



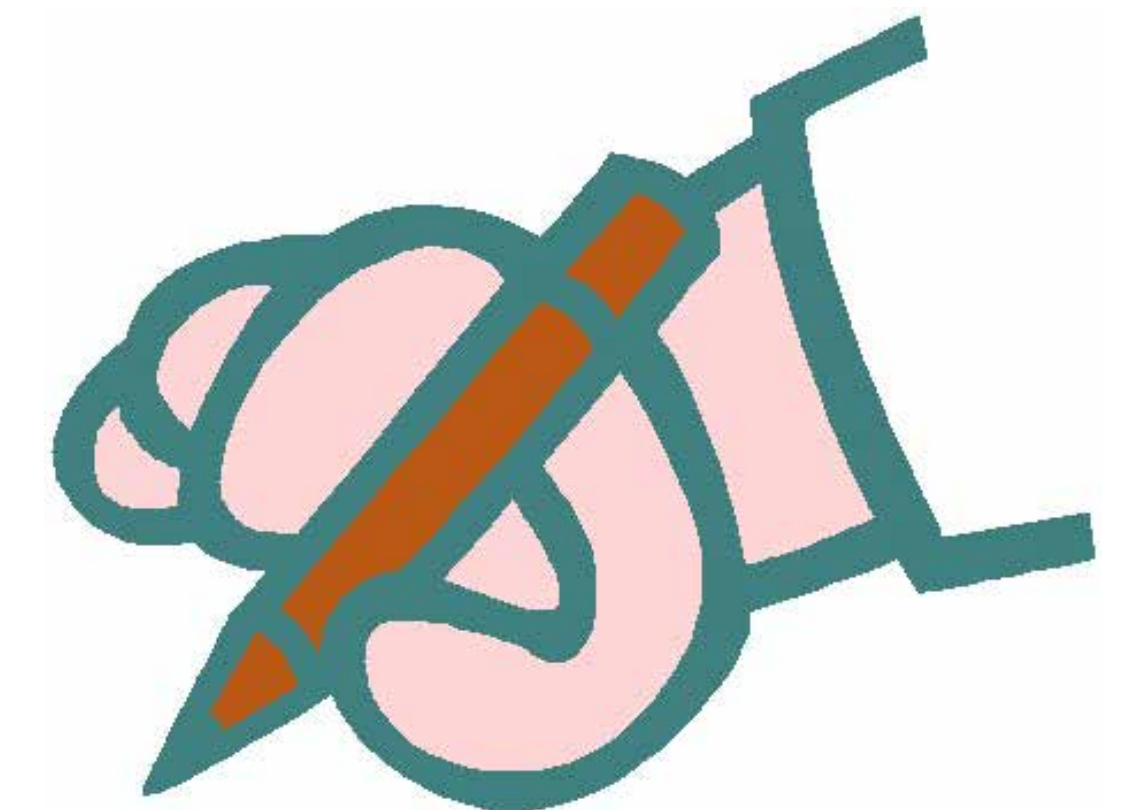
# *Welcome! Please Sign in*

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project

Public Open House

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

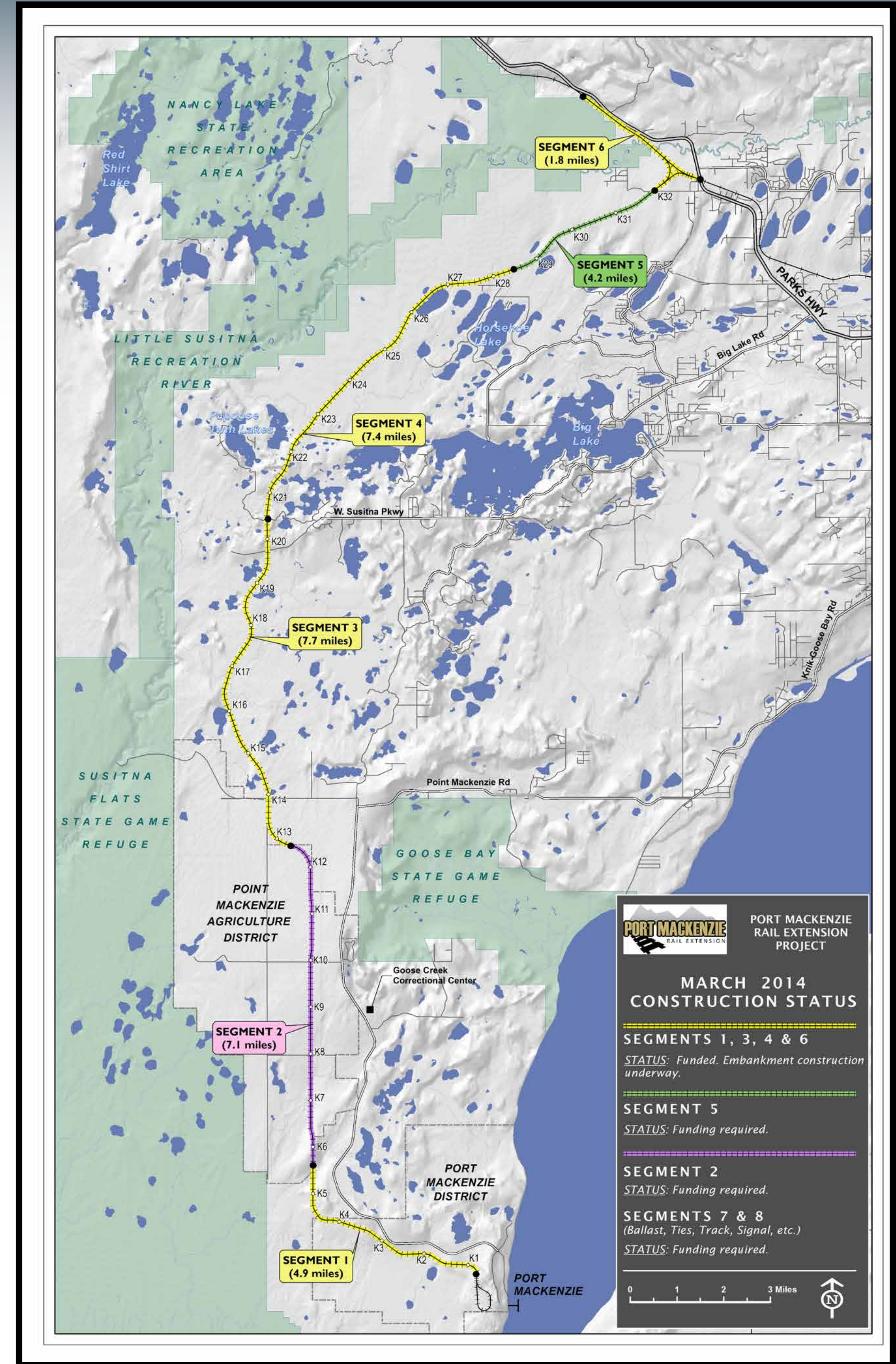
Houston Middle School Gym  
12801 W. Hawk Lane  
Houston, Alaska



