

# Project F: Tudor Road/Lake Otis Parkway

## INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

### Scoping Summary Report

August 2006



**DOWL**  
ENGINEERS



**SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

**TUDOR ROAD/LAKE OTIS PARKWAY**

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**Prepared for:**

Municipality of Anchorage  
Project Management and Engineering  
4700 S. Bragaw Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

MOA Project No. 04-35  
DOT&PF Project No. 58890

**Prepared by:**

DOWL Engineers  
4041 B Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
907-562-2000

W.O. D59117

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

DNR-OHMP .....	State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of Habitat Management and Permitting
DOWL.....	DOWL Engineers
LOP .....	Lake Otis Parkway
MOA .....	Municipality of Anchorage
PAI .....	potentially affected interests

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) is initiating the Tudor Road/Lake Otis Parkway (LOP) Intersection improvements project to relieve congestion and upgrade the Tudor Road and LOP intersection (Figure 1). Proposed safety and capacity improvements include southbound, northbound, and eastbound dual left-turn lanes, and westbound and northbound right-turn-only lanes. Likely design features will also include channelization/access control at adjacent intersections and driveways, signal reconstruction, landscaping, and installation of bus boarding pads and curb ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines.

The process of gathering information from the public and agencies on the purpose and need for a project, potential alternatives, and possible issues and concerns that need to be addressed during the environmental review and design is called “scoping.” This report, with its appendices, summarizes the public and agency scoping methods used, identifies issues and concerns, and lists comments received to date along with their sources. Comments were received from a variety of stakeholders (or interested parties) including local residents, resource agency representatives, and interested organizations.

