

3.5 Coastal Zone

Existing Conditions

In 1972, the U.S. Congress passed the federal Coastal Zone Management Act to create a "partnership between state and local governments in the planning and management of coastal resources." In response to this Act, Alaska began considering comprehensive coastal management and passed the Alaska Coastal Management Act in 1977. The Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) provides statewide policy and guidance to projects proposed within the Alaska coastal boundary. The MOA is a coastal district of the ACMP.

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act authorizes the state to review federal activities and federally permitted activities within or affecting the coastal zone. According to the *Coastal Zone Boundaries Atlas*, Campbell Creek is located within the Anchorage Coastal Zone (State of Alaska 2005). Figure 3.109 shows the Anchorage Coastal Zone boundary within the study area.

What is the Alaska Coastal Management Program?

"The Alaska Coastal Management Program provides stewardship for Alaska's rich and diverse coastal resources to ensure a healthy and vibrant Alaskan coast that efficiently sustains long-term economic and environmental productivity."

-Mission of the ACMP
(ADNR 2006)

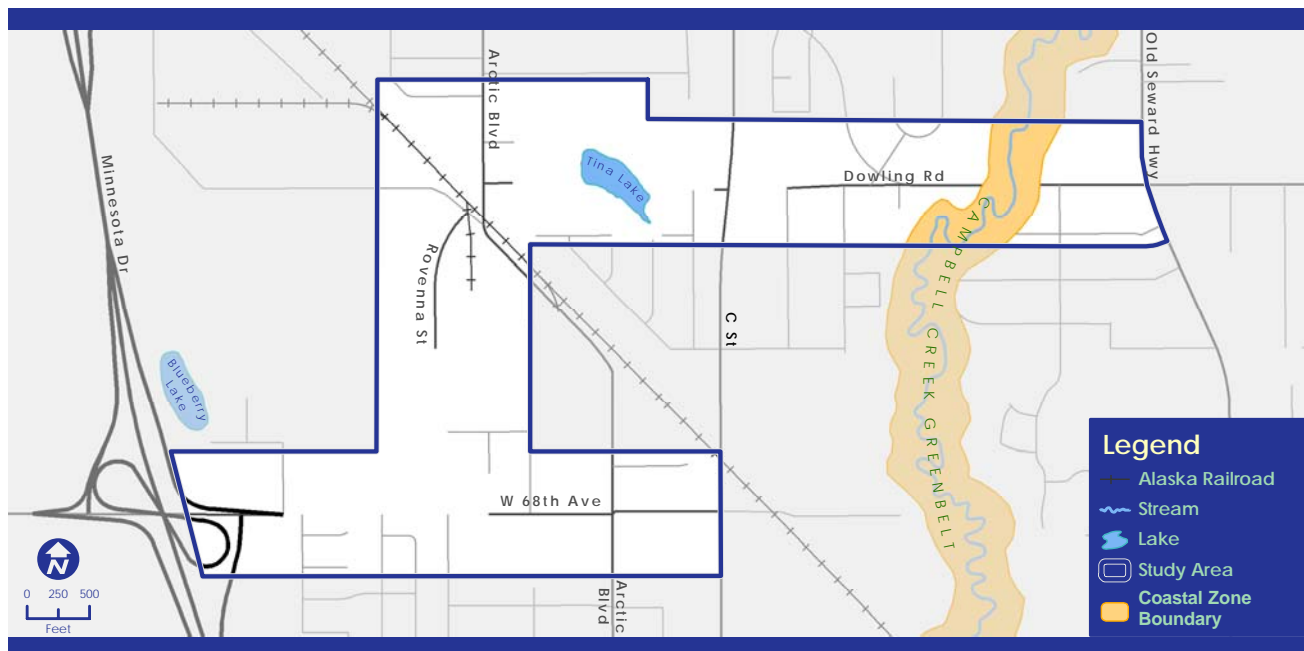


Figure 3.109 Alaska Coastal Zone Boundary

Projects that occur within the Alaska coastal boundary, as defined by the Alaska Coastal

Management Act, are subject to a consistency review to determine whether they are compliant with the state and local coastal management programs.

Environmental Consequences

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on the Coastal Zone. A Coastal Consistency Review would not be required.

Statewide Policies

The Proposed Action is consistent with the standards, goals, and policies of the ACMP. The applicable standards are discussed below.

Natural Hazards

The ACMP establishes standards for development in natural hazard areas. Anchorage is a known seismic area. The Proposed Action would be designed and take into account the potential for earthquake activity in the region to mitigate the effect of damage to bridges and roadways.