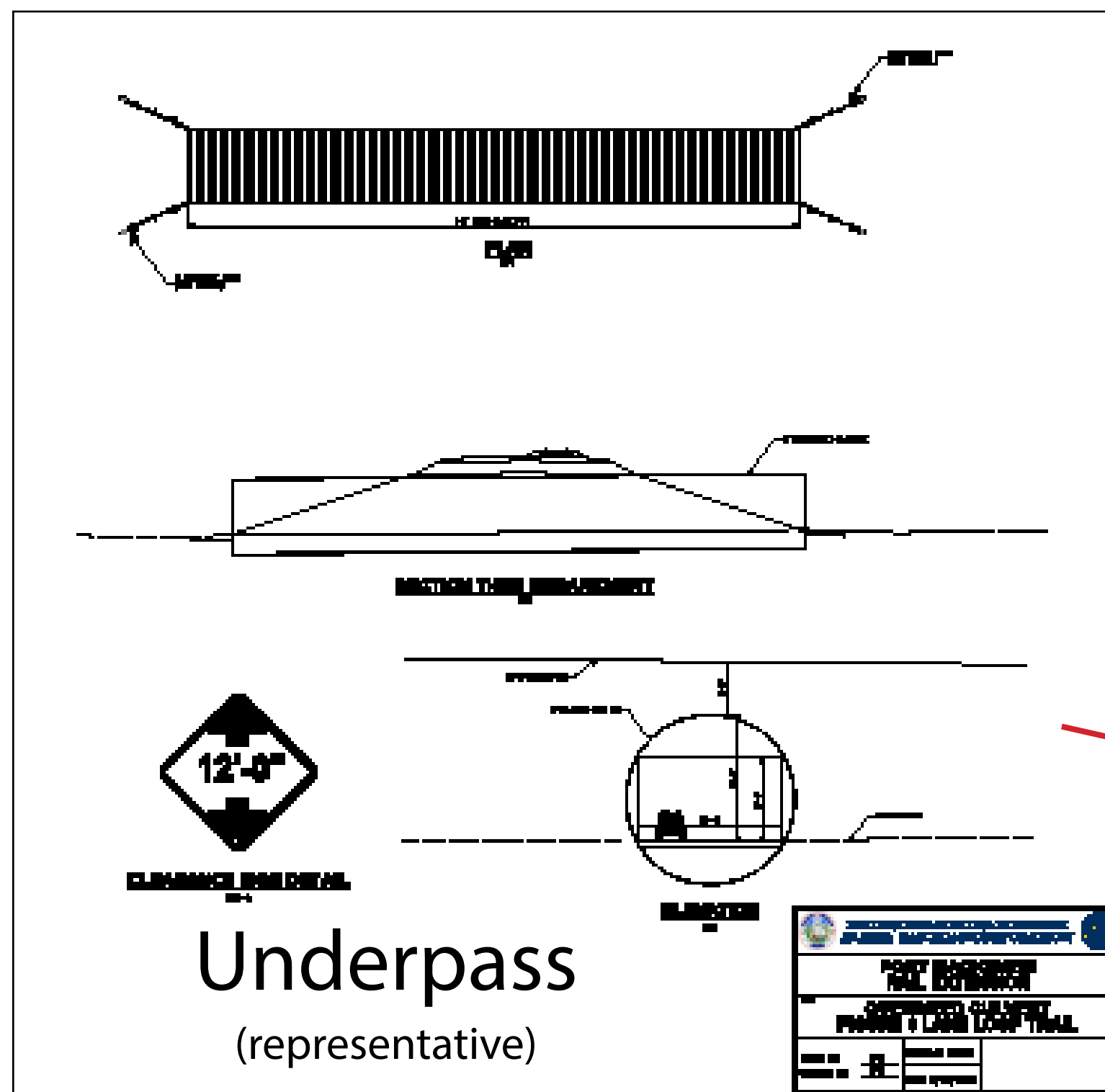
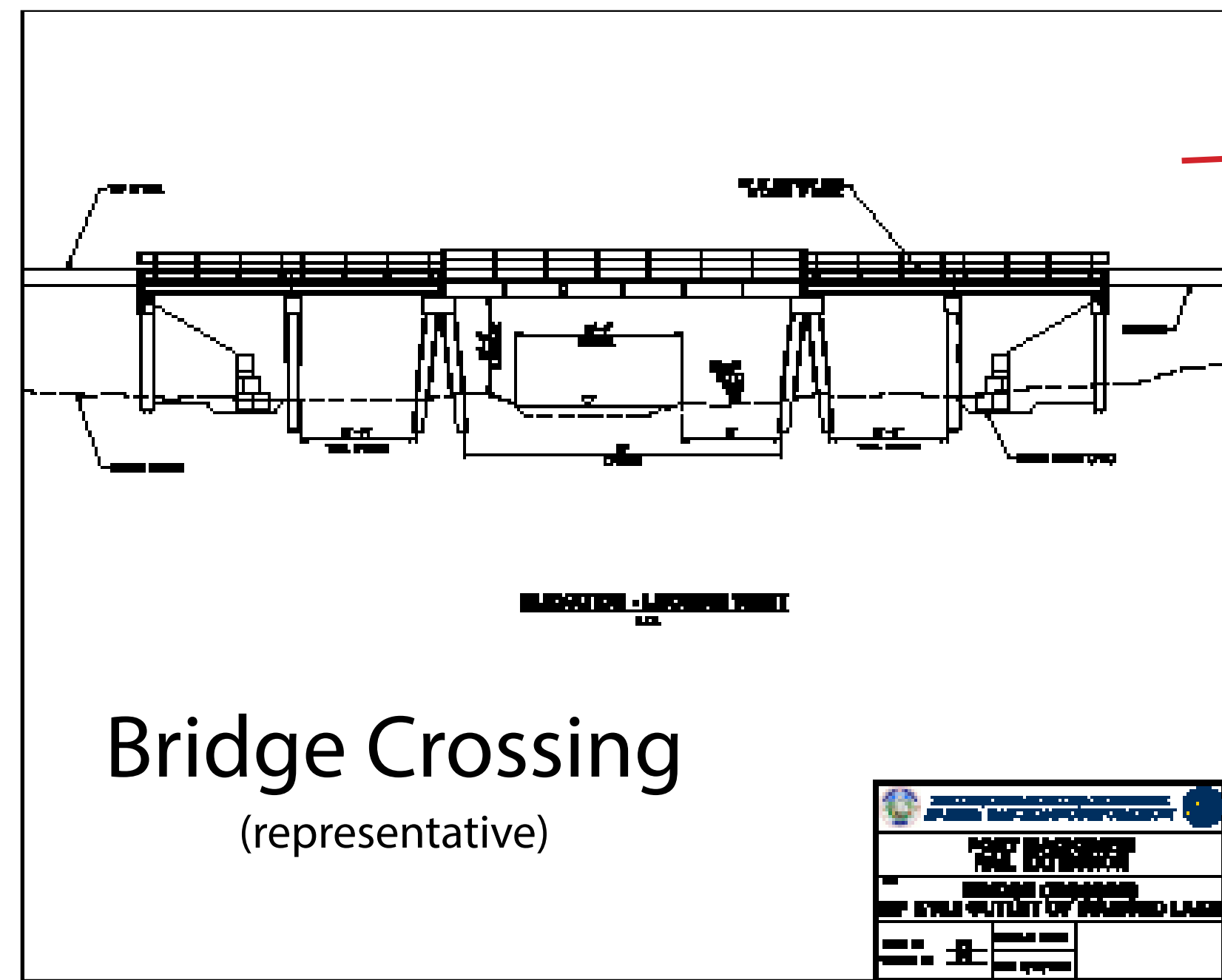
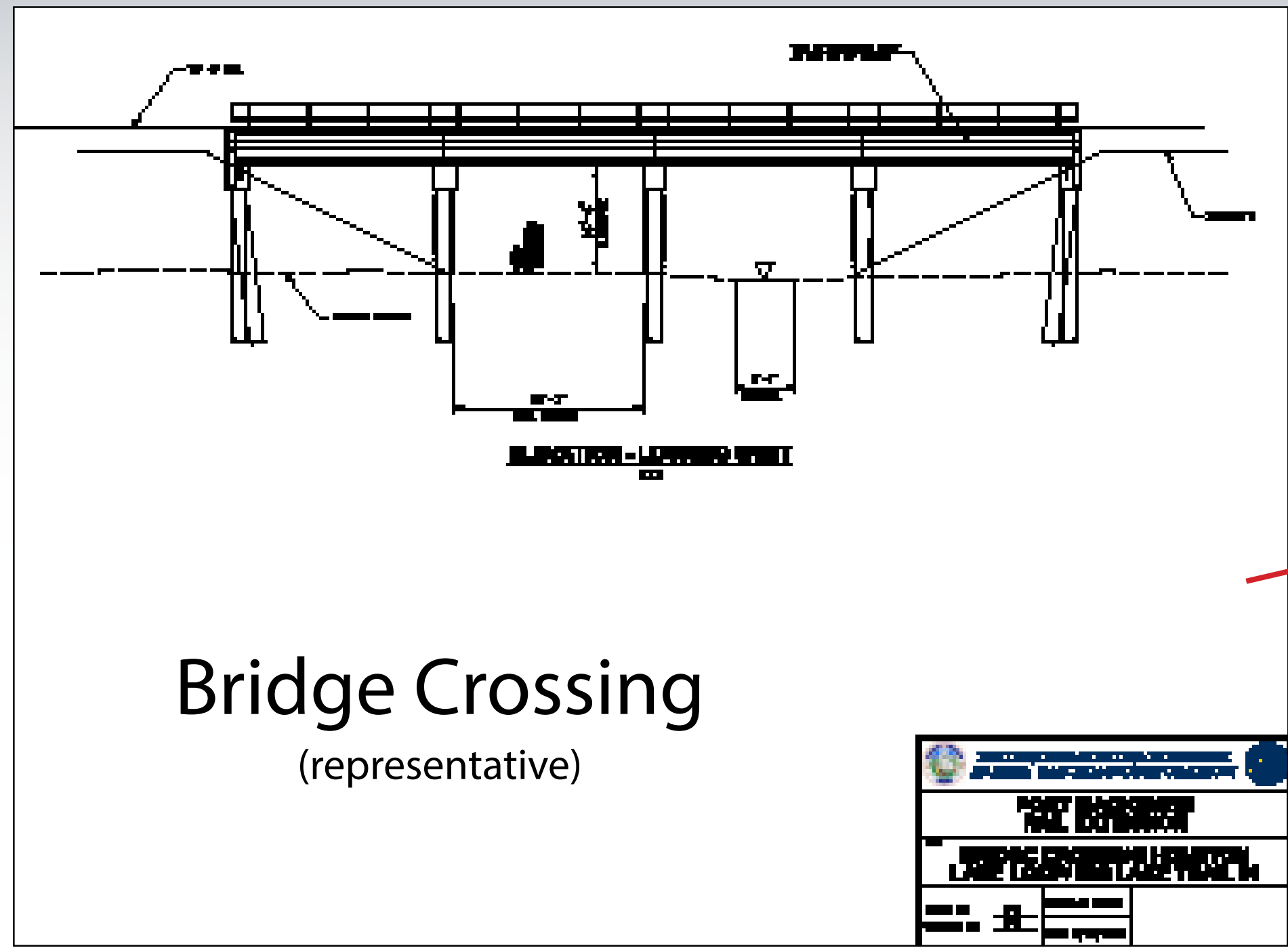


