



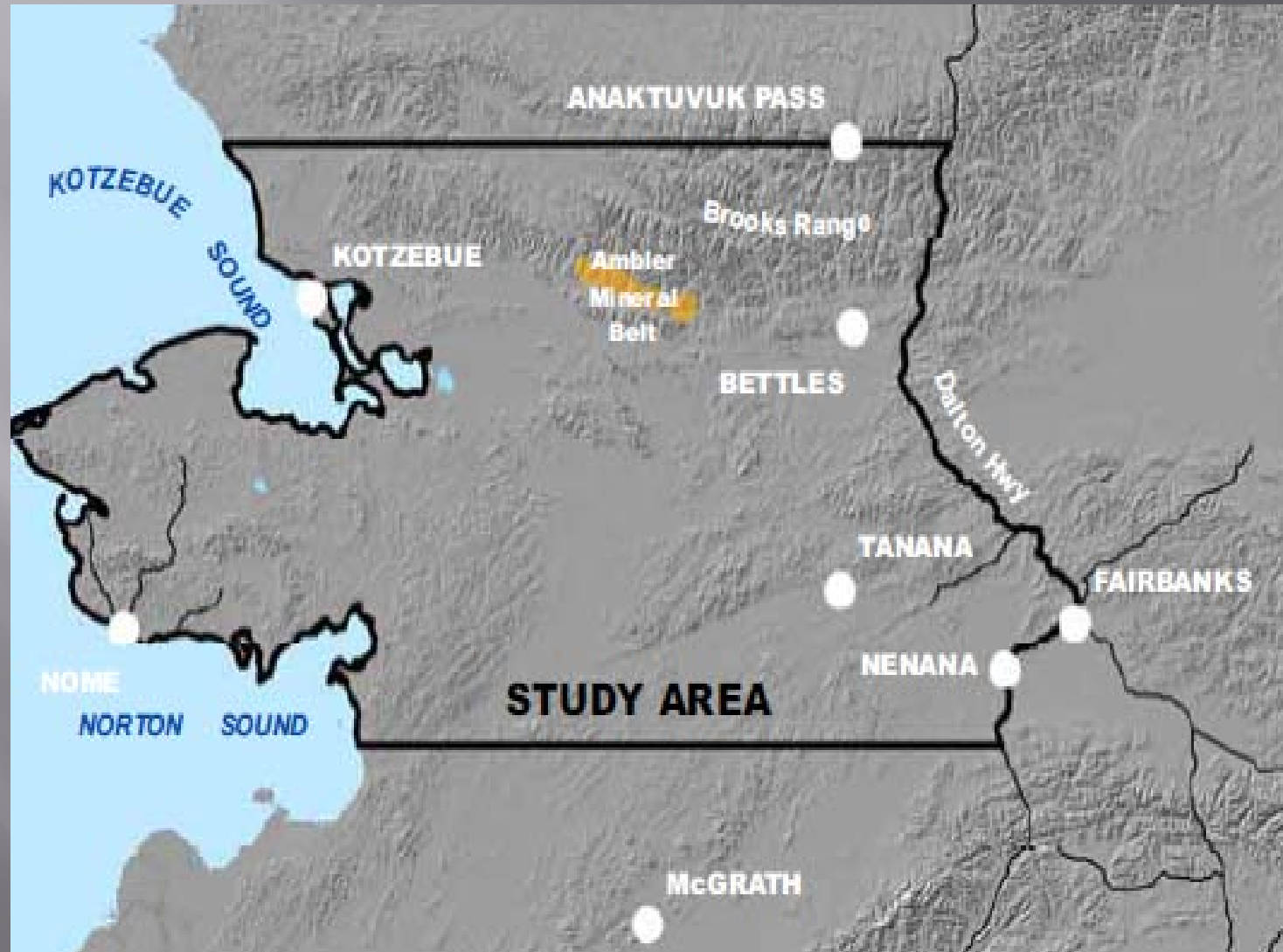
# **Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**

*Ambler Mining District Access*

<http://ambleraccess.alaska.gov>

# *Ambler Mining District Access*

## Project Study Area



# Project Purpose

Evaluate potential transportation corridors serving the Ambler Mining District for the purpose of providing all season access for exploration and development of the mineral resources within this District.

