Ocean Dock Road Reconnaissance Engineering Study

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ABSTRACT: The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) retained Kinney Engineering, LLC (KE), to prepare a Reconnaissance Engineering Study for the Ocean Dock Road corridor north of Ship Creek, leading into the Port of Alaska. The study area is of economic and military significance, including portions of both the Port of Alaska in Anchorage (POA) and the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) main freight and passenger terminal, and located near Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC). The POA handles half of all Alaska inbound freight, which is then transported to its final destination via pipeline, truck, rail, or a combination of these modes. The port is a Department of Defense commercial strategic seaport, and Ocean Dock Road (the main road into and out of the port) is designated part of both the National Highway System (NHS) and the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET, which are roads of military significance). Thus, improvements to the study area benefit the State and nation economically and strategically.

The primary users of the transportation system in the study corridor are freight and passenger trains, freight trucks, and pipeline connections to Nikiski, JBER, and ANC. The transportation corridor is also used by commuters traveling to and from POA or railroad facilities, residents of the Government Hill neighborhood to the northeast of the study area, tourists who arrive at the POA by cruise ship and are carried to nearby destinations by tour bus, and recreational users (including people coming to fish in Ship Creek, pedestrians and bicyclists, and users of the small boat launch).
The Ocean Dock Road Reconnaissance Engineering Study identifies concerns for the study area and a range of feasible improvements for addressing the concerns, including railroad track realignments and reconfigurations, road realignments and reconfigurations, and potential improvements to drainage systems and the non-motorized network. The most promising of these concepts were combined into one feasible alternative that meets the project’s purpose and need.

**BIO:** Jeanne Bowie, PE, PhD, PTOE is a Senior Traffic Engineer and Member at Kinney Engineering, LLC in Anchorage, Alaska specializing in safety, traffic control devices, multi-modal traffic operations, and transportation planning. She holds a PhD in Civil Engineering, emphasis Transportation, from the University of Central Florida and a master’s degree in Civil Engineering, emphasis Transportation, from Brigham Young University. Jeanne is licensed as a professional engineer in Florida and Alaska.

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