



# Port MacKenzie Rail Extension



## PROJECT FACTS

### Project Scope

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) and the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) jointly propose construction and operation of a new rail line to connect the Borough's Port MacKenzie to ARRC's rail system. The port lies about 30 miles southwest of Wasilla and about 5 miles due north of Anchorage, across Cook Inlet. The selected route involves 32 miles of new rail line extending from Port MacKenzie to the Alaska Railroad's mainline just south of Houston.

Port MacKenzie has a deep draft dock (60 feet at low tide) that requires no dredging and can serve the world's largest ships (Panamax and Cape Class vessels). The port's 8,940 upland acres and 1,300 tide-land acres provide ample room to accommodate bulk resource storage, transport and processing facilities, as well as rail and terminal facilities for efficient train loading and unloading.

The project includes an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS and associated studies identified and analyzed feasible

alignment alternatives, completed preliminary engineering design on alternatives, estimated construction costs, and determined the project's economic, financial and engineering feasibility.

When complete, the new rail line would operate as part of the Alaska Railroad system.

### Project Benefits

- With the longest rail car loop in Alaska, the extension offers highly-efficient offloading of bulk resources from train to ship.
- For Interior shippers, the new rail link shortens the distance to tidewater.
- Increased rail freight activity, and development stimulated by the rail link, would benefit rail-belt communities through increased employment, contributions to the state and community tax base, and overall economic health.
- With ample room for staging and assembling, Port MacKenzie is an ideal site for large construction projects, such as oilfield modules or pipeline assembly.



Segment 3 grade work north of W. Susitna Parkway mid-summer 2013.



## Project Status & Timeline

- In June 2007, MSB and ARRC signed a Memorandum of Agreement to pursue environmental work, engineering and alternative analysis in support of the Surface Transportation Board (STB)-led environmental document for a Port MacKenzie rail line extension.
- Following an extensive environmental review process, the STB issued a record of decision in 2011 recommending the Mac East Variant (Mac Central) and Houston South route.
- 2011-2013: Construction bids awarded to Bristol Construction (Segments 1 and 4), Quality Asphalt Paving (Segment 3), and Granite Construction (Segment 6).
- June 4, 2013: Official ground-breaking ceremony.
- 2017: Anticipated completion.

## Project Participants

- **Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB)** – The local government that owns the Port MacKenzie land and facility. The MSB is the project’s *Sponsor*, and has acquired \$141 million in state legislative appropriations, to date. The MSB co-manages the project and is responsible for public and government relations, and land use planning for the project.
- **Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)** – A self-sustaining corporation owned by State of Alaska, ARRC is the project’s *Applicant*, responsible for rail-related technical expertise, and for support of the EIS effort. ARRC co-manages the project.



Building a Segment 1 winter trail culvert crossing fall 2013.

- **Surface Transportation Board (STB)** – STB is the lead federal agency on the project with the authority to approve construction of new rail lines (including extensions) in the United States. Because the project requires federal approval, an environmental document was prepared to meet NEPA requirements. The STB, through its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) was responsible for preparing the EIS.

## Cost and Funding

- The total project budget is \$272.5 million.
- From 2008 to present, \$141 million has been funded via state grants.
- An additional \$30 million was obtained through a state bond approved by voters in 2012.
- An additional \$101.5 million in funding is needed to complete design and construction of the project.

## For More Information

### Mat-Su Borough:

- Public Affairs Director Patty Sullivan at 907.745.9577

### Alaska Railroad:

- Corporate Communications Officer Stephenie Wheeler at 907.265.2671

### [www.portmacrail.com](http://www.portmacrail.com)

- Joint MSB-ARRC web site established in 2007 to facilitate the public process prior to STB application submittal. The web site continues to incorporate project status updates and visual information.