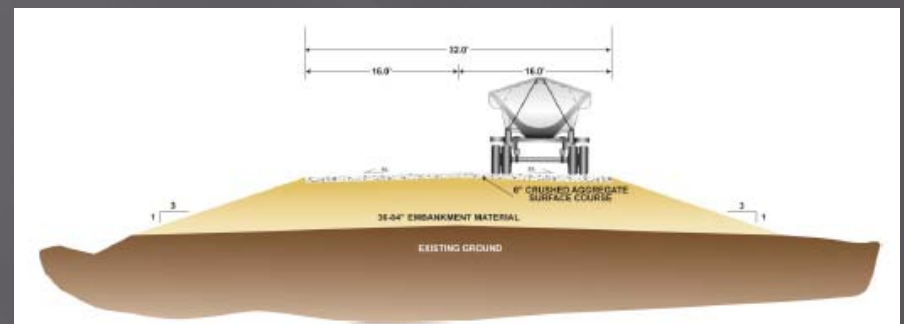
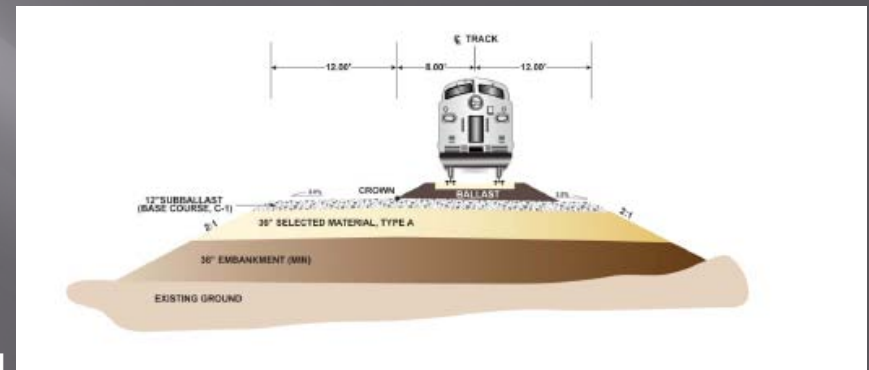
State Funded Project:

\$4M Appropriation in FY2011 Capital Budget

\$1.25M Appropriation in FY 2012 Capital Budget

\$4M Appropriation in FY 2013 Capital Budget

Evaluated road, rail, barge and airport networks.  
Also addressing critical infrastructure needs for  
natural resource development, such as power and  
communications