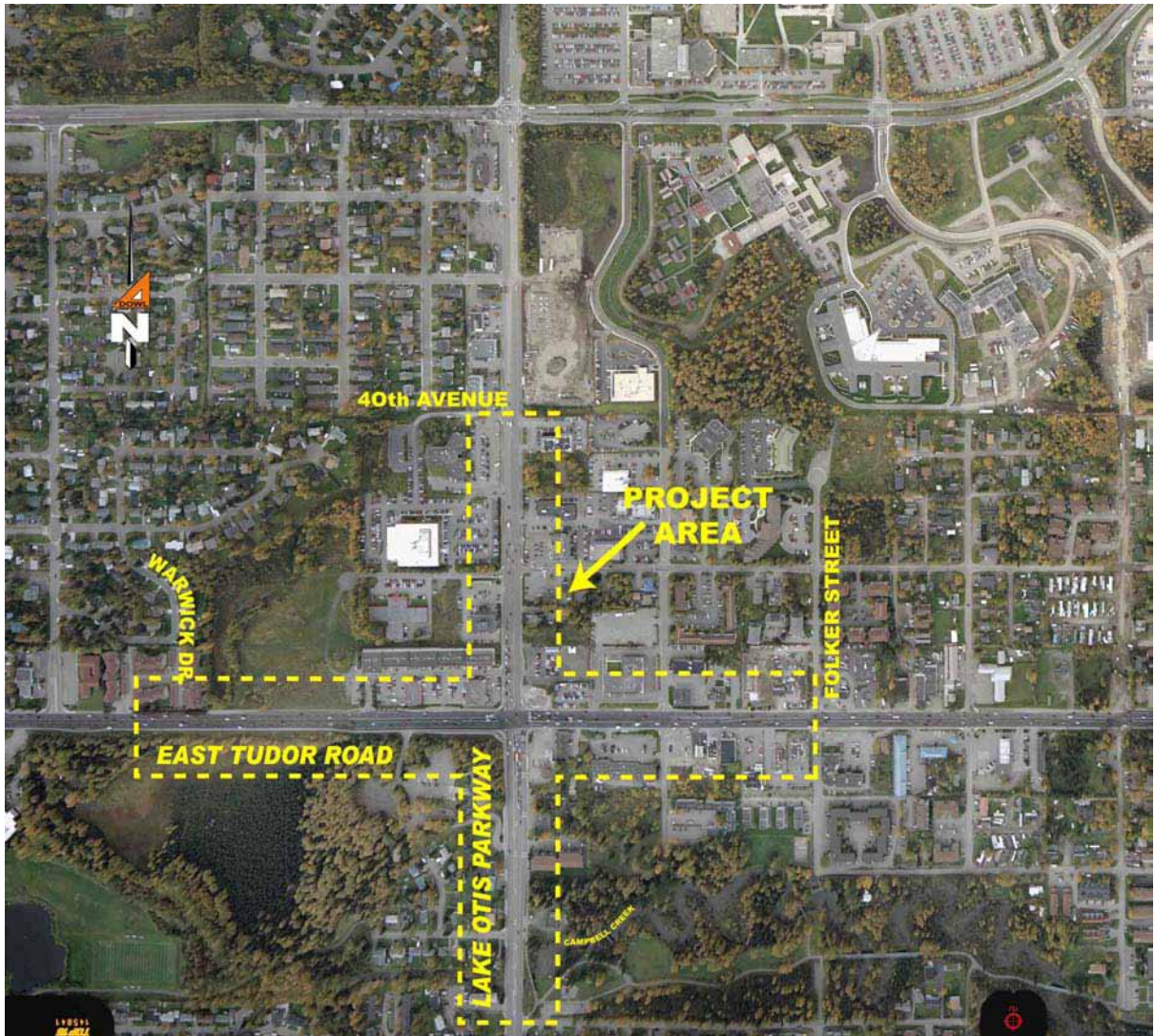


Figure 1: Project Location Map

## **1.2 Project Team**

The project team is listed below.

### Contracting Agency

#### MOA

- John Smith, P.E. – Project Manager
- Rand Gaynor – Project Administrator

### Prime Consultant

#### DOWL Engineers (DOWL)

- Stewart Osgood, P.E. – Project Manager
- Steve Noble, P.E. – Transportation Team Leader
- Bill Strickler, P.E. – Project Engineering Lead
- Matthew Korshin, P.E. – Project Engineer
- Kristen Hansen – Environmental Lead
- Maria Kampsen, P.E. – Geotechnical Engineering Lead
- Maryellen Tuttell, AICP – Public Involvement Coordinator

## **1.3 Scoping Method**

The following scoping methods are included in the Public Involvement Plan (Appendix A) and were used to inform the public along with the local, state, and federal resource agencies about the project, its objectives, and the environmental and design processes:

- Public Scoping Meeting
- Agency Scoping Meeting
- Local Business Meeting
- Community Council Meetings
- Other Community Council Meetings
- Project Website
- Project E-Mail Address
- Newsletters and Flyers

- PowerPoint Presentations and Display Boards
- Project Office

### 1.3.1 Mailing List of Potentially Affected Interests

Two mailing lists have been developed for the project. They include a general public list and an agencies/officials list. The general public list was assembled by identifying all residents and property owners within the vicinity of the project corridor (Appendix A) and adding to it those persons who, through the course of advertisements and scoping, showed an interest in this project or expressed an interest in previous projects in this area. The agencies/officials list includes local, state, and federal resource agencies and officials who might have an interest or concern, environmental or otherwise, in the project. The two lists were combined to form the Potentially Affected Interests (PAI) list, which contains approximately 2,918 names.

### 1.3.2 Advertisement

An advertisement notifying the public of the initiation of environmental and design studies for this project and the date and time of the public scoping meeting appeared in the Anchorage Daily News (daily circulation approximately 90,000) on Monday, May 15, 2006. A copy of the public meeting advertisement is included in Appendix B.

### 1.3.3 Community Councils

The project area is in the vicinity of three community council areas. DOWL contacted the presidents of these Community Councils (University Area Community Council, Campbell Park Community Council, and Tudor Area Community Council) to have them include an announcement in their monthly newsletter about the date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting. This information was also passed on to the Federation of Community Councils for inclusion in their announcements. In addition, DOWL staff attended the following community council meetings:

- Campbell Park Community Council – January 12, 2006
- University Area Community Council – February 1, 2006
- Campbell Park Community Council – February 9, 2006
- University Area Community Council – March 1, 2006

- Tudor Area Community Council – March 2, 2006
- Campbell Park Community Council – March 9, 2006
- Tudor Area Community Council – April 6, 2006
- Tudor Area Community Council – May 4, 2006
- Campbell Park Community Council – May 11, 2006
- University Area Community Council – June 7, 2006
- Campbell Park Community Council – June 8, 2006

Appendix C includes a summary of notes from these meetings.

