



Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District (IDSHD)

Small Focus Group Workshop

Thursday, July 7, 2011

6:00-8:00 pm

Big Lake Library, Big Lake, Alaska

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Overall Goal of the IDSHD Small Focus Group Workshop
 - a. Develop and address the location and design of trail crossings to minimize or mitigate impacts to important characteristics of the IDSHD focusing on connectivity and use of the landscape.
- III. Brief Discussion of the Proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- IV. Discussion of Comments/Issues Identified during the June 28th Workshop
 - a. Questions/Comments
- V. Workshop Wrap-up
- VI. Next Steps
 - a. IDSHD July 19 Workshop
 - b. MSB recreational trail user meeting
 - c. IDSHD Workshop Summary and Implementation Plan
- VII. Adjournment



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<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District Workshop

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Willow Area Community Organization Center, Willow, Alaska

Discussions at the June 28th Iditarod Dog Sledding Historic District (IDSHD) Workshop primarily focused on access, safety, and connectivity concerns. This document summarizes comments on these topics recorded during the workshop to facilitate discussions during the Small Focus Group Workshop on July 7, 2011. The purpose of the Small Focus Group discussion is to review and clarify workshop comments and discuss options for addressing the issues.

- Recommendations for additional crossings or trails:
 - Separated grade crossing (bridge) for the historic Iditarod Trail between Crossings #10 and #11 (north of the actual Iditarod Race route)
 - Crossing for the Iron Dog trail [*is this Crossing #7?*]
 - Crossing for the existing trail used by mushers to avoid Iron Dog traffic (between Crossings #5 and #6)
 - Crossing for contributing trail between Crossings #13 and #14 [*is this trail in use?*]
 - Crossings at seismic and/or section lines in Big Lake area (Crossings #2 through #9)
 - Trail parallel to the proposed rail right-of-way

- Safety issues:
 - Recommend increasing clearance under bridges to more than 12 feet to account for snow depth and removal of snow from rail portions over bridges
 - Reroutes and combining trails (e.g., routing snowmachiners off of seismic lines onto Crossing #11) may “bottleneck” users and increase the potential for collisions and user conflicts between snowmachiners and mushers
 - Concerns about locations and/or types of crossings (e.g., Crossing #9 is currently proposed to be an at-grade crossing in a high vehicle traffic area)
 - Concerns about design (e.g., span width, crossing approaches)

Additional comments recorded during the June 28th Workshop did not pertain to the IDSHD or are outside the scope of these workshops. These comments are not included in this summary document and will be addressed as appropriate during later meetings with mushers and other recreational trail users in the project area.