Air, Land, and Water Quality

The ACMP contains standards designed to maintain air, land, and water quality. Impacts to air, land, and water quality are discussed in Sections 3.1, 3.19, and 3.4, respectively.

Habitats

The ACMP has standards to protect habitats. Two of the protected habitats are found in the study area: “wetlands” and “rivers, streams, lakes and floodplains”. According to the ACMP, significant adverse impacts must be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. Wetland impacts caused by the Proposed Action would be minimized and mitigated; therefore, they are not significant. Wetland impacts are discussed in Section 3.7. Significant adverse impacts to rivers, streams, and lakes must also be avoided, minimized, and mitigated. Water body impacts are discussed in Section 3.2. Floodplain

impacts are discussed in Section 3.3. Other habitat protection measures can be found in Wildlife, Section 3.9 and Fish and Essential Fish Habitat, Section 3.8.

Transportation Routes and Facilities

The ACMP requires transportation projects to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the following:

- Alterations in surface and ground water drainage patterns
- Disruptions in known or reasonably foreseeable wildlife transit
- Blockage of existing or traditional access

The Proposed Action would minimize and mitigate alterations in surface and ground water drainage patterns. Changes to drainage patterns are discussed in Section 3.4, Water Quality. Under the Proposed Action, no disruptions to wildlife transit routes or blockages to traditional access are anticipated. The Campbell Creek bridge will provide approximately ~~10+2~~ feet of clearance to facilitate wildlife movement. **The clearance of the proposed Campbell Creek bridge was originally listed as 12 feet in error. The correct clearance is 10 feet which would provide 4 additional feet of clearance than the existing bridge. To increase the bridge clearance to 14 feet would cost approximately \$3.1 Million and would require the relocation of 13 additional households. For more information on the bridge clearance, please see Section 4.0.**

Anchorage District Policies

The Anchorage Coastal District has developed a set of enforceable policies, in addition to the statewide ACMP standards. The Anchorage Coastal Management Plan (CMP) deals directly with local coastal management objectives, is in compliance with the ACMP, and was developed to be consistent with the ACMP.

The Anchorage CMP is one tool used to implement the MOA comprehensive plan (MOA 2001) and

LRTP (DOT&PF, MOA, and AMATS 2005). The Proposed Action is included in the LRTP, and is consistent with the Anchorage CMP.

The applicable district enforceable policies are discussed below:

Park and Recreation Areas

Three Anchorage CMP policies protect park and recreation areas. These policies involve acquiring land and preserving their recreational use. The Proposed Action would remove a small portion of the Campbell Creek Greenbelt from recreational use. Construction of a trailhead for Foxtree Park would replace that land with lands of equal value. The Proposed Action would also realign the Campbell Creek Trail so that it would go under the new Campbell Creek bridge. Realigning the trail would improve safety and recreation by separating the bicyclists and pedestrians from vehicular traffic. Impacts to recreational resources are discussed in detail in Section 3.17.

River Floodplains

The Anchorage CMP has four measures to protect river floodplains. These measures discourage development in the 100-year floodplain and encourage protection of the natural functions and values of the floodplain. The bridge over Campbell Creek would be set back farther from the creek edge. This setback would reduce encroachment on the Campbell Creek floodplain, which would help retain the natural functions of the floodplain. Floodplain impacts are discussed in Section 3.3.

Class II Waters

Campbell Creek is listed as a Class II water body. The Anchorage CMP restricts uses and activities that degrade water quality or cause violations of state and federal water quality standards. The Proposed Action may have short-term impacts on Campbell Creek, but no long-term negative impacts are anticipated. Water quality impacts are discussed in Section 3.4.

Selected Coastal and Upland Marshes and Wetlands

The Anchorage CMP describes seven measures to preserve coastal and upland marshes and wetlands. The measure that applies to the Proposed Action requires the avoidance or minimization of any identified adverse impact to wetlands from public works activities. The Proposed Action would minimize its impact on wetlands. Wetland impacts are discussed in Section 3.7.

Construction

Temporary construction activities related to the Proposed Action would not affect coastal zone management. Construction impacts would be minimized through erosion and sediment control and other BMPs for reducing impacts to environmental resources. See respective sections of this EA for details about the mitigation measures that would be incorporated into the proposed project.

Mitigation and Authorizations

DNR-OPMP, in cooperation with MOA, would make a determination of consistency with the ACMP during permitting. A finding of consistency with the ACMP must be obtained before permits can be issued for the proposed project. **All conditions of the ACMP final consistency determination will be complied with.**