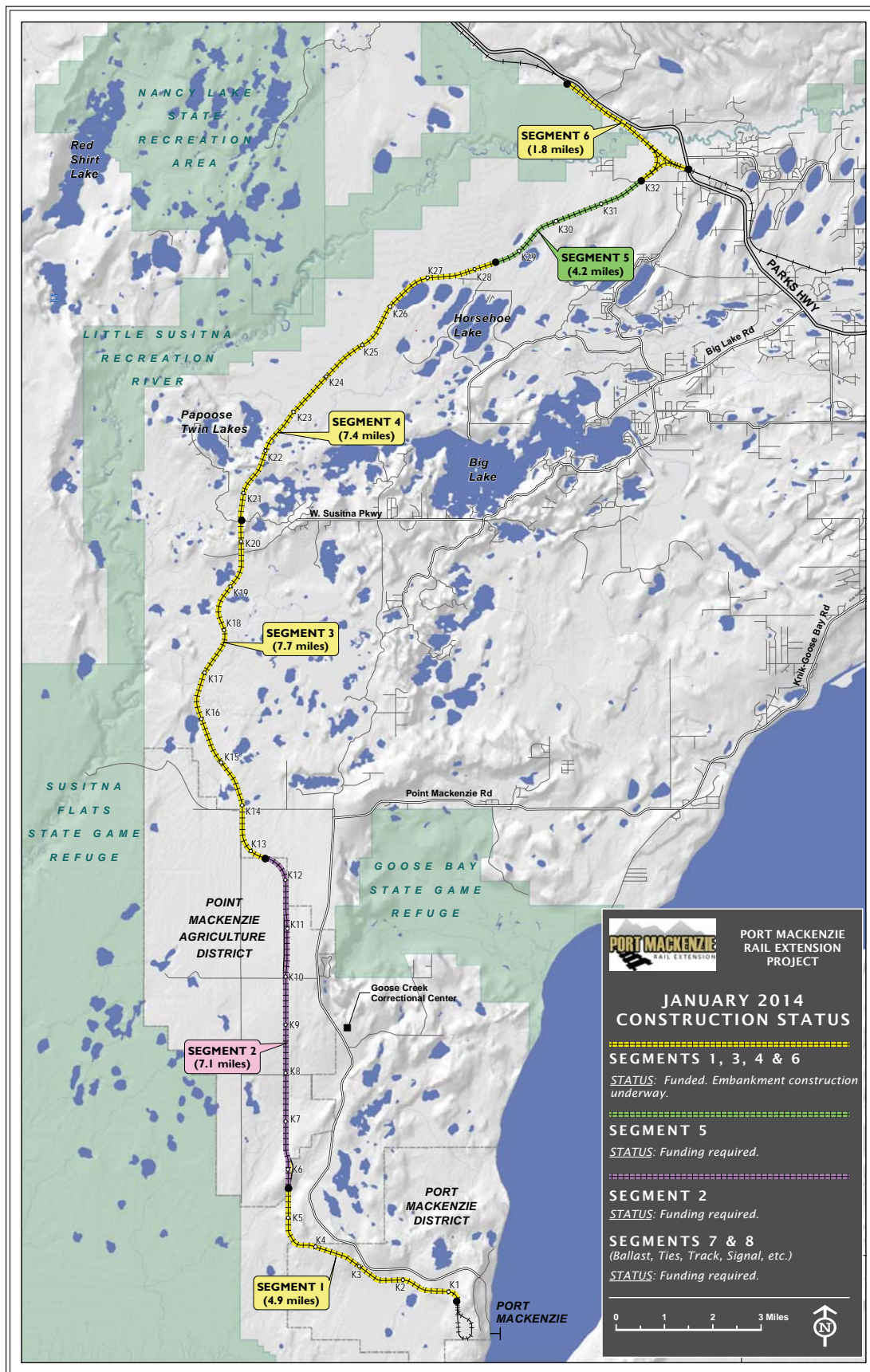


Seeding new embankment along Segment 6 in July 2013.