# Project Overview

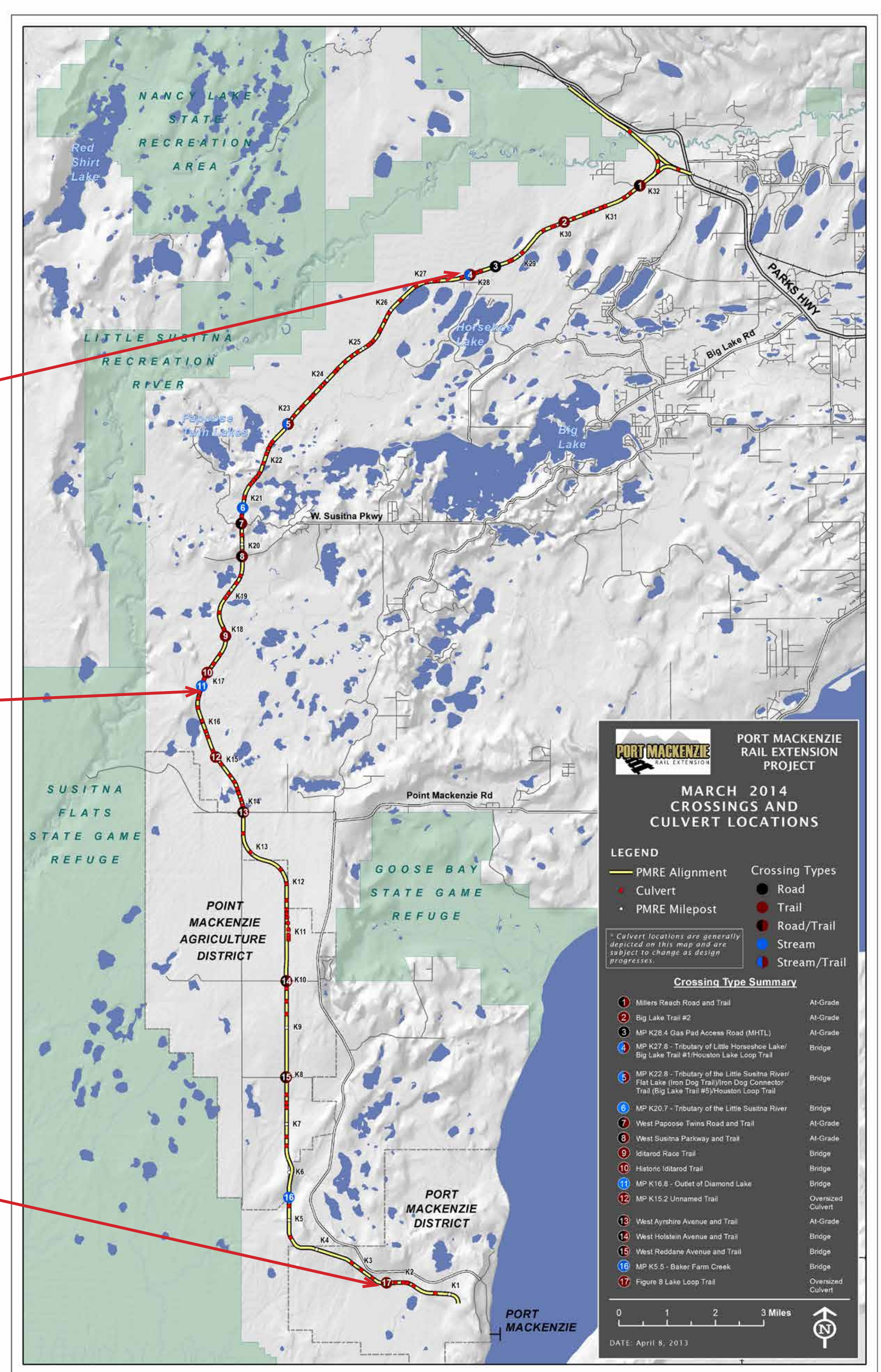
- Port MacKenzie is a deepwater port owned and operated by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB)
- *Final Environmental Impact Statement* for the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension issued by the Surface Transportation Board on March 25, 2011
  - ◇ Record of Decision issued November 2011
- Project includes rail line spur and associated rail operation facilities between Port MacKenzie and ARRC's existing main line
- Rail line will cross seven existing roads; five at-grade and two separated-grade crossings are planned
- ARRC proposes clear span bridges over three navigable and two non-navigable waterways



# Proposed Crossings



- 17 total crossings
- ARRC and MSB have worked with user groups to identify crossing locations and to develop access plans





# Trail Relocation



Iron Dog Trail Re-Route (north)

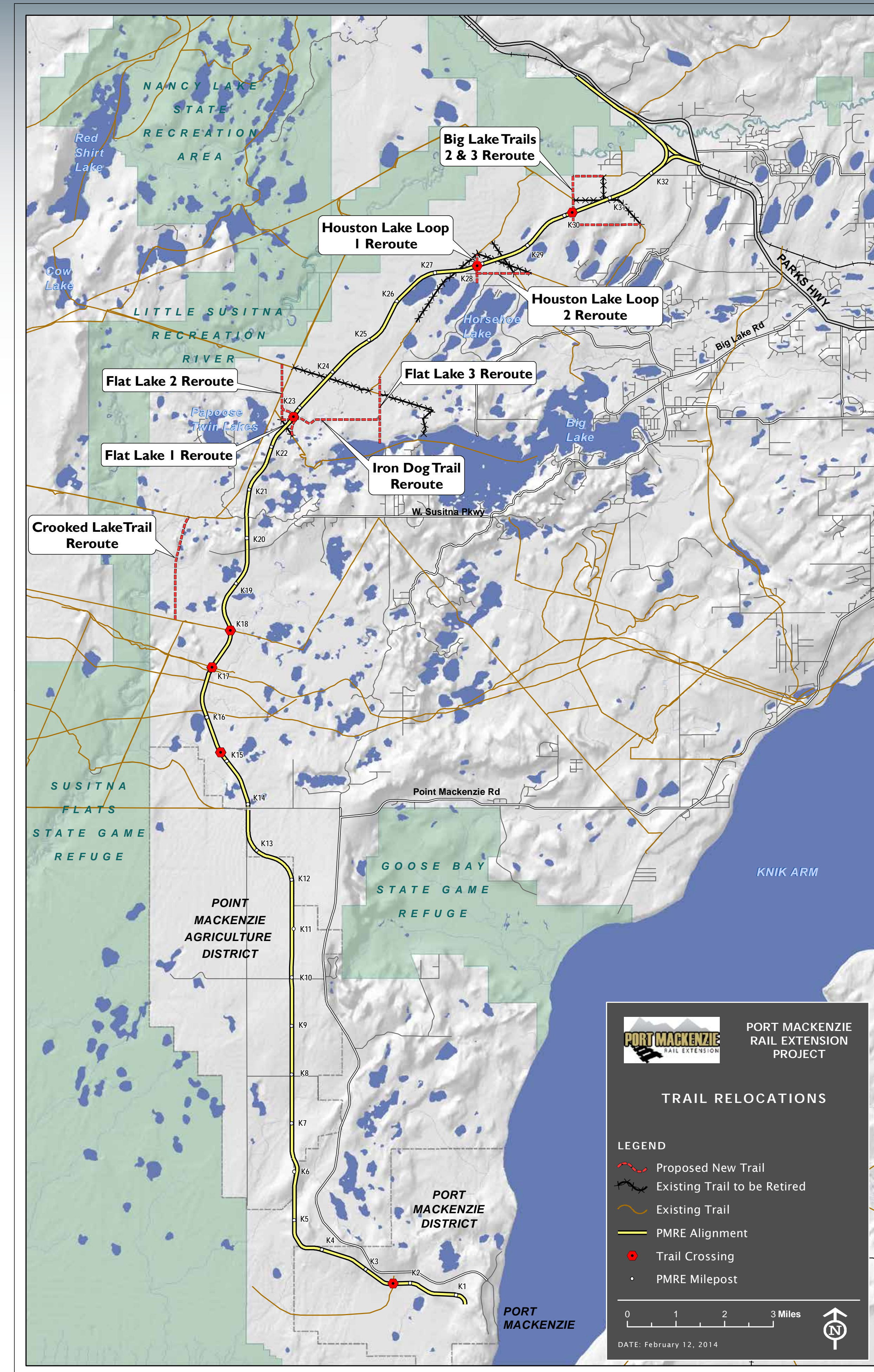
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Current status: trail clearing underway
  - ◊ Trees are being chipped and cleared
- Approximately 12 miles of new trails will be created
  - ◊ New trails will be 25 feet wide and have enlarged intersections.