#### 1.3.4 Project Website

A project website ([www.dowl.com/projects/tudorlakeotis](http://www.dowl.com/projects/tudorlakeotis)) was developed to provide specific information regarding the project area, objectives, schedule, project documents, team members, and a place to review and make public comments. Copies of the web pages are included in Appendix D.

#### 1.3.5 Project E-Mail Address

For persons wanting to communicate about the project via e-mail, an e-mail address ([tudorlakeotis@dowl.com](mailto:tudorlakeotis@dowl.com)) has been created. This address has been included in the public scoping meeting mailer announcement, in the newspaper announcement, on the comment form passed out at meetings, and announced at both the Public Scoping and Agency Scoping meetings.

#### 1.3.6 Project Flyer and Comment Forms

A project comment form and informational flyer was developed and passed out at the public scoping meeting and all other meetings project staff attended to solicit public comments. The form includes an area to add contact information for those who wish to be added to the project mailing and e-mail lists. A copy of the comment form and flyer are included in Appendix E.

## **2.0 PUBLIC SCOPING**

### **2.1 Public Scoping Meeting**

The public scoping meeting was held at Wendler Middle School, 2905 Lake Otis Parkway, Anchorage, on Monday, May 15, 2006. To help the public understand the purpose of the project and the public scoping meeting, a flyer was sent to all persons on the PAI mailing list, the e-mail distribution list, and posted to the website prior to the meeting. The flyer is included in Appendix E.

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. and concluded at 9:00 p.m. Community members signed in and met with the project staff one-on-one to discuss individual issues and concerns. Project staff made a half hour presentation at 7 p.m. (Appendix F). The following topics were included in the public scoping presentation:

- Meeting Purpose
- Project description
- Project purpose and need
- Alignment concepts
- Planning and design considerations
- Environmental documentation and permitting process
- Project schedule
- Public involvement process

At the conclusion of the presentation, the meeting was opened for public questions and concerns. At the end of the question and answer period, the one-on-one discussion with individuals resumed and lasted until 8:45 p.m. The meeting notes and sign-in sheets are included in Appendix F. Approximately 30 private citizens, not including project team members, attended the meeting.

### **2.2 Local Business Meeting**

The majority of the adjacent properties potentially impacted by this project are occupied by businesses. Many of the businesses are located within business “malls” or multi-story professional buildings and leased space.

Based on experience in the area during the 1998 Tudor Capacity Improvements Project, a strong component of the Public Involvement was to include soliciting input from business owners and operators. DOWL conducted field interviews and held a local business meeting on April 28, 2006, at the MOA Permit Center Training room. This meeting was held to inform local businesses in the area of the proposed project and receive input and concerns regarding the project. A flyer was sent out to the businesses in the area to inform them of the upcoming meeting. The flyer is in Appendix G.

The meeting began at 11:30 a.m. and concluded at 1:30 p.m. Steve Noble reviewed the agenda and introduced the project team. He presented a general overview of the project, and then opened the floor for comments. Appendix G contains: Local Business meeting presentation, minutes, sign in sheets, and Comment Forms. The Local Business Contact Summary and Record of Contact sheets are also located in Appendix G .

### **2.3 Documentation of Public Comments**

All written and verbal public comments received as of June 15, 2006 (the conclusion of the formal scoping period), have been reviewed and are included in Appendix H. Comments received have been paraphrased and listed below. The list attempts to group the comments into common issues and concerns.

#### **2.3.1 Favor the Project**

- Project would help hillside traffic bound for military base.
- In favor of anything you can do to ease traffic and make drive time more enjoyable at that location.