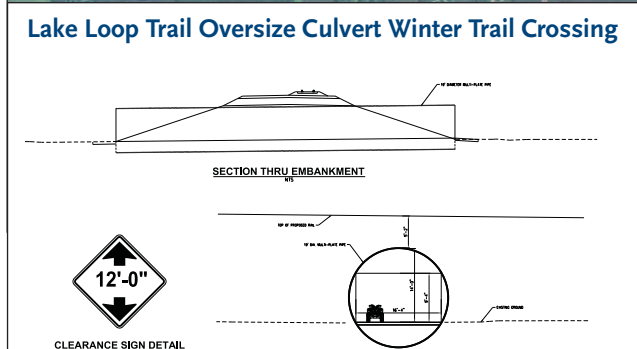
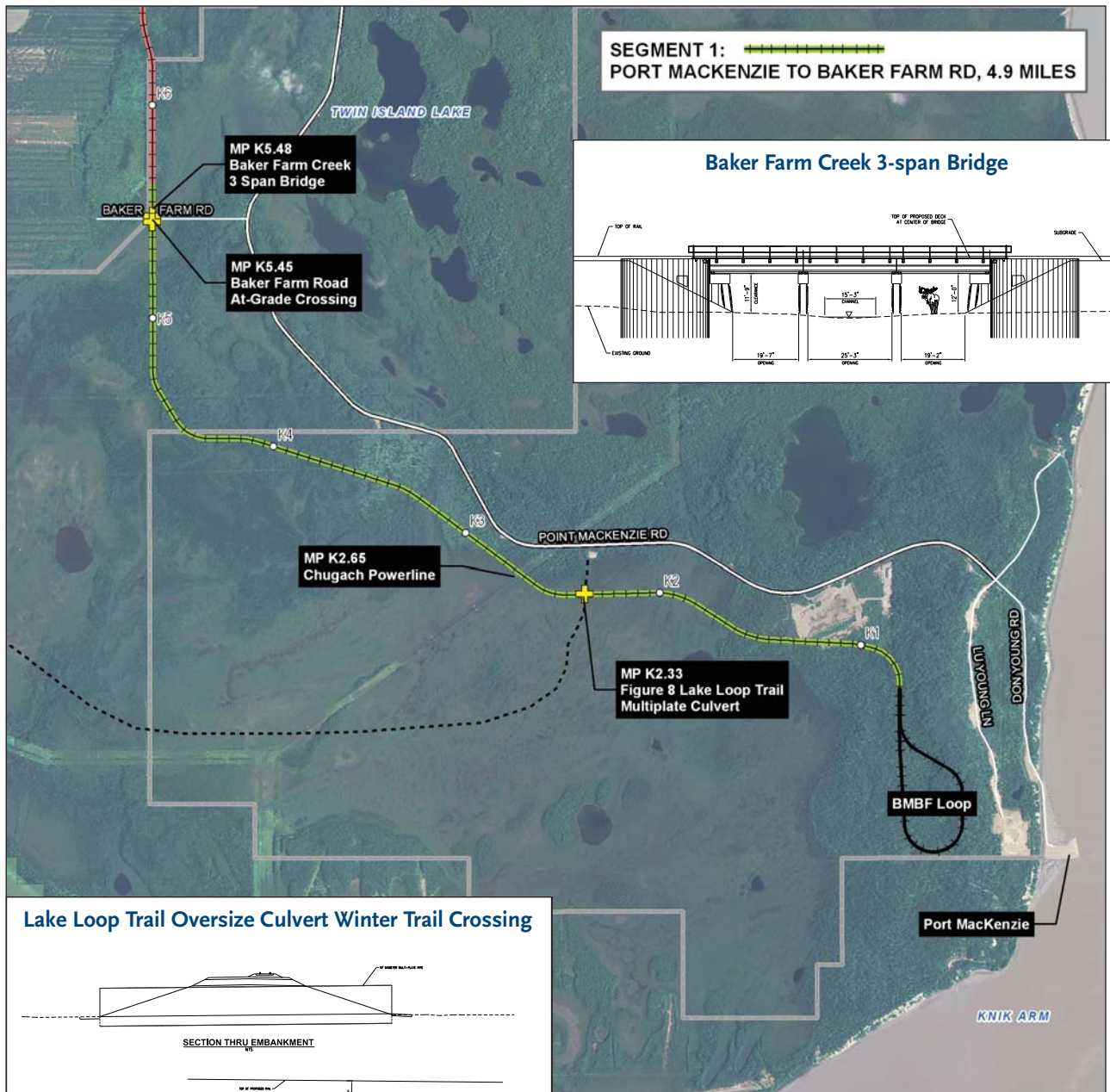