**Construction Firm:** Gage Tree Service

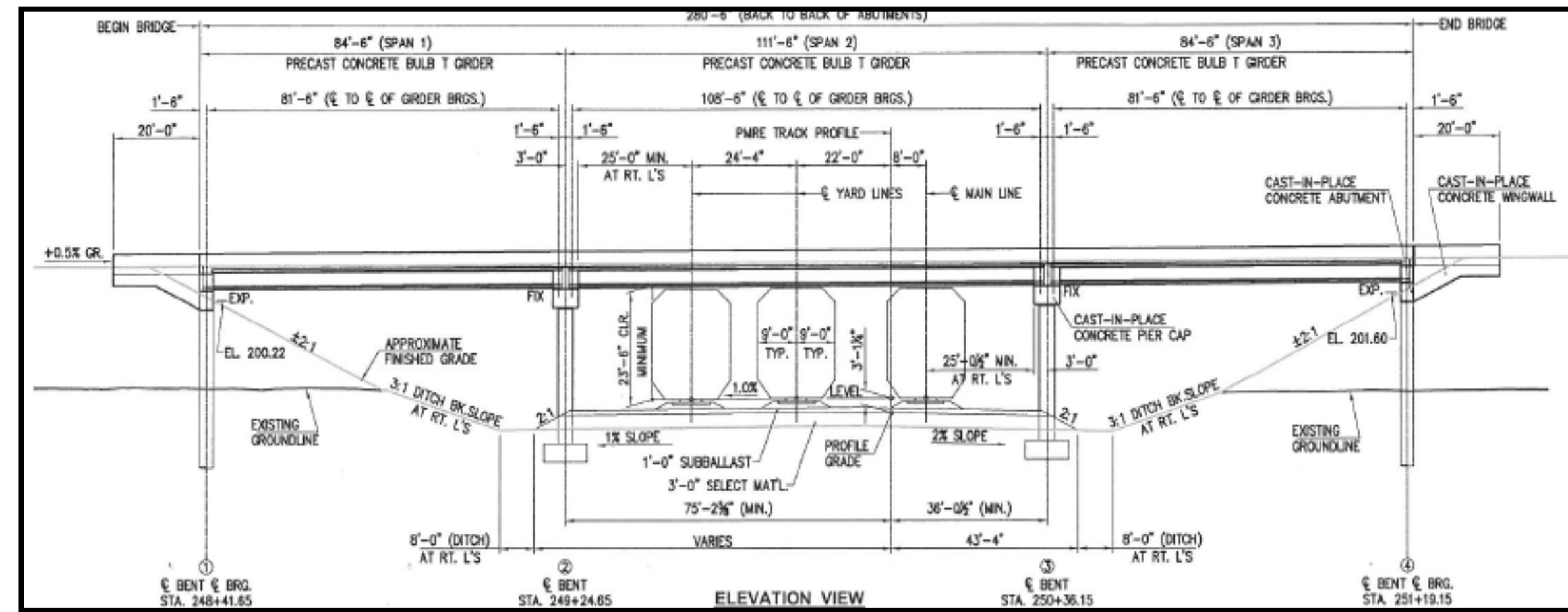
**Construction Start:** Winter 2014

**Final Construction Completion:** Spring 2014

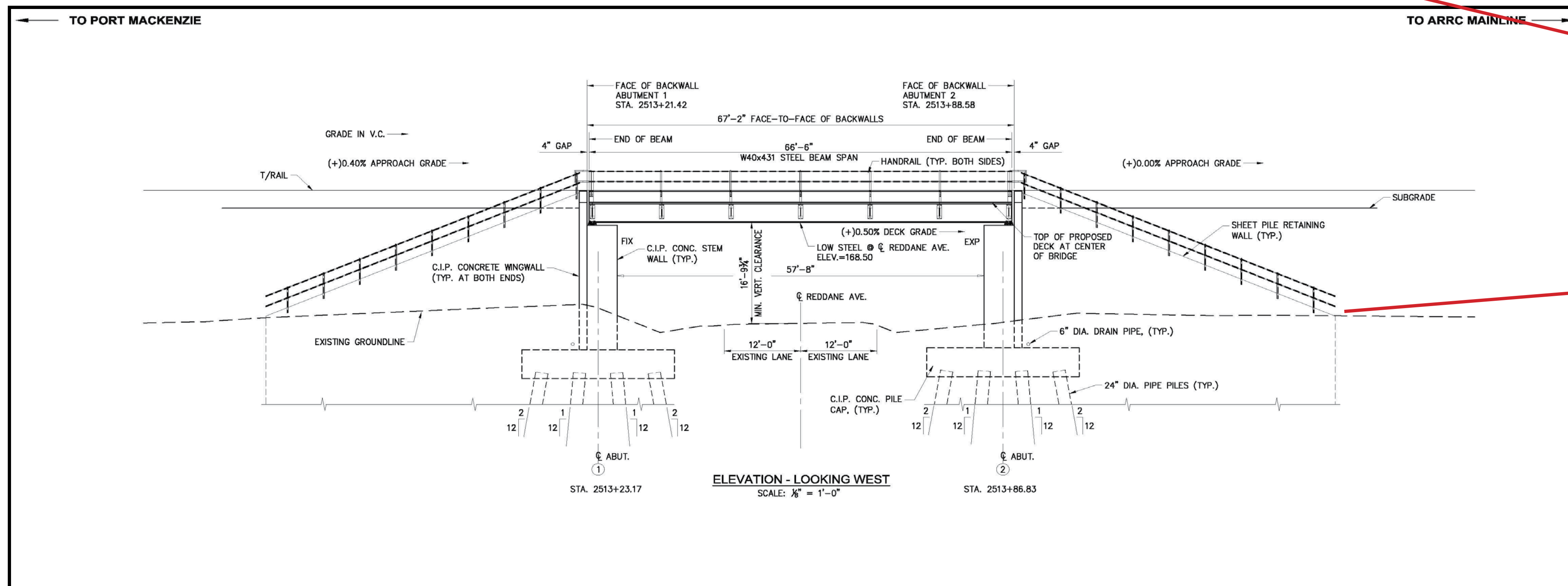




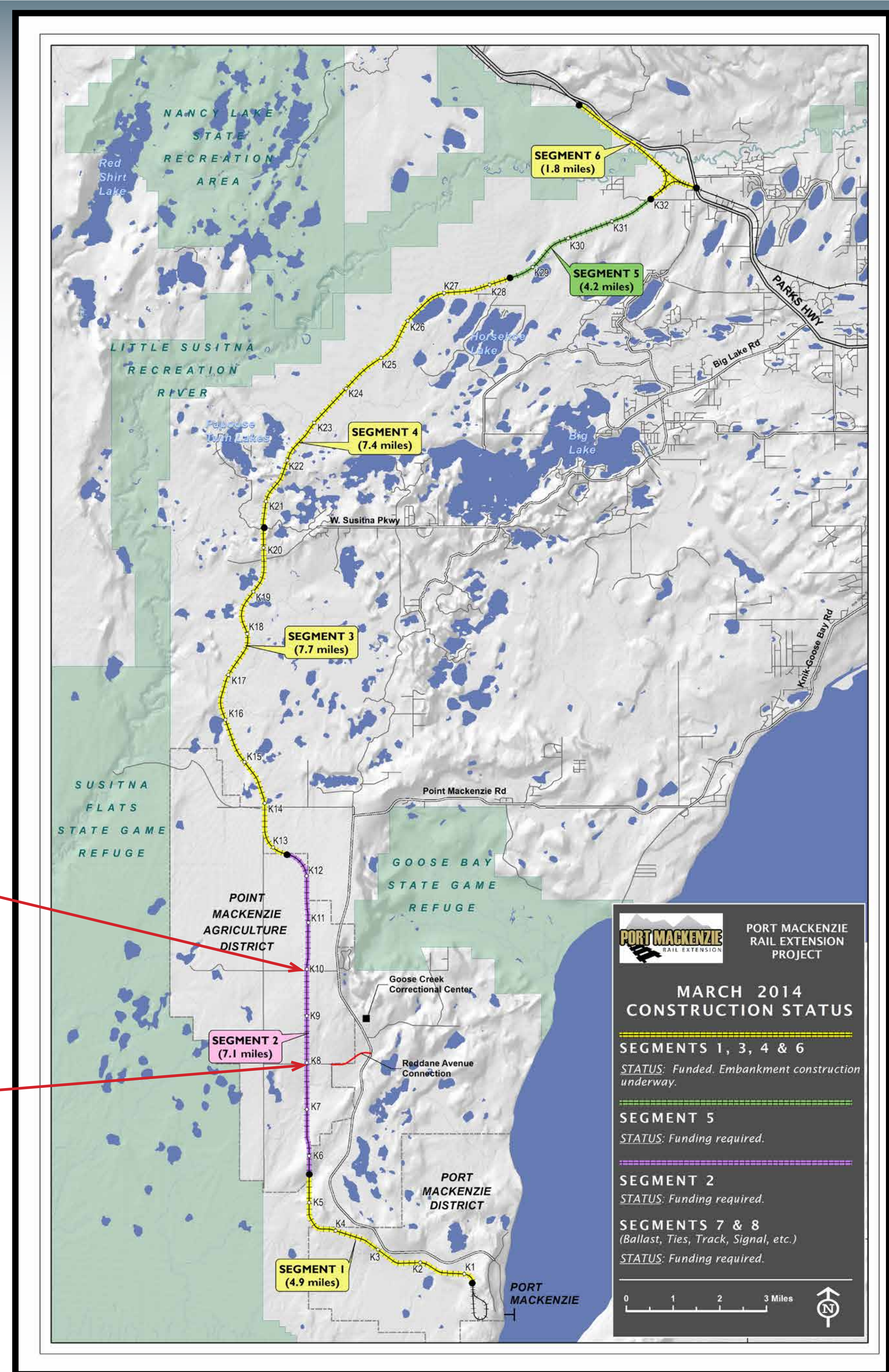
# Overpasses and Underpasses



Railway Underpass of Holstein Avenue



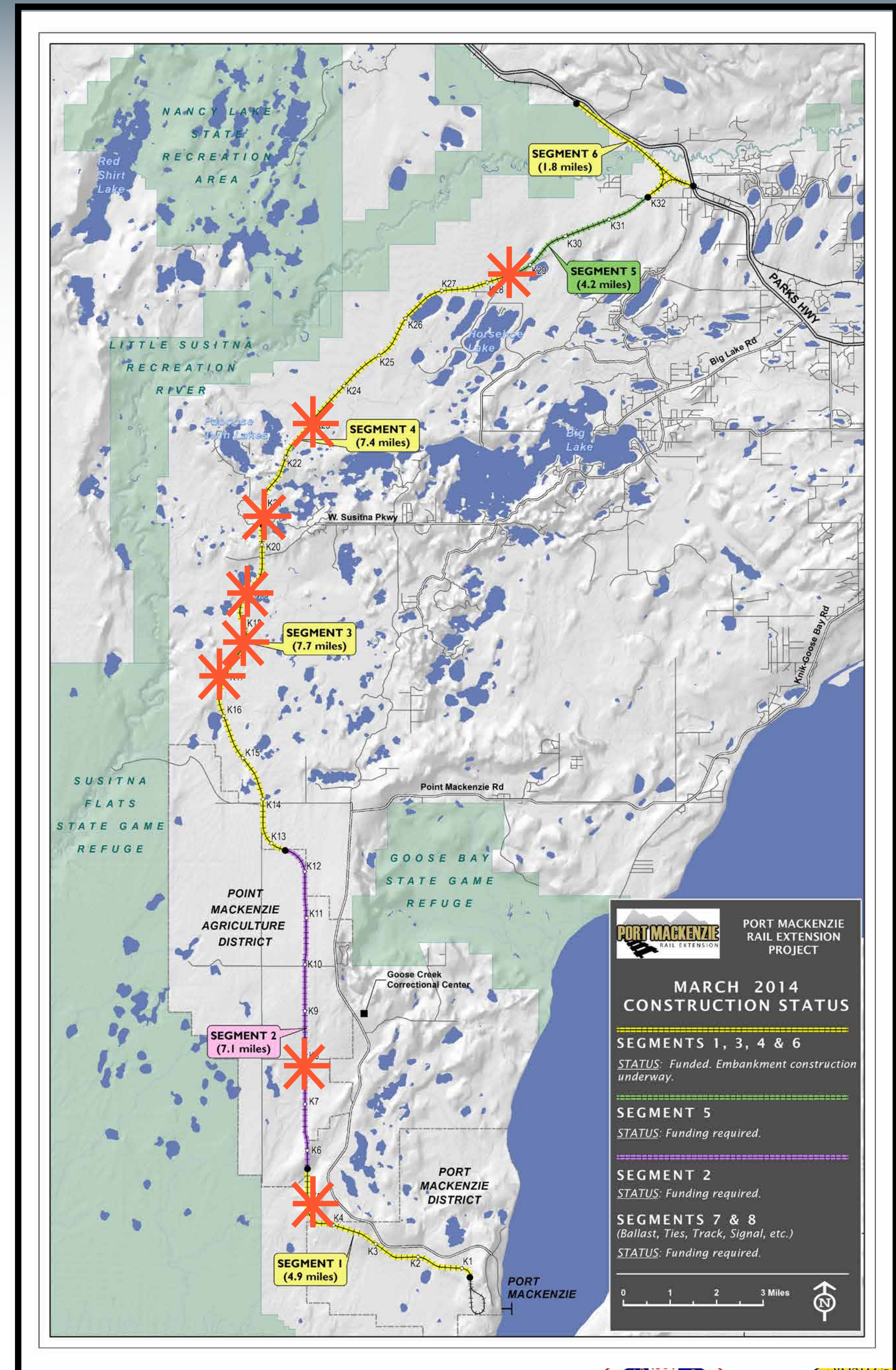
Railway Overpass of Reddane Avenue



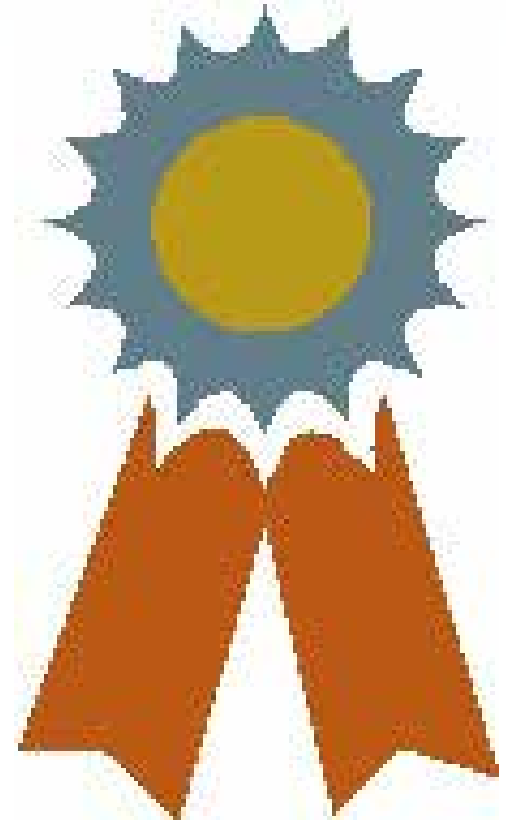


# Railroad Right-of-Way

- Maintenance access is part of the railroad right-of-way
- Maintenance access is not public use
  - ◇ For your safety and protection, please do not ride, walk, ski, or bike within the railroad right of way
- The maintenance access ends at major river crossings
- Bridge crossings are for railway traffic only\*



# 2013 Project Accomplishments



- New bridge over the Little Susitna River completed
- Segment 1 is 80 percent complete
  - ◊ Figure Eight Loop Trail undercrossing is 90 percent complete
  - ◊ Baker Farm Bridge complete
- Segment 3 is 80 percent complete
- Segment 6 is 90 percent complete
- Segment 4 is 10 percent complete



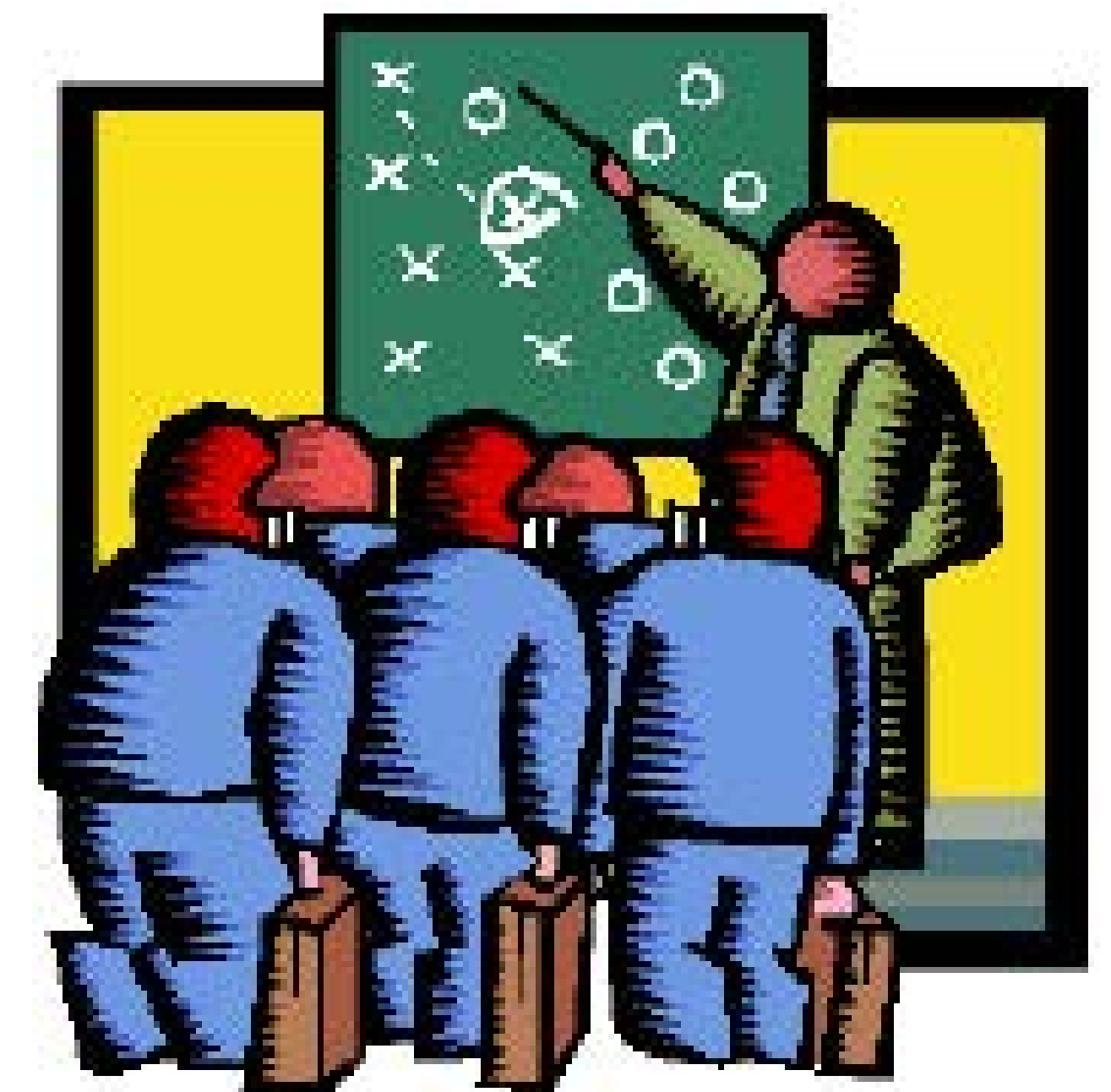
From top right:  
