



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

SOUTHCOAST REGION  
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Preconstruction

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In Reply Refer To:

Juneau (Mendenhall) Loop Road -Valley Boulevard Intersection Safety Improvement HSIP  
Project No. SFHWY00403/0966030

### **Section 106 Finding of No Historic Properties Affected**

May 6, 2025

Scott Ciambor, Planning Manager  
City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)  
Historic Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC)  
155 Heritage Way, Juneau, AK 99801  
[Scott.Ciambor@juneau.gov](mailto:Scott.Ciambor@juneau.gov)

Dear Mr. Ciambor:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has assumed the responsibilities of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under 23 U.S.C. 327 and is proposing to improve the intersection of Mendenhall Loop Road with Valley Boulevard and Mendenhall Boulevard through construction of a roundabout under the proposed Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Project in Juneau, Alaska. The proposed project is located in Sections 19 and 20, Township 40 South, Range 66 East, Copper River Meridian on United States Geological Survey (USGS) Quadrangle Map Juneau B-2 and is shown on the attached project figures (Figure 1). The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

Consultation for this project is being conducted in accordance with the 2017 *First Amended Programmatic Agreement... for the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Alaska*. The DOT&PF, acting as a Federal agency, finds that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This submission provides documentation in support of this finding, as required at 36 CFR 800.11(d).

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*

## **Project Description**

The project proposes to construct a single lane roundabout at the juncture of Mendenhall Loop Road with Mendenhall Boulevard and Valley Boulevard in place of the currently existing four-way intersection. Project activities will include:

- Replacing the current single lane four-way intersection with a one-lane roundabout
- Reconstructing curbs and sidewalks within the roundabout facility footprint
- Reconstructing and relocating existing bus pullouts and bus stop shelters
- Expanding the right-of-way (ROW) to accommodate the new intersection footprint
- Installing new lights around the roundabout footprint
- Installing new signage around the intersection
- Widening road segments that approach the roundabout
- Adding splitter islands near the roundabout
- Adjusting underlying hydraulic systems/storm drains to fit the new footprint
- Adjusting driveway approaches to match reconstructed roadway
- Possible relocation of electrical utilities within the project area

ROW acquisition is anticipated along the two lots adjacent to Mendenhall Loop Road on the north side of the intersection.

## **Area of Potential Effects**

The area of potential effects (APE) includes a direct APE covering the project footprint, all areas of ground disturbance, equipment access, staging areas, and proposed areas of ROW expansion throughout the intersection of Mendenhall Loop Road, Mendenhall Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard (Figure 2). The APE includes construction activities within a portion of the Valley Boulevard and Diane Road intersection, and the Valley Boulevard and Kiowa Drive intersection which are being reconstructed to accommodate roundabout access. The APE also includes an indirect APE covering all first-tier properties where the project may have visual impacts through the installation of a new roundabout and associated traffic features at the intersection.

## **Identification Efforts**

DOT&PF contracted with DOWL for cultural resource services to identify historic properties within the APE. DOWL first prepared a Desktop Review, summarizing known sites and previous cultural resource surveys in the project area identified through research of modules and files in the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) Portal.

DOWL reviewed the AHRs database on June 1, 2024 to assess the known AHRs sites within 1-mile of the APE. The AHRs showed one site in the APE, which is the Carl G. Weimer & Sharilee A. Weimer Residence (JUN-01266), a former one-story, Ranch style wood frame, residential building constructed in 1964 and previously located at 4106 Mendenhall Boulevard (Figure 4). DOT&PF determined this site not eligible for listing in the National Register of

Historic Places (NRHP) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred in 2017 (Kell 2017). Since 2017 this building has been demolished and this site is now a vacant lot.

A review of the City and Borough of Juneau’s tax records for properties within the project’s APE showed 26 buildings that are older than 45 years of age<sup>1</sup> to be present within the indirect APE. In June 2024, DOWL conducted a cultural resource survey of the APE including pedestrian and archaeological survey of the direct APE led by Jay Rapoza, Secretary of Interior (SOI) Qualified in Archeology and architectural survey of the indirect APE led by Amy Ramirez, SOI Qualified in Architectural History. The archaeological survey conducted four subsurface tests which were negative for cultural materials (Figure 3). Three of the buildings in the indirect APE were removed from consideration due to verification of age (being less than 45 years old) or they were no longer present (Figure 4). The architectural survey resulted in the documentation and NRHP evaluation of 23 properties, summarized below.

### Determinations of Eligibility

The 23 properties that were found to be 45 years or older border the main streets adjacent to the proposed roundabout on Mendenhall Loop Road, Mendenhall Boulevard, and Valley Boulevard as well as the surrounding neighborhood streets of Aspen Avenue, Kiowa Drive, Nugget Place and Diane Road (see Figure 4). The properties are all associated with the gradual subdivision and development of early homesteads in the Mendenhall Valley and reflect a variety of vernacular, transitional ranch, modern ranch, styled ranch, contemporary, and neo-eclectic architectural styles.

DOWL prepared a cultural resource survey report of the APE for submittal to DOT&PF and the State Historic Preservation Office. Historic Building Inventory Forms containing their NRHP evaluations for the 23 properties in the APE are attached to this letter and a summary of their findings is provided in Table 1 below. Their evaluations followed guidance in the National Register Bulletin No. 15 and the Alaska Historic Buildings Survey Manual and Style Guide. DOWL recommended that none of the buildings were historically significant enough to be individually eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A-D and concluded that a historic district did not appear to be present within the project APE.