# Project Milepost and Segment Summary





# Segment One



### Scope

- Length: 4.9 miles
- ~ 4 million cubic yards (CY) of earth to be moved; 2.1 million CY moved to date.
- Construct 3-span, 84-foot long bridge crossing over an unnamed stream at Baker Farm.
- Install 19-foot diameter 146-foot long steel multi-plate pipe to create winter crossing at Lake Loop Trail.

### Logistics

- Contractor: Bristol Construction Services
- Begin: Construction began in spring 2012
- Completion: scheduled for fall 2014.

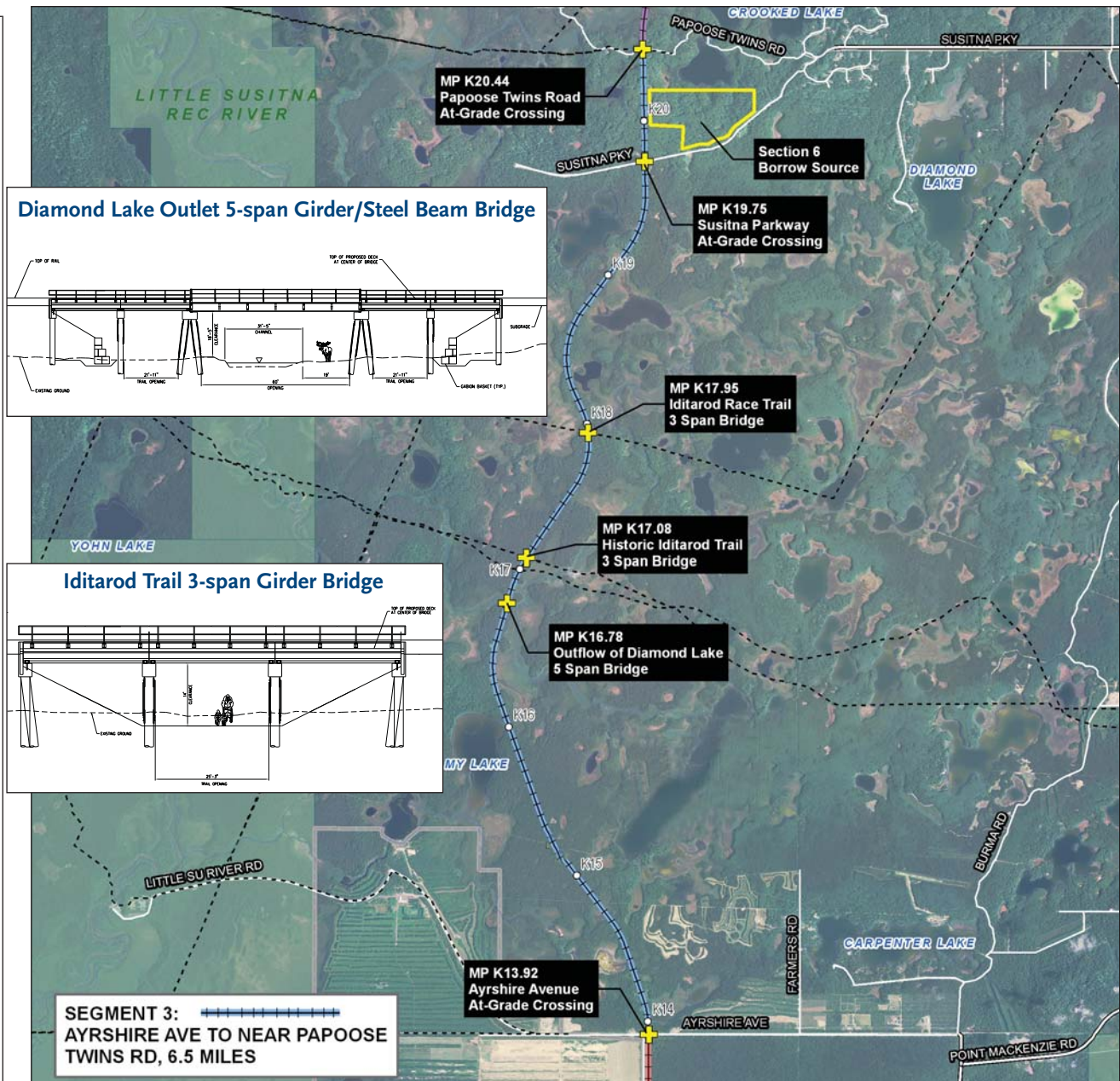
### Status

- Construction accomplished in 2012 included clearing and earthwork.
- Earthwork continued through 2013
- Segment work to be substantially complete by fall 2014.





# Segment Three



## Scope

- Length: 6.5 miles
- ~ 1.1 million CY of earth to be moved
- Construct three bridges:
  - 5-span, pre-cast girder and steel beam bridge over Diamond Lake Outlet/Outfall.
  - 3-span, pre-cast girder bridge over Historic Iditarod Trail.
  - 3-span, pre-cast girder bridge over Iditarod Race Trail.
- Install 18-foot diameter 128-foot long steel multi-plate pipe to cross unnamed trail.

## Logistics

- Contractor: Quality Asphalt Paving (QAP)
- Begin: construction begins spring 2013.
- Completion: scheduled for summer 2014.