 Segment 1 Winter Trail,  
 Segment 3 Bridge Materials at Iditarod Trail,  
 Segment 3 Stabilization Material,  
 Segment 6 Culvert Installation at North Wye





# 2014 Proposed Benchmarks

- Substantial completion of Segments 1, 3, and 6
- Major construction of Segment 4
- Construct six bridges
  - ◇ Diamond Lake Outlet (Seg. 3)
  - ◇ Historic Iditarod Trail (Seg. 3)
  - ◇ Iditarod Race Trail (Seg. 3)
  - ◇ MP K20.76 (Seg. 4)
  - ◇ MP K22.79 (Seg. 4)
  - ◇ MP K27.88 (Seg. 4)
- Continue acquiring project right-of-way in Segments 2 and 5







# *Being a Good Neighbor*

- Final design development reduced wetlands impacts by 44 percent
- Construction segments allows use of multiple local contractors
- Design maintains natural water flow and drainage patterns
- Waterway crossings are oversized to exceed 100-year flood event, preserve sensitive fish habitat and riparian areas, and avoid impacts to fish passage
- All crossings are designed to allow continued access for pedestrians, boats, and wildlife
- Trail connections and access maintained for mushers and recreational users, and racers
- Long-term reduction of truck traffic on Port MacKenzie roads