Types of Rail Crossings



Coastal Trail Culvert/Pedestrian Crossing

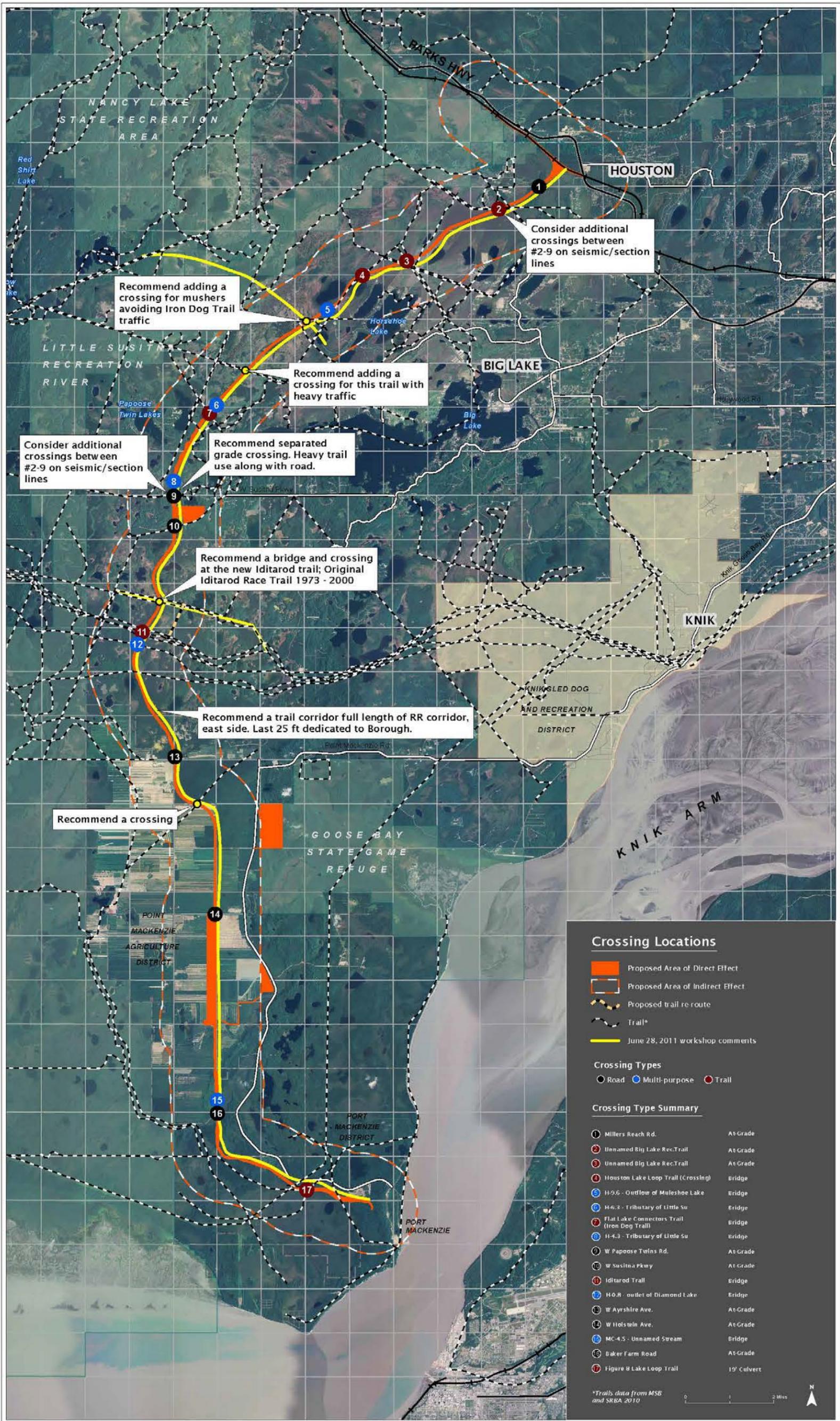


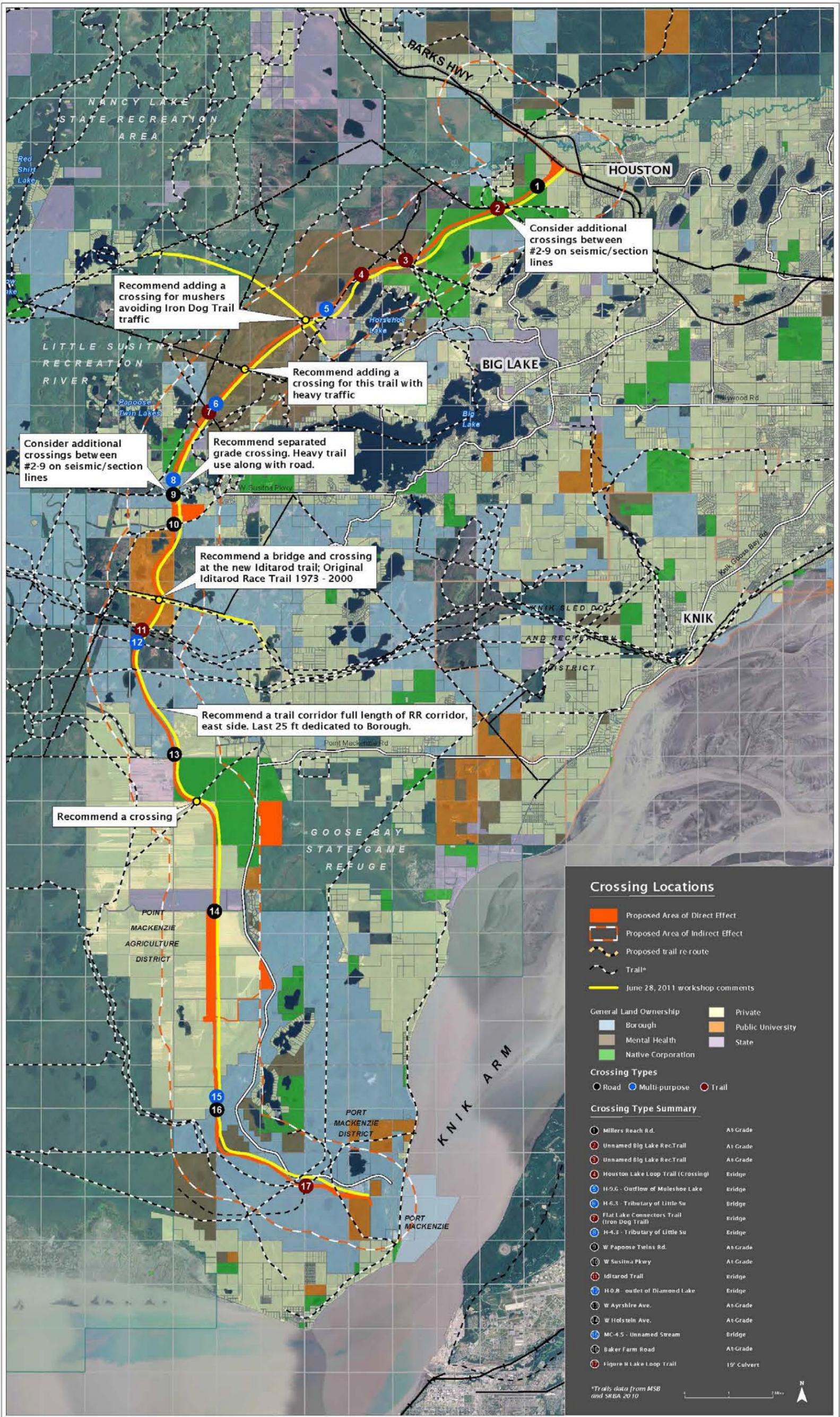
One-Span Multi-Purpose Crossing



Triple-Span Multi-Purpose Crossing







NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

LITTLE SUSITNA RECREATION RIVER

POINT MACKENZIE AGRICULTURE DISTRICT

GOOSE BAY STATE GAME REFUGE

POINT MACKENZIE DISTRICT

PORT MACKENZIE DISTRICT

PORT MACKENZIE

BARKS HWY

HOUSTON

BIG LAKE

KNIK

KNIK ARM

Recommend adding a crossing for mushers avoiding Iron Dog Trail traffic

Consider additional crossings between #2-9 on seismic/section lines