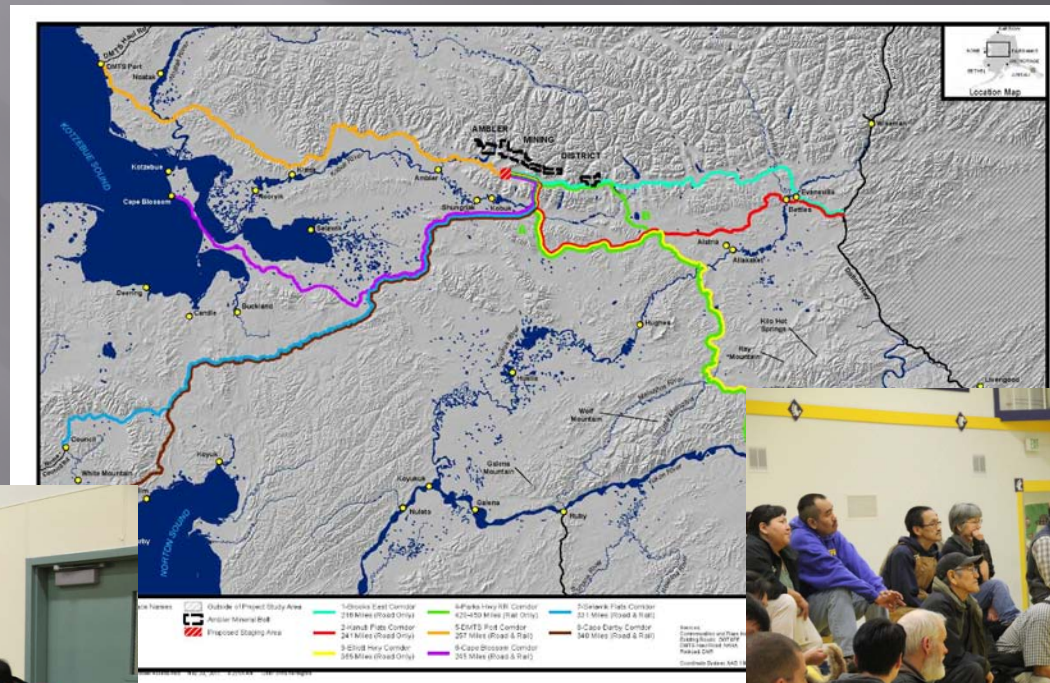


# DOT&PF is in the Reconnaissance Phase

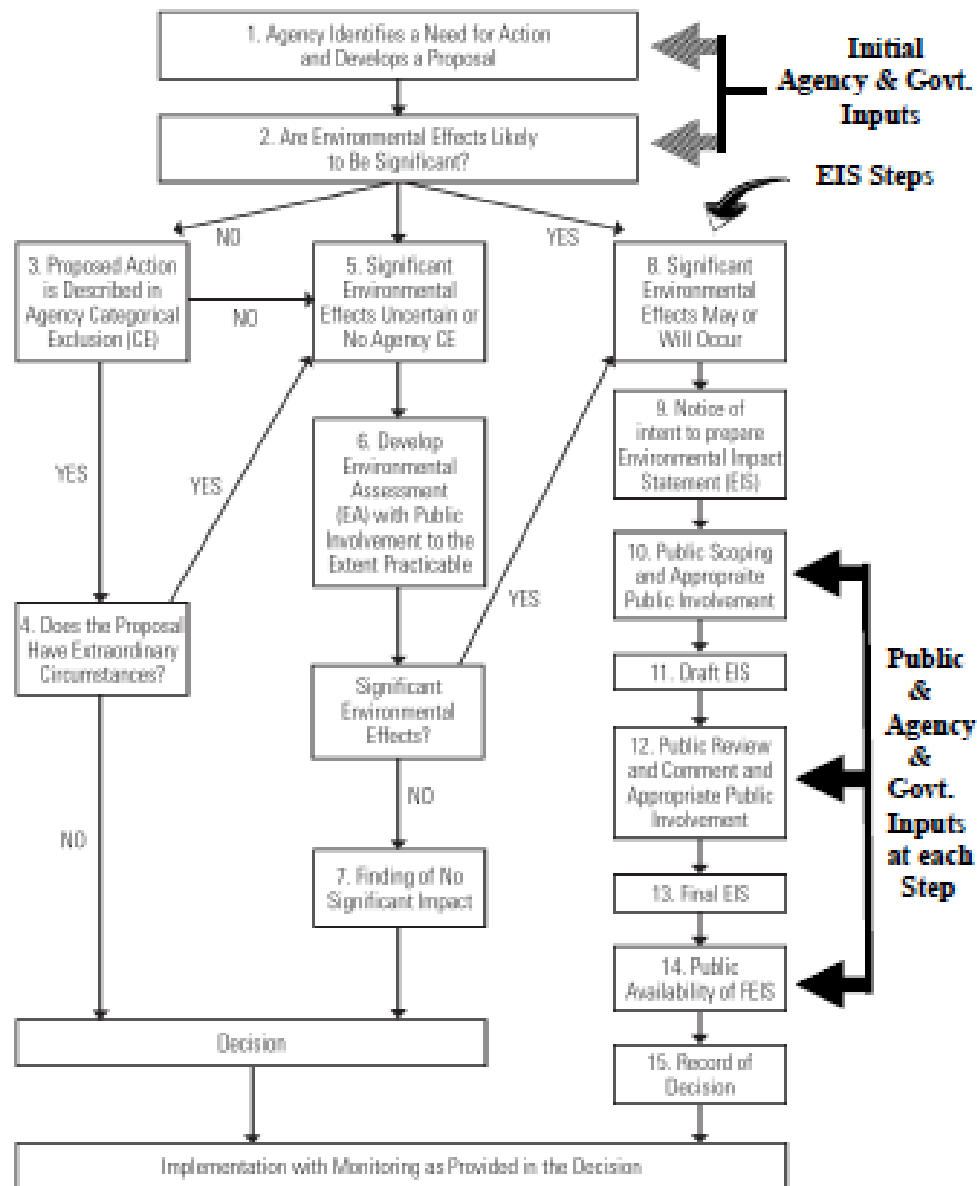
## DOT&PF Stages of Project Development:

**Ambler Mining District Access** ➔

- 1) Reconnaissance Level Investigations
- 2) Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Work
- 3) Final Design
- 4) Construction