# Segment 1

## HIGHLIGHTS

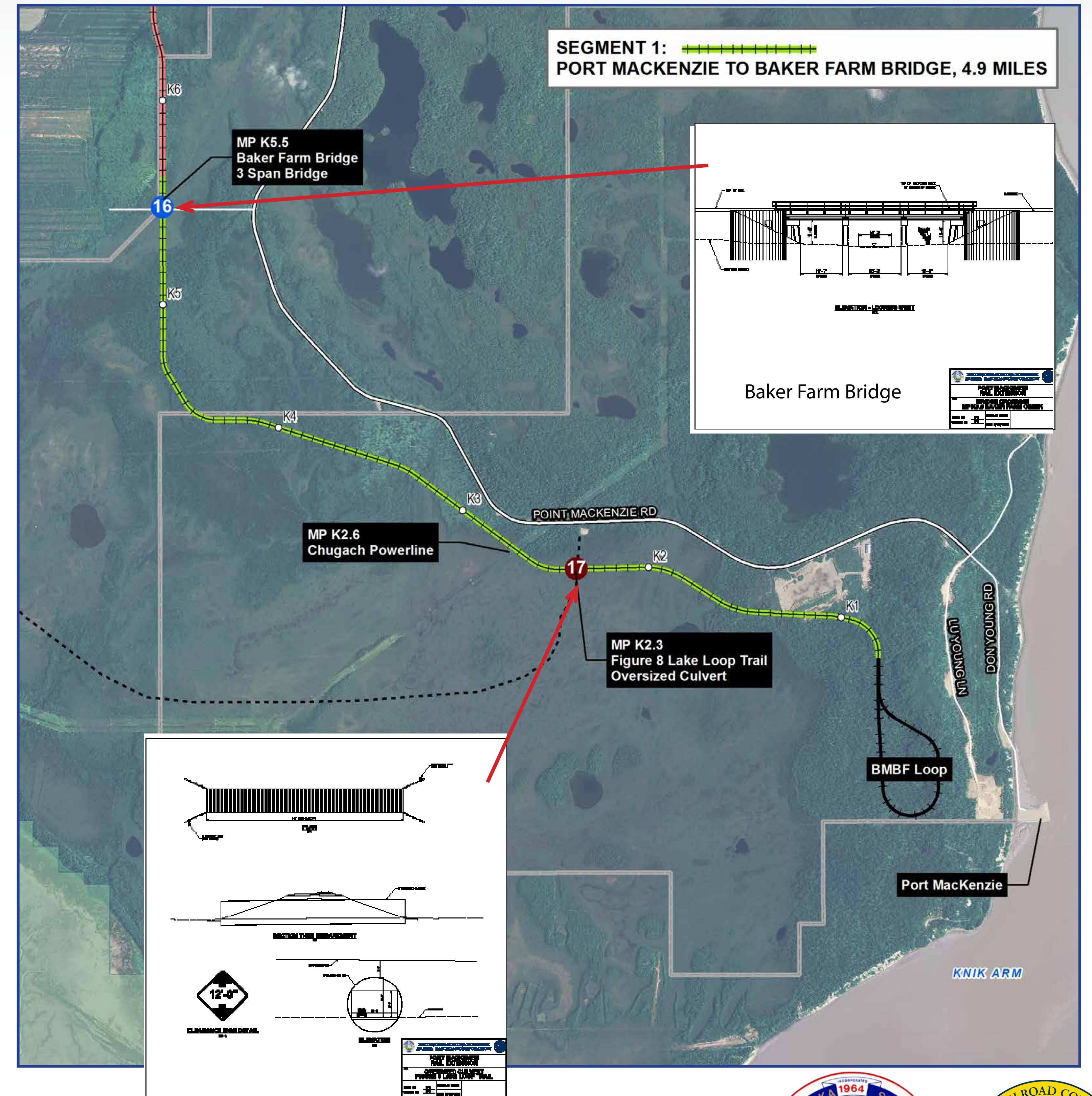
- Length: 4.9 miles
- Approximately 3.3 million of 4 million cubic yards moved to date
- Baker Farm Bridge
  - ◊ Three-span, approximately 84 feet in total length
- Winter trail crossing structure
  - ◊ A 146-foot-long, 19-foot-diameter galvanized steel multi-plate pipe with 14.4 feet of maximum overall height
- Winter Trailhead parking lot located at MP 18.1 Point MacKenzie Road

**Construction Firm:** Bristol Construction Services

**Contact:** Shane Ferrell

**Construction Start:** Spring 2012

**Final Construction Completion:** Fall 2014



# Segment 3

## HIGHLIGHTS

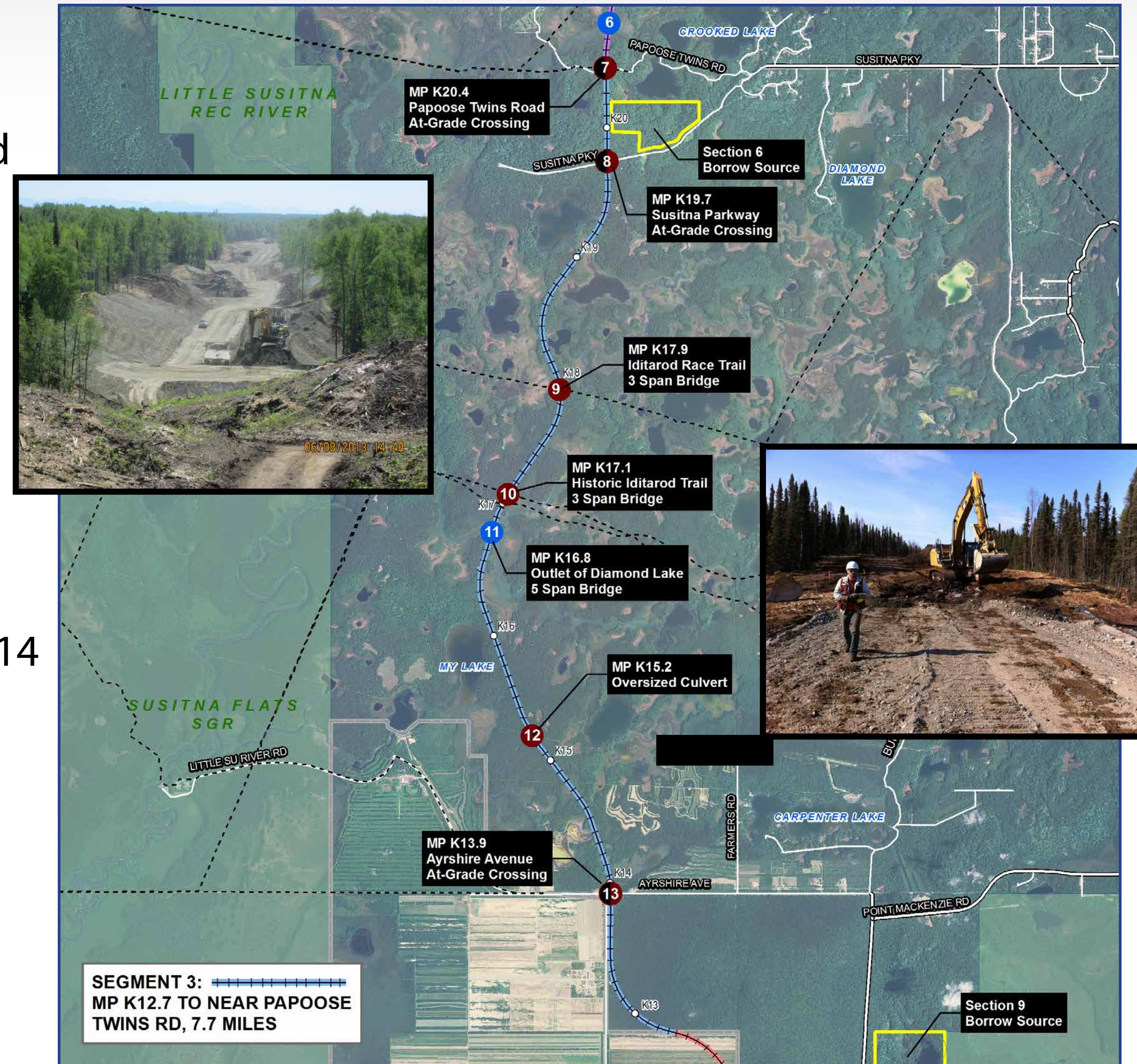
- Length: 7.7 miles
- Approximately 1.1 million cubic yards of earth moved
- Includes three bridges
  - ◇ Diamond Lake Outfall (5-span, precast girder and steel beam)
  - ◇ Historic Iditarod Trail (3-span, precast girder)
  - ◇ Iditarod Race Trail (3-span, precast girder)
- West Susitna Parkway closed during construction at Papoose Twins Road
  - ◇ Road can be accessed for local traffic by calling QAP
- Finish bridge work and complete seeding: Spring 2014

**Construction Firm:** Quality Asphalt Paving (QAP)

**Contact:** Steve Spidal

**Construction Start:** Spring 2013

**Final Construction Completion:** Spring 2014





# Segment 4

## HIGHLIGHTS

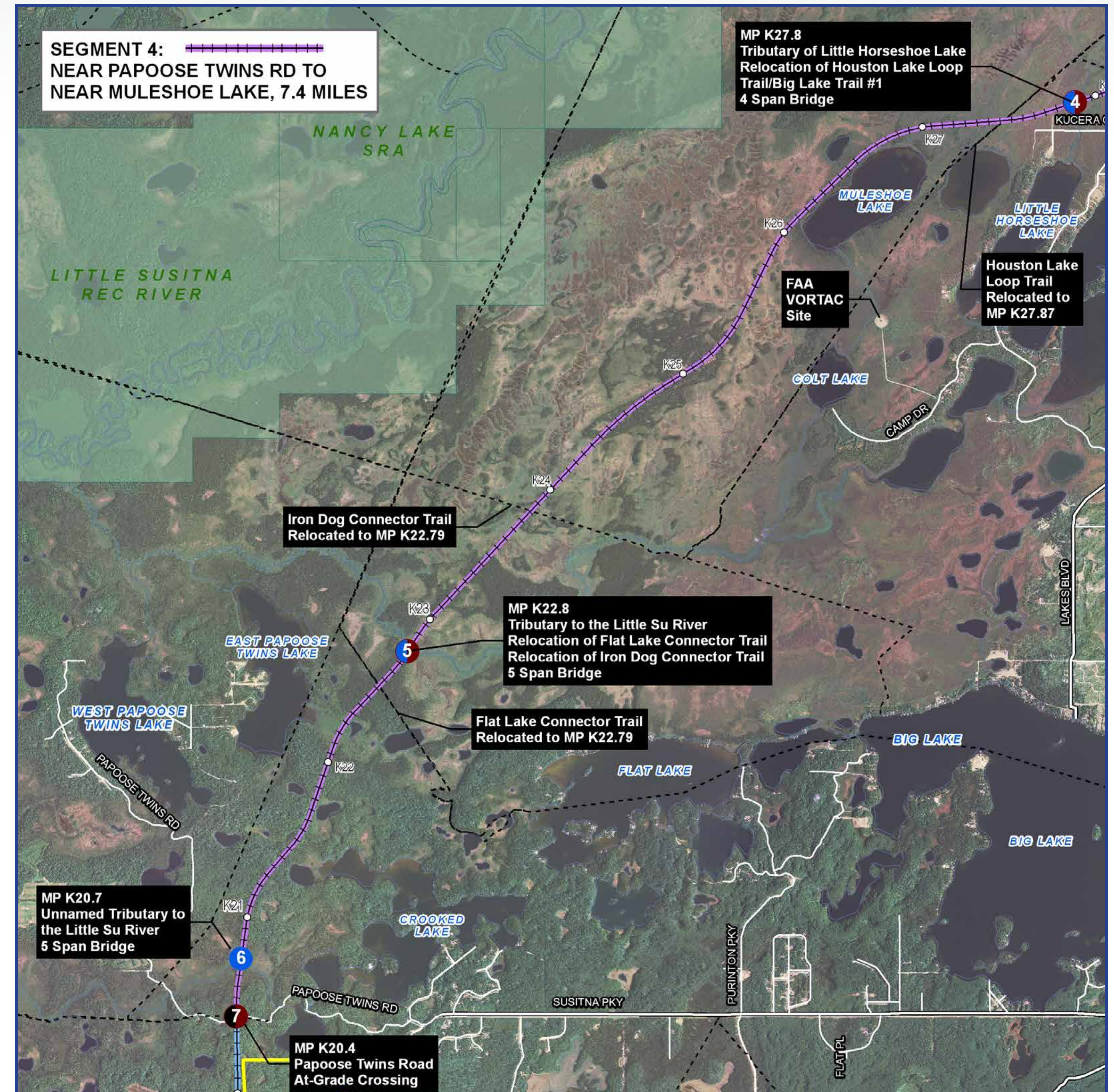
- Length: 7.4 miles
- Approximately 1.1 million cubic yards of earth to be moved
- Includes three bridges
  - ◇ Tributary to Little Susitna (140-foot 5-span, concrete girder)
  - ◇ Iron Dog Trail (140-foot 5-span, concrete girder)
  - ◇ Houston Loop Trail (112-foot 4-span, concrete girder)