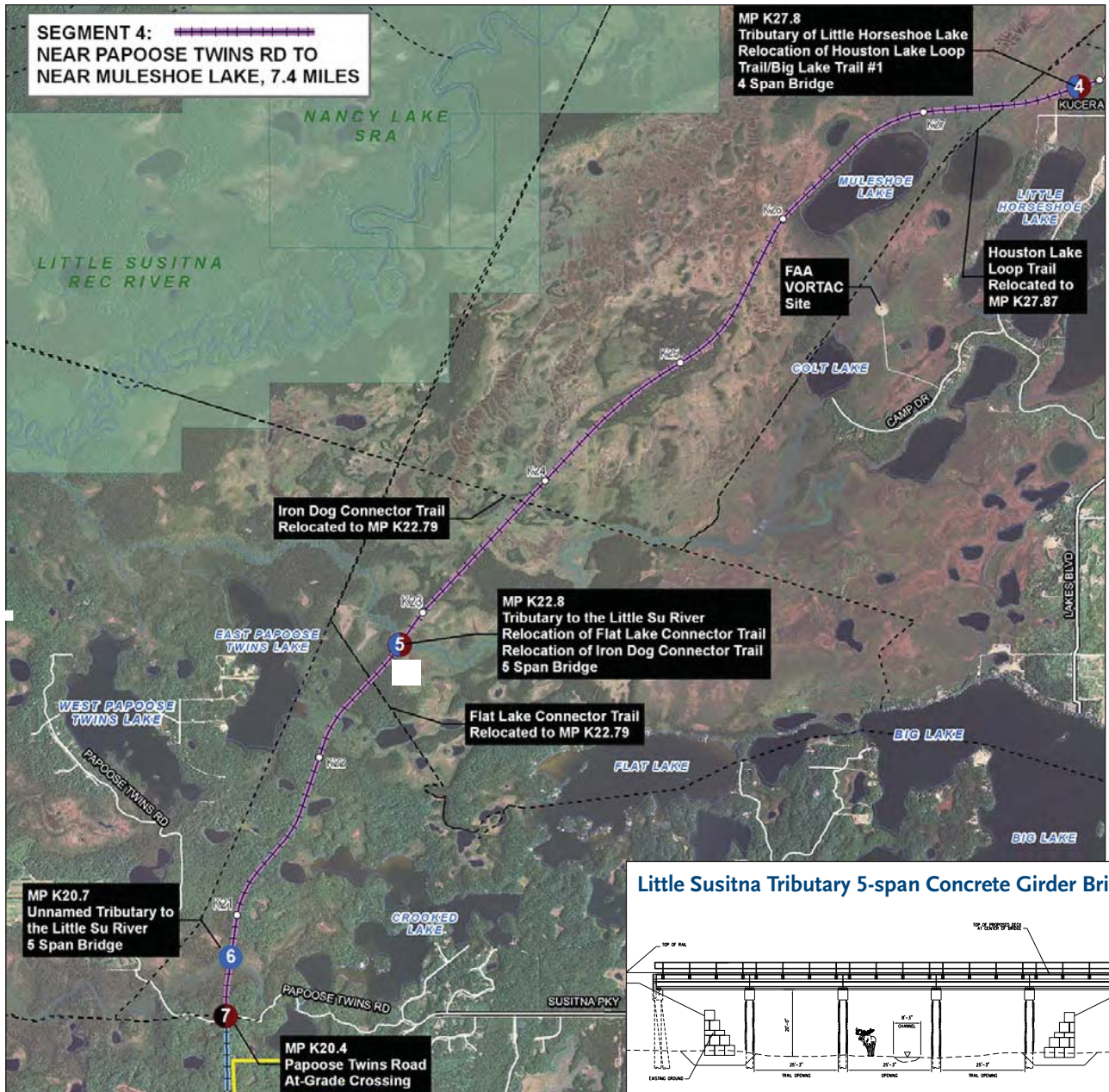
## Status

- Clearing completed in 2013.
- Segment work to be substantially complete by mid-summer 2014.
- Work on three bridges will be complete by early summer 2014.





# Segment Four



### Scope

- Length: 7.4 miles
- ~ 1.0 million CY of earth to be moved
- Construct three bridges:
  - 5-span, concrete girder 140-foot bridge over Tributary to Little Susitna River.
  - 5-span, concrete girder 140-foot bridge over Iron Dog Trail.
  - 4-span, concrete girder 112-foot bridge over Houston Loop Trail.
- Closest residence is 970 feet.

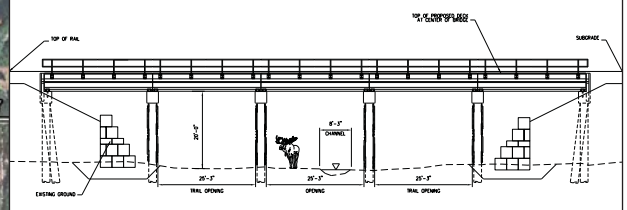
### Logistics

- Contractor: Bristol Construction Services
- Begin: construction begins winter 2013.
- Completion: scheduled for fall 2015.

### Status

- Clearing underway.
- Segment work to be substantially complete by end of 2015.