*Table 1: Summary of DOEs for properties over 45 years old in the Project APE*

Property/Address	AHRS Number	Building Style, Age	Eligibility Recommendation	Report Page No.
4013 Mendenhall Loop Road	JUN-01329	Transitional Ranch; 1966	Not Eligible	53
4003 Mendenhall Loop Road	JUN-01330	Contemporary Style; 1958	Not Eligible	57

<sup>1</sup> Although a property needs to be at least 50 years old to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (unless it has exceptional significance under Criterion Consideration G), DOT&PF policy is to evaluate buildings 45 years old or older due to the time required to complete projects, and the desire to ensure that cultural resources are adequately protected.

4001 Mendenhall Loop Road	JUN-01331	Vernacular; 1978	Not Eligible	60
4112 Mendenhall Boulevard	JUN-01332	Modern Ranch; 1961	Not Eligible	63
4118 Mendenhall Boulevard	JUN-01333	Modern Ranch; 1961	Not Eligible	70
4182 Aspen Avenue	JUN-01334	Modern Ranch; 1961	Not Eligible	74
4207 Mendenhall Boulevard	JUN-01335	Modern Ranch; 1961	Not Eligible	79
8205 Aspen Avenue	JUN-01336	Transitional Ranch; 1964	Not Eligible	83
4109 Mendenhall Boulevard	JUN-01337	Modern Ranch; 1964	Not Eligible	86
4101 Mendenhall Boulevard	JUN-01338	Modern Ranch; 1978	Not Eligible	90
3850 Mendenhall Loop Road	JUN-01339	Commercial; pre-1963	Not Eligible	94
3820 Kiowa Drive	JUN-01340	Transitional Ranch; 1963	Not Eligible	98
3824 Kiowa Drive	JUN-01341	Vernacular; 1978	Not Eligible	101
3828 Kiowa Drive	JUN-01342	Vernacular; 1978	Not Eligible	104
8512 Nugget Place	JUN-01343	Modern Ranch; 1962	Not Eligible	108
8515 Nugget Place	JUN-01344	Vernacular; 1976	Not Eligible	111
8502 Valley Boulevard	JUN-01345	Neo-Eclectic Mediterranean; 1979	Not Eligible	114
8498 Valley Boulevard	JUN-01346	Vernacular; 1976	Not Eligible	117
8468 Valley Boulevard	JUN-01347	Modern Ranch; 1979	Not Eligible	120
8465 Valley Boulevard	JUN-01348	Multi-Family 4-plex; 1979	Not Eligible	123
3980 Mendenhall Loop Road	JUN-01349	Tudor Styled Ranch; 1979	Not Eligible	128
4000 Diane Road	JUN-01350	Modern Ranch; 1972	Not Eligible	132
3921 Mendenhall Loop Road	JUN-01351	Vernacular Church; 1965	Not Eligible	136

DOT&PF's Southcoast Region Professionally Qualified Individual (PQI) agrees with DOWL's recommendation that none of the 23 properties possess enough historical significance to be eligible for the NRHP and that the project APE does not contain a historic district.

### Findings

DOT&PF has determined that the 23 newly evaluated properties within the APE (AHRs sites JUN-01329 through JUN-01351) are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and, therefore, are not historic properties. The only other AHRs site in the APE, JUN-01266, was previously found not eligible with SHPO concurrence in 2017 and has since been demolished.

Based on the absence of historic properties in the project APE, **DOT&PF has determined that a finding of No Historic Properties Affected (36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)) is appropriate for this undertaking.**

### **Consultation**

Initiation of consultation letters were sent to the parties listed below on February 12, 2025.

- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Douglas Indian Association
- Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska
- Goldbelt, Incorporated
- Sealaska Corporation
- Sealaska Heritage Institute
- City and Borough of Juneau, Mayor's Office
- City and Borough of Juneau, Historic Resources Advisory Committee
- Gastineau Channel Historical Society

SHPO replied on March 7, 2025 that they agreed with the decision to conduct a cultural resources survey to evaluate possible historic properties in the APE and the City of Borough of Juneau Historic Resources Advisory Committee responded on March 22, 2025 that they concurred with the APE and the identification efforts for the project and were unaware of any additional historic properties in the APE. No other responses were received from consulting parties. The consulting parties listed above will also receive a copy of these findings.

If you wish to comment on this finding, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at (907) 799-4845, or by e-mail at [amy.russell@alaska.gov](mailto:amy.russell@alaska.gov). Your timely response will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into project development. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Amy J.K. Russell

DOT&PF, Southcoast Region Professionally Qualified Individual (PQI)-History

### **Enclosures:**

Figure 1: Project Location & Vicinity

Figure 2: Area of Potential Effect

Figure 3: Pedestrian Survey Coverage and Subsurface Testing Locations

Figure 4: Architectural Survey and Documented Properties Map

Attachment 1: Alaska Building Inventory Forms (Appendix 2 from Cultural Resource Survey report)

**Electronic cc w/ enclosures:**

Nathan Purves, P.E., DOT&PF Southcoast Region, Project Manager

Connor Brown, DOT&PF Southcoast Region, Environmental Impact Analyst

Benjamin Storey, DOT&PF Southcoast Region, Regional Environmental Manager

Nina Keller, DOT&PF Statewide, NEPA Manager

Holly McKinney, DOT&PF Statewide, Cultural Resources Manager (FHWA)

**References**

Alaska Office of History and Archaeology. 2024. "Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) Portal." Anchorage, Alaska.

Alaska Office of History and Archaeology. 2016. "Alaska Historic Buildings Survey Manual and Style Guide." Anchorage, Alaska.

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Kell, Michael. 2017. "Cultural Resources Inventory for the Juneau - Mendenhall Loop Rd Capacity Improvement Project." Report on file at the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology, Anchorage Office. Juneau, Alaska.

National Park Service (NPS). 1997. "National Register Bulletin #15 – How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation." Washington, D.C.