**Construction Firm:** Bristol Construction Services

**Contact:** Shane Farrell

**Construction Start:** Winter 2013

**Anticipated Completion:** Fall 2015



# Segment 6

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Length: 1.8 miles
- Approximately 630,000 cubic yards of earth moved
- Will create a new “Y” rail connection on northeastern end of project, plus new siding adjacent to the ARRC main line to Fairbanks
- Includes new railway bridge over Little Susitna River (120-foot single span, steel girder)

**Construction Firm:** Granite Construction

**Contact:** Ira LeSage

**Construction Start:** Spring 2013

**Final Construction Completion:** Spring 2014

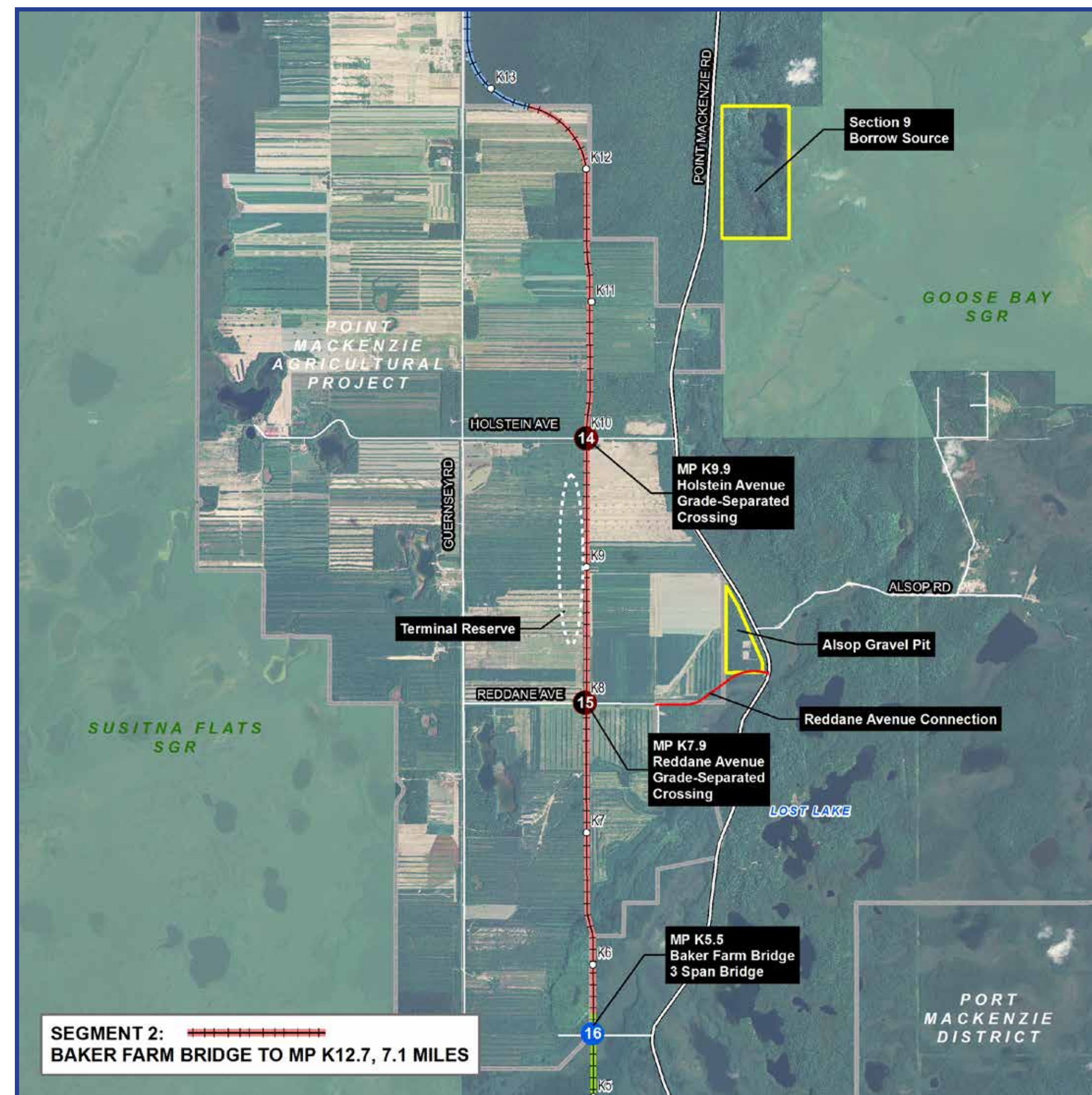


# Future Segments

## Segment 2

### HIGHLIGHTS

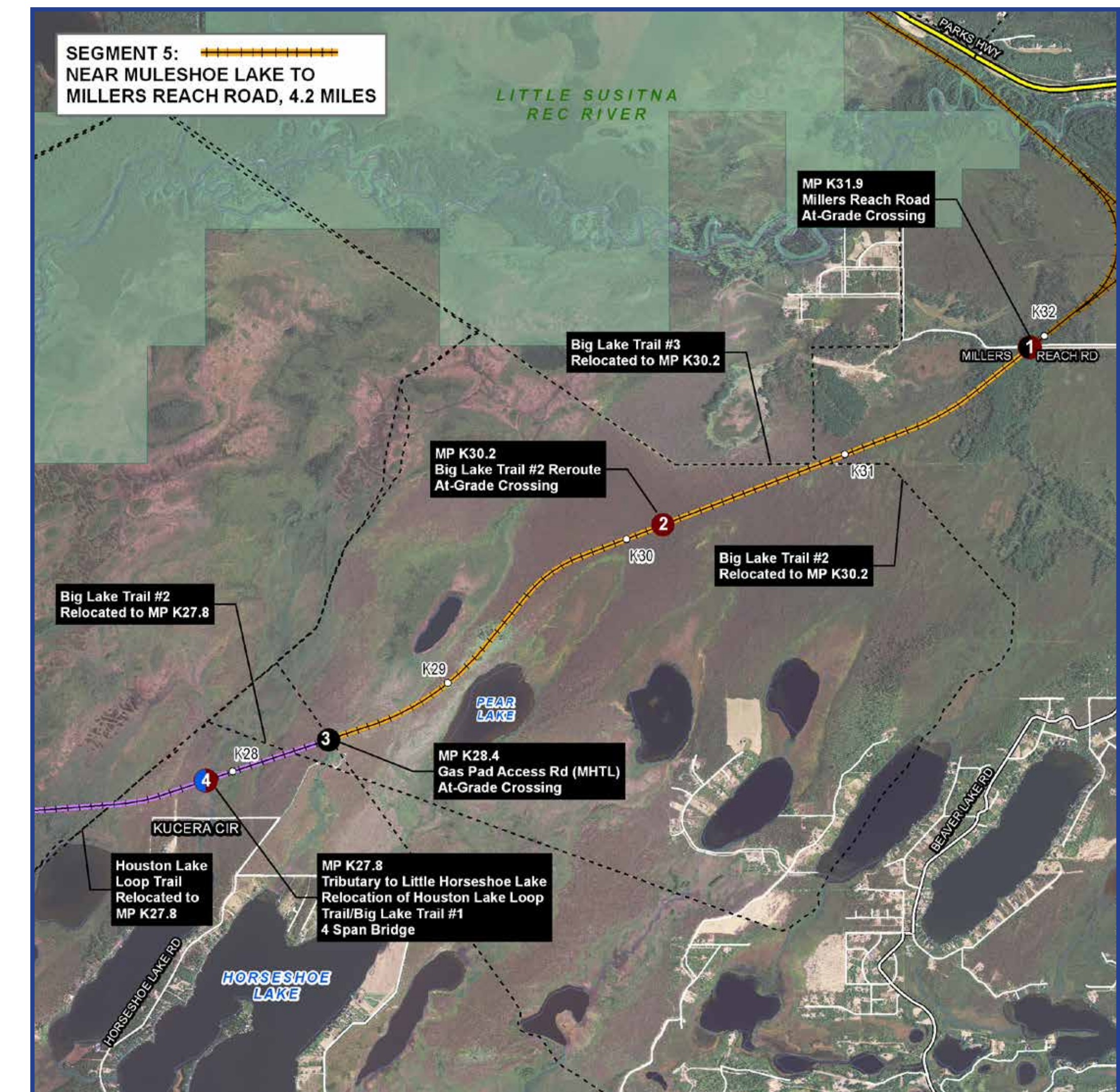
- Length: 7.1 miles
- Within Port MacKenzie Agricultural District
- Location of ARRC Terminal Reserve
- Includes a road and trail crossing, and a bridge and trail crossing
- Access maintained at all road crossings



## Segment 5

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Length: 4.2 miles
- Within Millers Reach burn area
- Includes three at-grade crossings