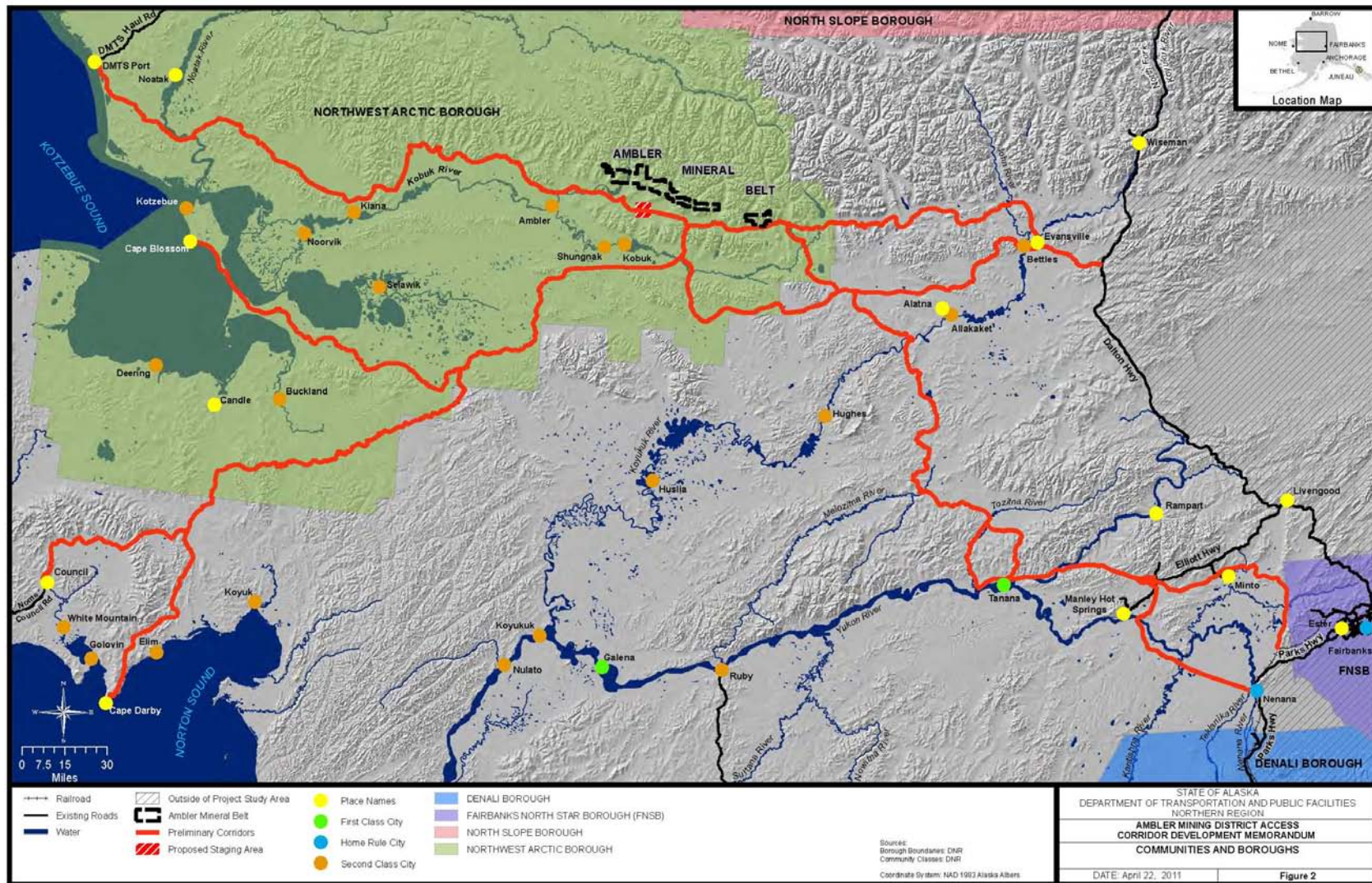
## The NEPA Process \*



\* from: *A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA*. Council on Environmental Quality Executive Office of the President. December, 2007. 55 pp.

DOT&PF is still in the Reconnaissance phase – We have not initiated the NEPA process yet.





# Evaluating all Corridors equally Road & Rail

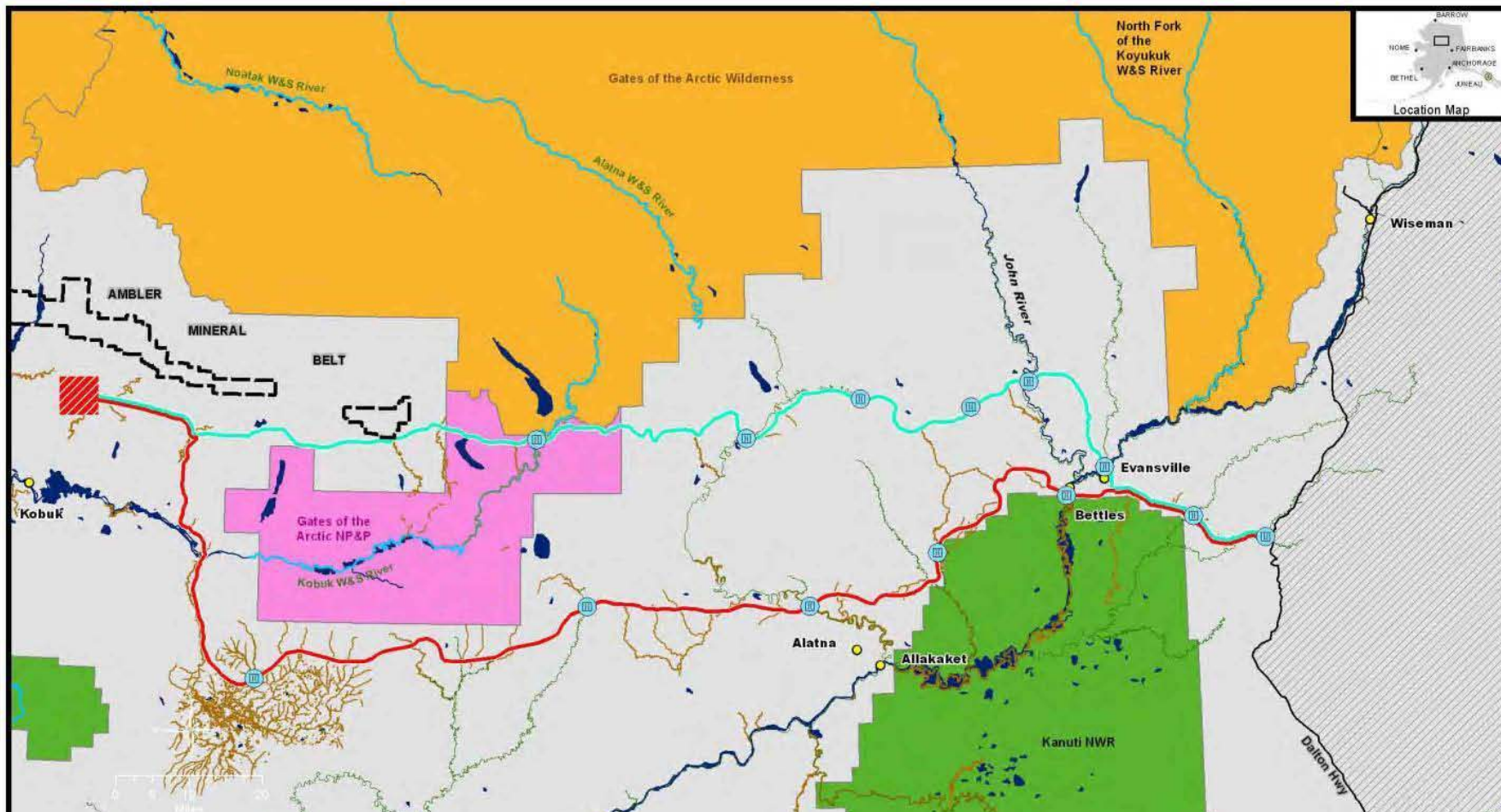
Major Engineering and Environmental factors for consideration:

- Corridor Length
- Federal Lands
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Salmon/Sheefish Rivers
- Caribou Habitat
- Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat
- Wetlands Impacts
- Material Site Availability
- Drainage Crossings
- Construction Costs
- Maintenance Costs
- Special Considerations

**Public Input and Agency/Stakeholder involvement provides input into this process and considered in parallel**



# Ambler Mining District Access to Dalton Highway Corridor - *Roads*



## Northern Route:

Corridor Length: 220 Miles

Large River Crossings: 13

Material Site Availability: Excellent

Estimated Construction Cost: \$430M (approx \$2M/mile)

Federal CSU: GANPP ANILCA Title II, Section 201(4)

## Southern Route:

Corridor Length: 250 Miles

Large River Crossings: 14

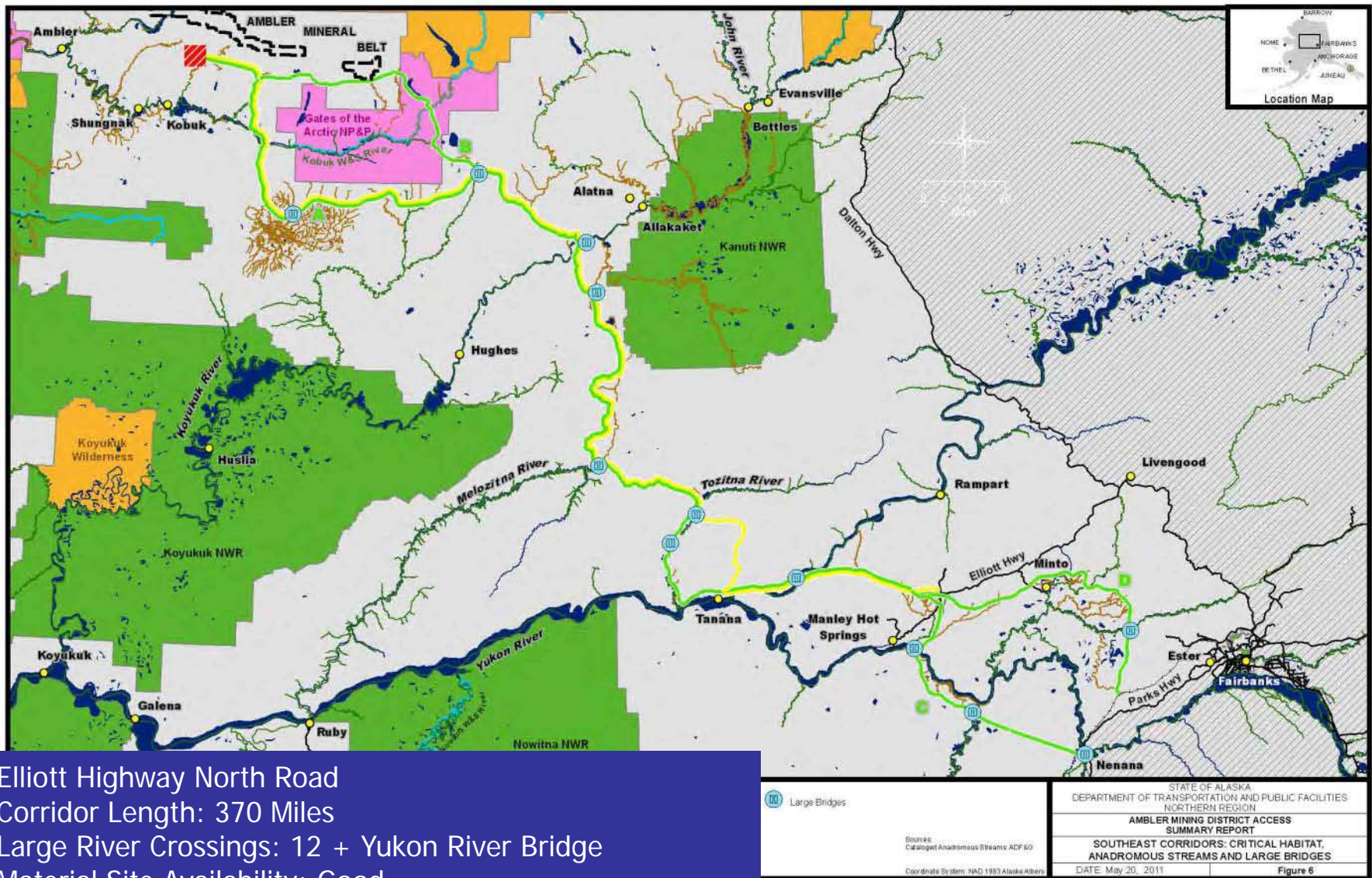
Material Site Availability: Fair

Estimated Construction Cost: \$510M (approx \$2M/mile)

Federal CSU: None



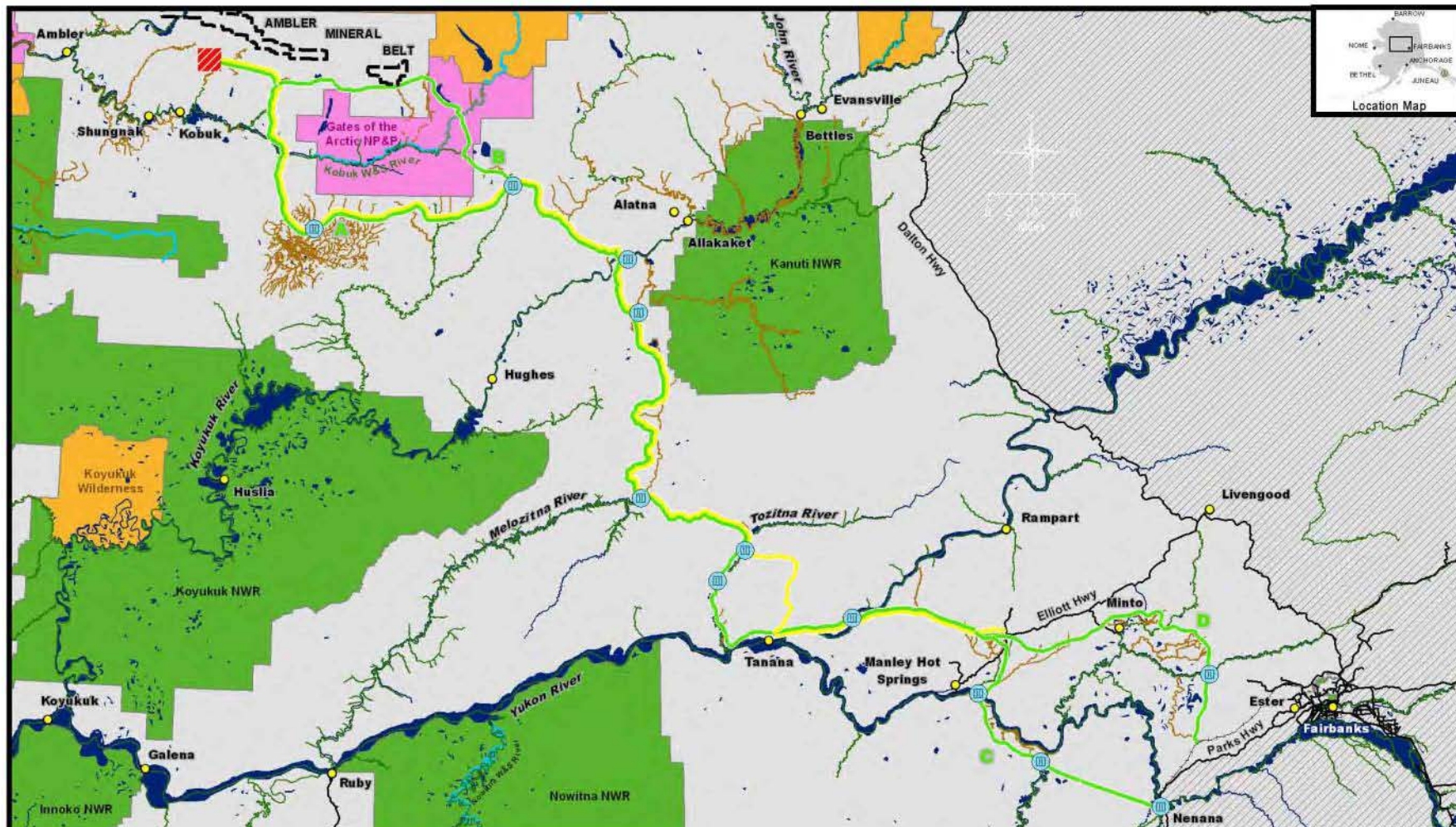
# Ambler Mining District Access to Elliott Highway - *Roads*