Recommend adding a crossing for this trail with heavy traffic

Consider additional crossings between #2-9 on seismic/section lines

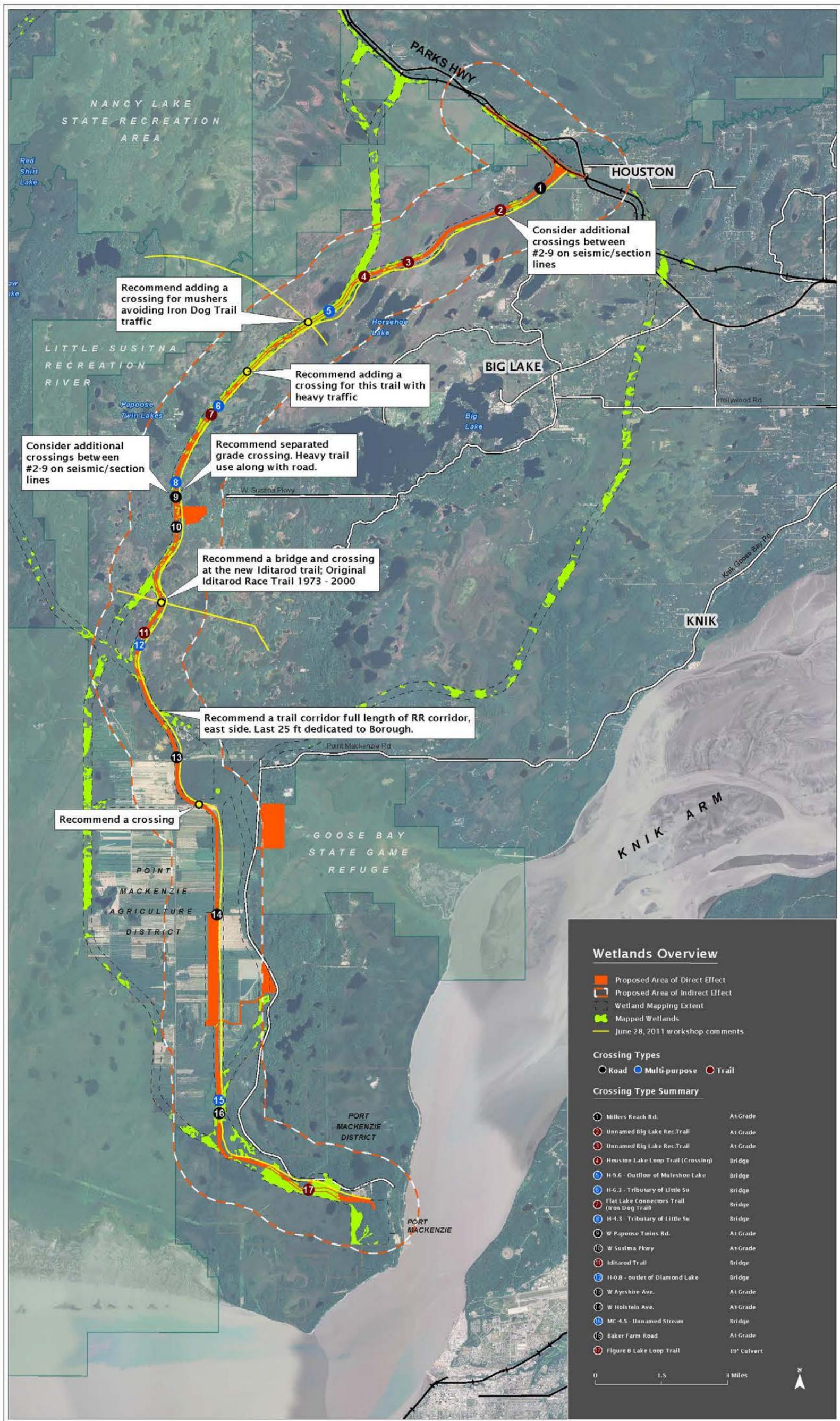
Recommend separated grade crossing. Heavy trail use along with road.

Recommend a bridge and crossing at the new Iditarod trail; Original Iditarod Race Trail 1973 - 2000

Recommend a trail corridor full length of RR corridor, east side. Last 25 ft dedicated to Borough.

Recommend a crossing





Wetlands Overview

- Proposed Area of Direct Effect
- Proposed Area of Indirect Effect
- Wetland Mapping Extent
- Mapped Wetlands
- June 28, 2011 workshop comments

Crossing Types

- Road
- Multi-purpose
- Trail

Crossing Type Summary

1	Millers Reach Rd.	At Grade
2	Unnamed Big Lake Rec.Trail	At Grade
3	Unnamed Big Lake Rec.Trail	At Grade
4	Houston Lake Loop Trail (Crossing)	Bridge
5	H-9.6 - Outflow of Muleshoe Lake	Bridge
6	H-6.3 - Tributary of Little Su	Bridge
7	Flat Lake Connectors Trail (Iron Dog Trail)	Bridge
8	H-4.3 - Tributary of Little Su	Bridge
9	W Papoose Twins Rd.	At Grade
10	W Susitna Pkwy	At Grade
11	Iditarod Trail	Bridge
12	H-0.8 - outlet of Diamond Lake	Bridge
13	W Ayrshire Ave.	At Grade
14	W Holstein Ave.	At Grade
15	MC-4.5 - Unnamed Stream	Bridge
16	Baker Farm Road	At Grade
17	Figure 8 Lake Loop Trail	19' Culvert