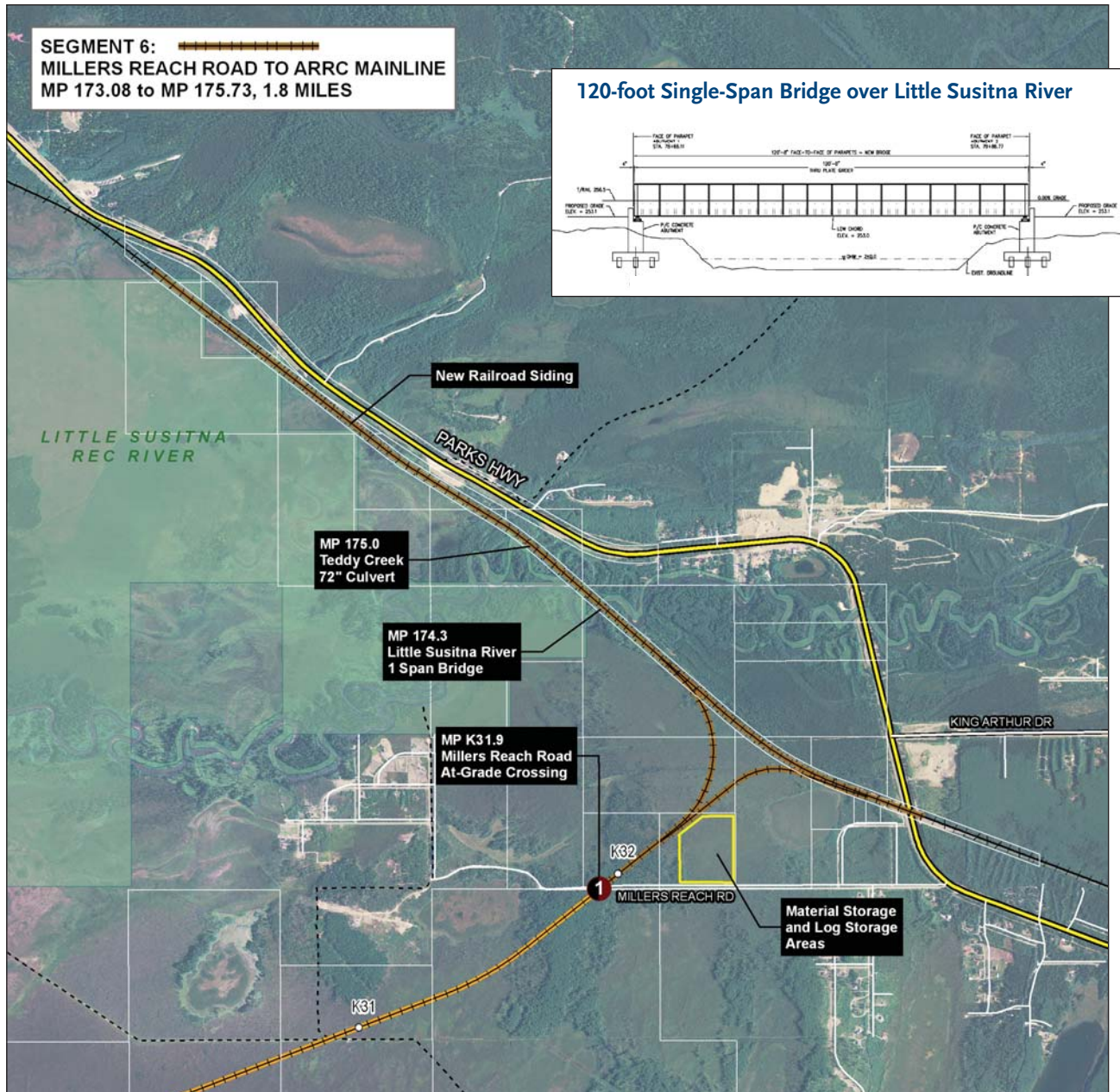
Little Susitna Tributary 5-span Concrete Girder Bridge







# Segment Six



### Scope

- Length: 5.1 miles
- ~ 630,000 CY of earth to be moved
- Construct single-span 120-foot long steel girder bridge over the Little Susitna River.
- Construct a “Y” rail connection and a new siding adjacent to the Alaska Railroad main line.
- Install a 6-foot diameter 92-foot long steel pipe to provide fish passage at Teddy Creek.

### Logistics

- Contractor: Granite Construction
- Begin: construction begins spring 2013.
- Completion: scheduled for spring 2014.

### Status

- Clearing underway.
- Segment work to be substantially complete by June 2014.