Elliott Highway North Road  
Corridor Length: 370 Miles  
Large River Crossings: 12 + Yukon River Bridge  
Material Site Availability: Good  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$990M (approx. \$2.7M/mile)  
Federal CSU: None



# Ambler Mining District Access to Nenana – *Railroads*

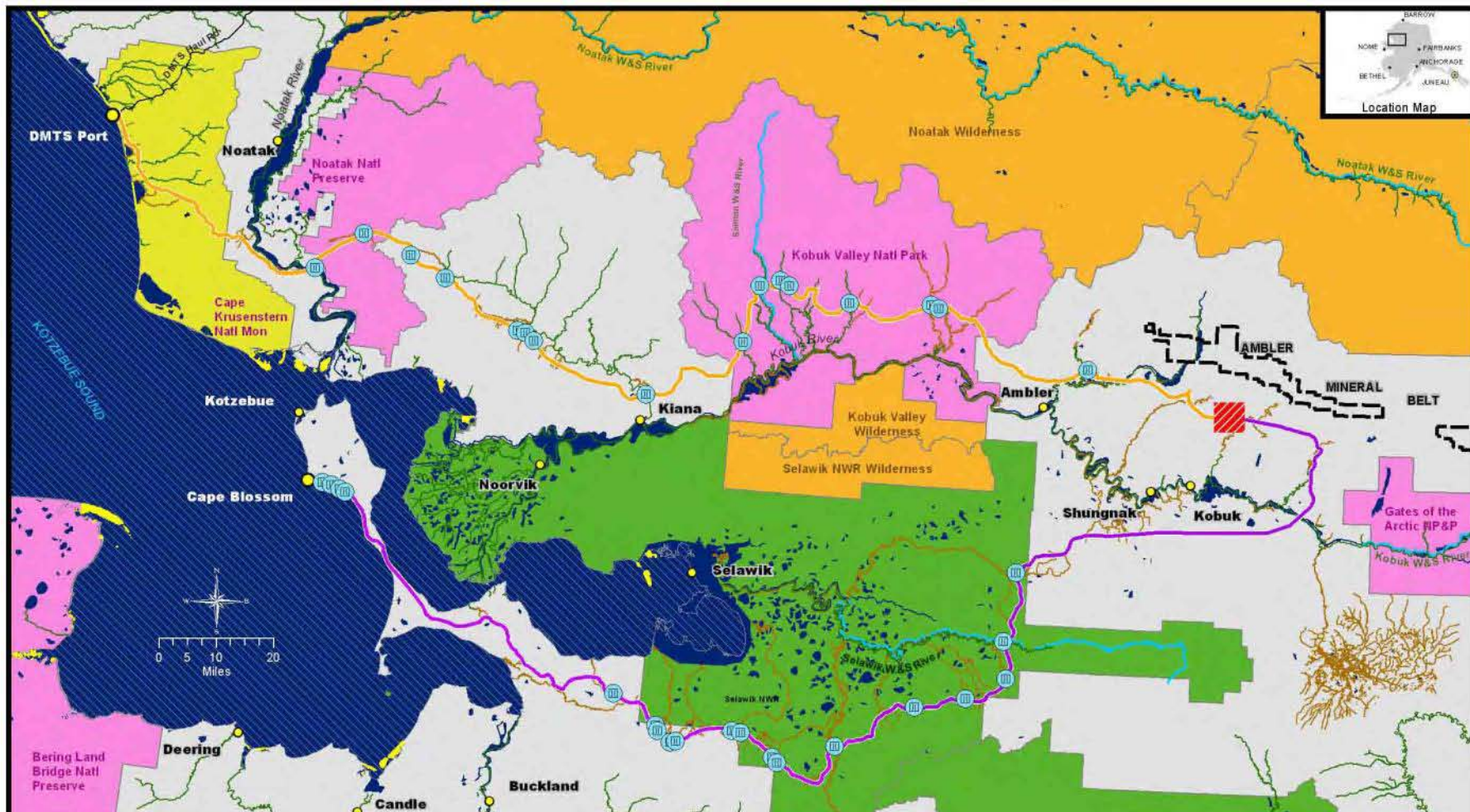


Nenana North: Railroads  
 Corridor Lengths: 420-450 miles  
 Large River Crossings: 13-17 + Yukon River Bridge  
 Material Site Availability: Good  
 Estimated Construction Cost: \$1.8B – \$2.0B (Approx \$4.5M/mile)  
 Federal CSU: None

