

## Draft Proposed Action

### 1. Introduction

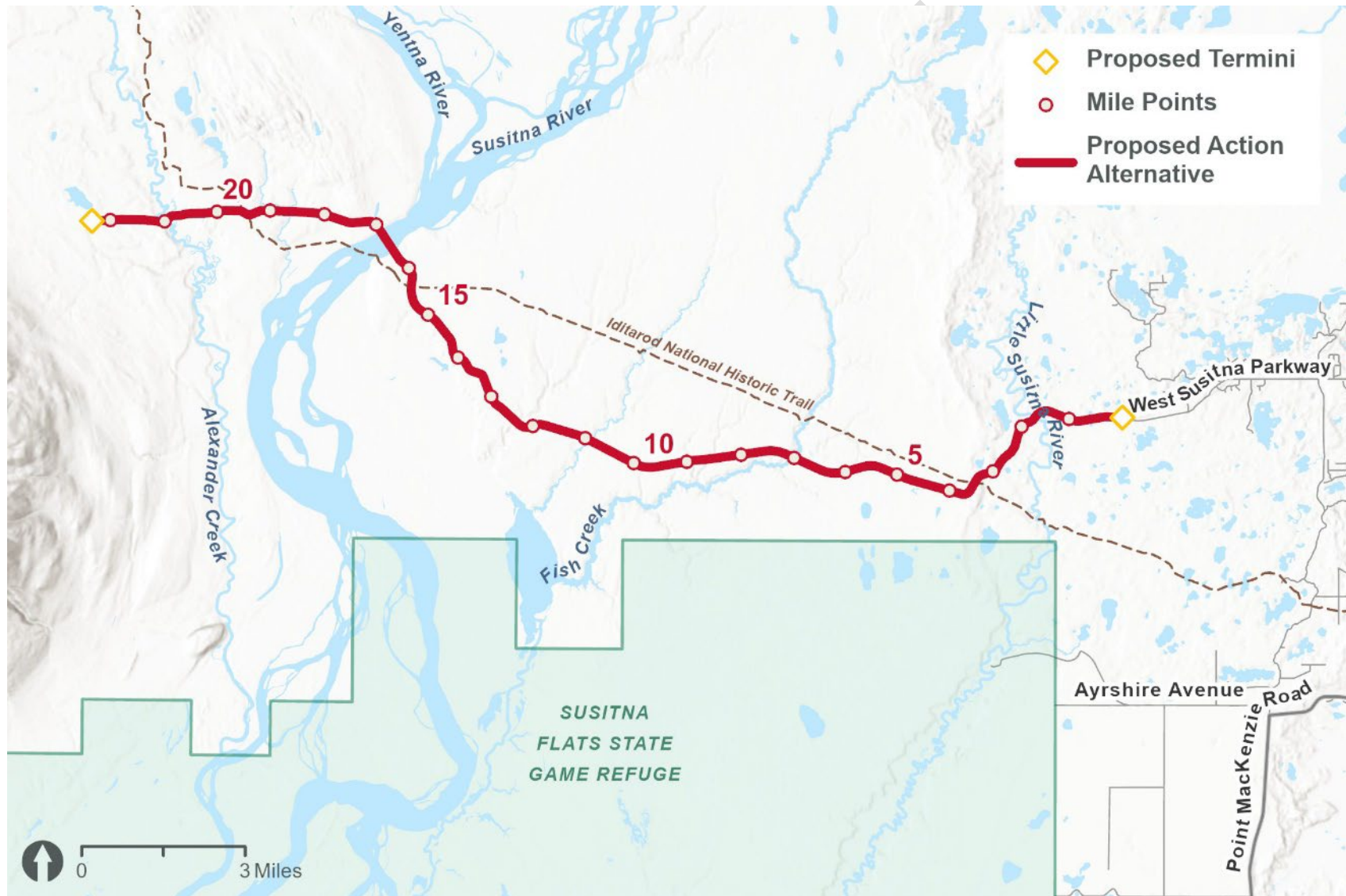
The purpose of this memo is to identify and present the proposed action alternative. The memo provides a preliminary recommendation on the proposed action and summarizes the reasons for the recommendation. During the scoping period, DOT&PF is interested in getting input from the public, Tribes, local governments and agencies on issues or concerns with the proposed action and suggestions for alternatives.

The West Susitna Access (WSA) Road Project (Project), managed by DOT&PF, aims to build a new public road that extends from the existing highway system near Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB) Subdivisions through State lands west of the Susitna River (FIGURE 1). The Project would include the construction of infrastructure including access to the Little Susitna River, Fish Creek, the Susitna River, and Alexander Creek.

The proposed road would be designed for year-round, public use and cater to public recreational access to over six million acres of state lands. Public and commercial access to the road would foster economic growth in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and West Susitna areas through enhanced recreation, energy, forestry, mining, and tourism sectors.

# WestSu Access

Figure 1. Proposed Action



# WestSusitna Access

## West Susitna Parkway Alternative

The West Susitna Parkway Alternative is a 22.4-mile-long route that begins at the western end of the West Susitna Parkway. The proposed action would cross the Little Susitna River between river mile 36 and 37 before heading south to join the PMR. The proposed action was strategically chosen for recreational access, engineering feasibility, and limited resource impacts.

The proposed action alignment for the West Susitna Access Road will begin at the existing terminus of the West Susitna Parkway to the southwest of Big Lake. The alignment proceeds to the west and slightly north to its terminus approximately 2 miles west of Alexander Creek near an existing platted subdivision. The alignment travels predominantly through a mix of birch and black spruce uplands avoiding wetland impacts to the extent practicable. Bridges will be utilized at the Little Susitna River, Fish Creek, Susitna River, and Alexander Creek crossings. Boat launches and ramps are proposed near the Susitna River and Alexander Creek crossing locations. Culverts will be placed at other crossings as needed for drainage and fish passage. The proposed roadway typical section includes a 24-foot-wide top surface. Turnouts will be provided at regular intervals. Material sites will be developed along the proposed route to provide embankment material for both initial construction and long-term maintenance requirements.

Figure 2. Proposed Typical Section

