school (scheduled to open fall of 2009). Once fully-developed, The Ranch Subdivision will provide roughly 800 residences. In addition, there are over 400 acres of adjacent lands that provide an opportunity for additional residential and commercial development.

The MSB seeks to work with local landowners, developers and resource agencies to plan and construct a collector road system for this area. This project will focus on the endpoints of the Trunk Road / Nelson Road alignment since the MSB and Developers have ongoing negotiations regarding design and construction of that segment of Nelson Road between Parks Highway and Fairview Loop.

The objectives of this Reconnaissance Report are to evaluate alignment alternatives and recommend alternatives for further study in the Preliminary Engineering Report and environmental documentation effort. Included in this process is the identification of existing conditions, development of project design criteria, and collection of existing data. Sources of base information for this Reconnaissance Report include MSB's geographical information system map database, MSB's tax mapping, Matanuska Valley Area Soil Survey, available record drawings, and preliminary field reconnaissance.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The MSB has identified a need to provide improved access to the area south of Parks Highway, west of Glenn Highway and east of Fairview Loop. The MSB's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) indicates the extension of Trunk Road to Fairview Loop is an essential capacity-related improvement to the area road network. The purpose is to serve community traffic in the area efficiently and safely, now and in the future.