# *Future Segments*

## *Segment 7*

### **POTENTIAL CONTRACTS**

- Communications network
- Administration and maintenance building and fueling facility at the Terminal Reserve
- Civil work, Port MacKenzie to Houston
- Moose-related landscaping

## *Segment 8*

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Track construction from Millers Reach Road to Port MacKenzie Loop, with associated grade crossing protections





# Rail Signals

## HIGHLIGHTS

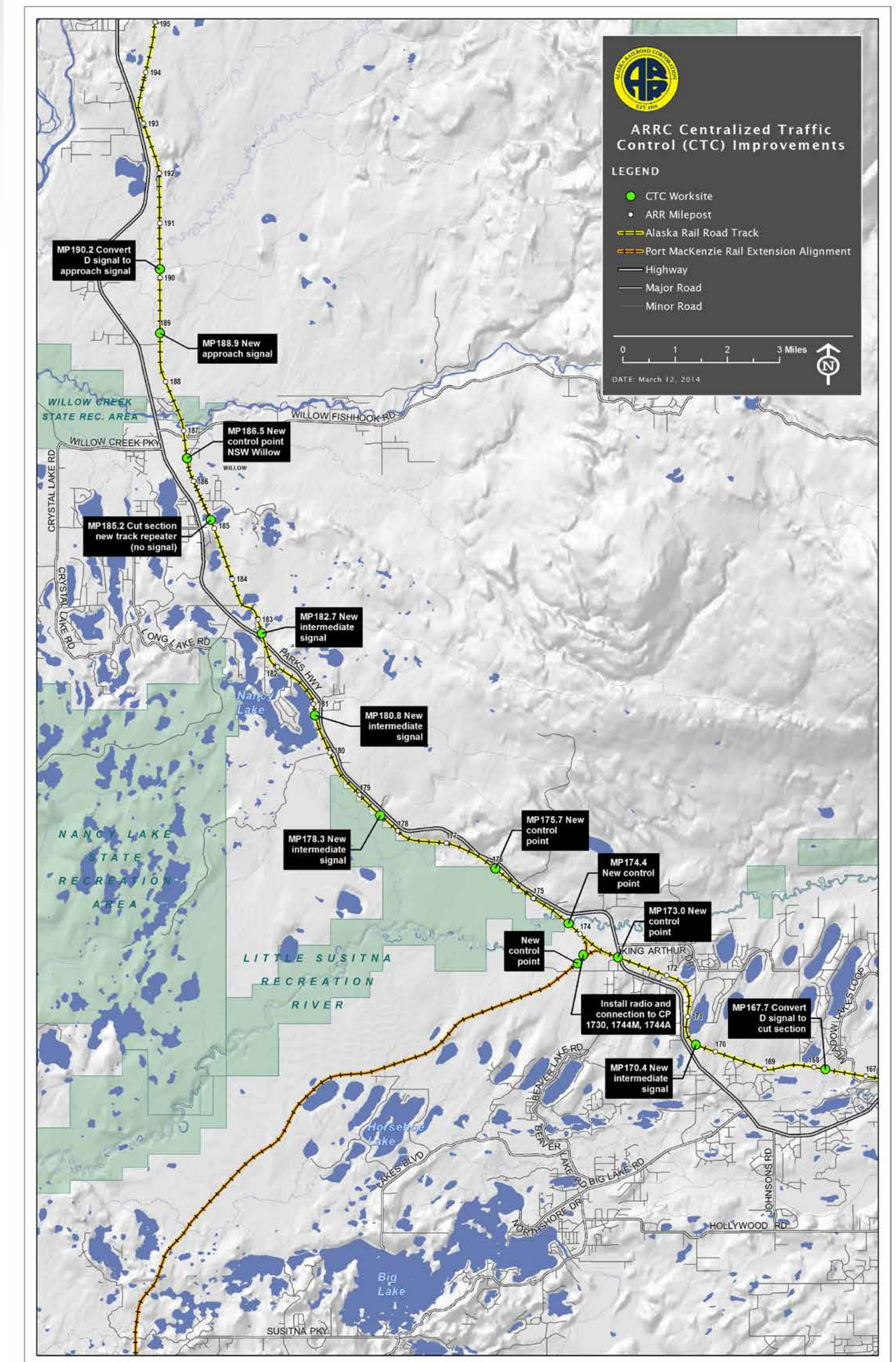
- 15 railroad signals will direct train traffic and provide information on the state of the line
  - ◇ Wasilla to Kashwitna
  - ◇ 5 mainline signals to be upgraded
  - ◇ 10 new locations, 6 of which are near Houston
- Signal construction will require installation of additional power lines
  - ◇ Power provided by Matanuska Electric Association
- Mainline signalization will not increase the number of at-grade crossings

**Construction Firm:** Midvale Electric

**Contact:** Dave McCourtney, HDR

**Construction Start:** Spring 2014

**Final Construction Completion:** Fall 2014

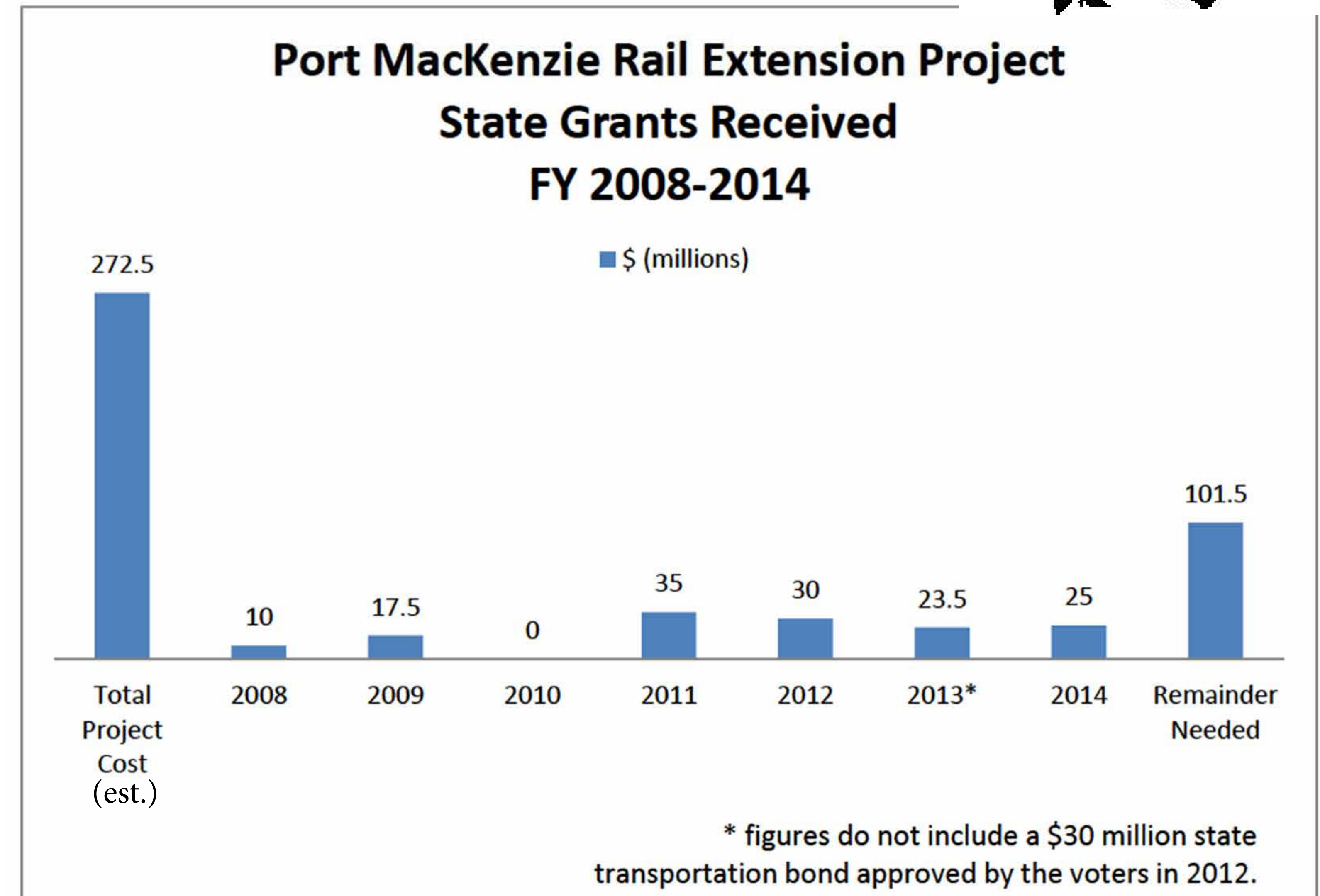






# Costs and Funding

- Total Project Cost:  
est. \$272.5 million (2007 dollars)
- MSB has secured \$171 million in state legislative appropriations
  - ◇ \$60 million requested for FY 2015
  - ◇ \$40 million to be requested in FY 2016
- State funding plus construction by segment allows MSB to hire local construction firms
- No federal funds utilized
- Final project completion estimated for 2018, pending funding availability





# *Your Input is Important!*

You are welcome to comment on the project's **construction impacts**.

- Submit a comment form in the box TONIGHT
- Fax comments to: (907) 644-2022
- Mail comments to:  
Sim Brubaker, P.E.  
Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project/HDR  
2525 C Street, Ste 305  
Anchorage, AK 99503
- E-mail comments to: [pmre@akrr.com](mailto:pmre@akrr.com)





# *For more information*

## **For general project questions:**

**Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Office of Public Affairs

350 East Dahlia Avenue

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Phone: (907) 745-9577

E-mail: [patty.sullivan@matsugov.us](mailto:patty.sullivan@matsugov.us)

## **For construction questions:**

**Sim Brubaker, P.E., Resident Engineer**

Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project/HDR

2525 C Street, Ste 305

Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: (907) 892-6000

E-mail: [pmre@akrr.com](mailto:pmre@akrr.com)

## **For ARRC questions:**

**Stephenie Wheeler, Corporate Communications Officer**

Alaska Railroad Corporation

327 West Ship Creek Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 265-2671

E-mail: [wheelers@akrr.com](mailto:wheelers@akrr.com)



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