

TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Federation of Community Councils
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

March 19, 2023

Erik D. Hilsinger, MA
Cultural Resources Specialist
Central Region, DOT&PF
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

RE: AMATS Fish Creek Trail Connection, TBD/CFHWY00587 Consultation Initiation

Dear Mr. Hilsinger:

Turnagain Community Council (TCC) thanks you for the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation opportunity with regards to the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Fish Creek Trail Connection Project. The study area includes the Fish Creek Estuary and potential routes along the Alaska Railroad right of way north of West Northern Lights Boulevard. TCC did reach out to our members descended from families that grew up adjacent to the Fish Creek estuary for input on potential historic structure or use of the area, but received no specific suggestions.

From your letter initiating NHPA consultation, we note that you are reaching out to Alaska Native tribal and ANCSA corporations that would likely have the most appropriate knowledge regarding traditional use and cultural significance of the Fish Creek Estuary. The Anchorage Association for Historic Preservation is likely to have the most accurate information on Anchorage settler use and structures in the project area.

TCC also had a chance to review the letter submitted by Great Land Trust with regard to this matter. We support their observations that the Fish Creek Estuary is one of the last relatively untouched estuaries in Anchorage, that it may be a natural landscape of cultural significance, may qualify as a Historically Important Land Area, and therefore may be Eligible for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to hearing the results of NHPA consultation and any findings that you may reach, including findings of potential Eligibility for Inclusion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our letter.

Sincerely



Cathy L. Gleason
Acting President, Turnagain Community Council
907-248-0442

Cc: Great Land Trust