#### **2.3.2 Neighborhood Impacts**

- Comment regarding possibility of ramps being put through neighborhood.
- Effect on St. Mary's Church.
- Concerns with houses being eliminated.
- Negative impacts on private property and businesses.

### 2.3.3 Planning and Design Issues

- Engineering changes to the LOP and Tudor Road intersection should be delayed until after the Bragaw Street Extension and the connections to Dowling Road are completed.
- Comment regarding possibility of routing LOP roadway intersection under the Tudor roadway.
- Extend a road to let LOP traffic exit on 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue or further south on Tudor Road.
- Take advantage of natural hill at the intersection. Have a tunnel down and through on the Tudor Road side and have that act as the “underpass.”
- A three-lane roundabout would work best in this location.
- Consider crossing bridge and only allow right hand turns on green arrow at Tudor Road and LOP.

### 2.3.4 Safety Issues

- Concerns with pedestrian and bicycle safety due to recent modification to traffic patterns on Tudor Road.

## **3.0 AGENCY SCOPING**

### **3.1 Agency Scoping Meeting**

The agency scoping meeting was held on April 5, 2006. A letter was sent on March 22, 2006, to the agencies (Appendix I) that provided background information on the project, and invited them to participate in the scoping meeting. The agency scoping meeting covered topics regarding the following points:

- Project scope and purpose
- Project planning and design
- Existing conditions
- Initial concepts
- Design considerations

- Environmental standpoint
- Public and agency involvement process

A copy of the presentation to the agencies, meeting notes, and the attendance list are included in Appendix I.

### **3.2 Agency Scoping Comments**

Comments received as of June 15, 2006, have been reviewed and are included in Appendix J. An agency scoping comment table is also included in Appendix J. These comments do not include comments received during agency or public meetings, those comments are included in the respective meeting notes. The following is a summary of the agency comments received.

#### **3.2.1 State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of Habitat Management and Permitting**

- The project appears to be within the coastal zone and will require submission of a coastal project questionnaire during the permitting phase of the project.
- Campbell Creek is an anadromous fish stream supporting chinook, sockeye, pink and coho salmon, Dolly Varden, and rainbow trout. The specified upper limit of anadromous fish use in Fish Creek is approximately two miles downstream of the project area; however, it may support anadromous fish in the project area. Anchorage is classified as an urban area and harvests are considered for recreational and personal use, not subsistence.
- Some activities potentially involved with the project may require a fish habitat permit, alterations to storm water drainage into Campbell Creek, and any work that would potentially block fish passage in Fish Creek.
- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of Habitat Management and Permitting (DNR-OHMP)'s primary concern would be alterations to the drainage patterns and water quality that affect Campbell Creek.
- There are no Special Areas (wildlife habitats) in the project area.
- The project will not further bisect or segment wildlife habitat corridors.

### 3.2.2 United States Environmental Protection Agency

- The project should avoid piping any more of Fish Creek, including the reach that crosses LOP north of Tudor Road.
- The project should maximize opportunities to attenuate area storm water quality and quantity prior to discharge.
- The project should avoid placing fill or otherwise adversely impacting the wetlands associated with Fish Creek north and south of Tudor Road and west of LOP.
- If the project reaches south to Campbell Creek and includes changes to the bridge, it should incorporate design measures to improve horizontal and vertical clearance between the bridge and the creek and include stream restoration actions.

### 3.2.3 United States Fish and Wildlife Service

- Maintain the hydrology of Fish Creek through the wetlands.
- Avoid encroachment on the wetlands; if fill must be placed, it should be the minimum amount necessary.
- North/south trending waterways tend to be mammal migration corridors; the project should not impact the use of the area by moose.
- Bird use in the area is unknown and should be checked.

### 3.2.4 National Marine Fisheries Service

- The action will not result in any effect to essential fish habitat and no assessment is required.

## **4.0 SUMMARY**

The above public and agency scoping comments provide valuable insight into the issues to be resolved during this project. All comments will be reviewed and addressed as the environmental document is prepared. Any comments received after the end of the formal scoping period (June 15, 2006) will also be reviewed by the team and addressed in the environmental document.