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bridges<br><br>Sources:<br>Cataloged Anadromous Streams ADF 80<br><br>Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers | STATE OF ALASKA<br>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES<br>NORTHERN REGION<br>AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS<br>SUMMARY REPORT<br>SOUTHEAST CORRIDORS: CRITICAL HABITAT,<br>ANADROMOUS STREAMS AND LARGE BRIDGES<br>DATE: May 20, 2011<br>Figure 6 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



# Ambler Mining District to DMTS Corridor – *Road and Railroad*

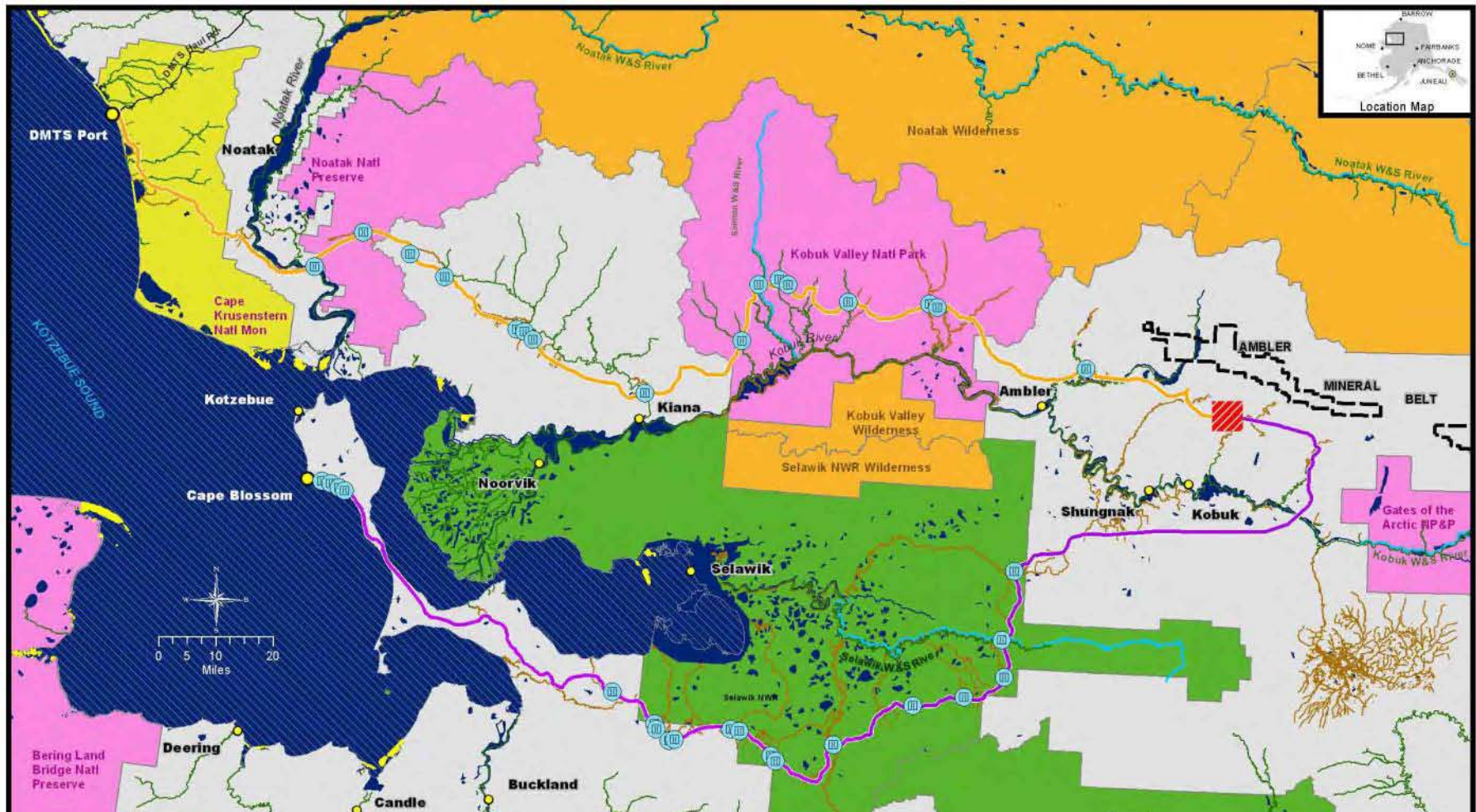


DMTS Corridor Road:  
Corridor Length: 260 miles  
Large River Crossings: 19 + Noatak River Bridge  
Material Site Availability: Good to Fair  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$720M (Aprx \$2.8M/mile)  
Federal CSU: Kobuk Valley NP/Noatak NP

DMTS Corridor Railroad:  
Corridor Lengths: 260 miles  
Large River Crossings: 19 + Noatak River Bridge  
Material Site Availability: Good to Fair  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$1.25B (Aprx \$4.8M/mile)  
Federal CSU: Kobuk Valley NP/Noatak NP



# Ambler Mining District to Cape Blossom – *Road and Railroad*

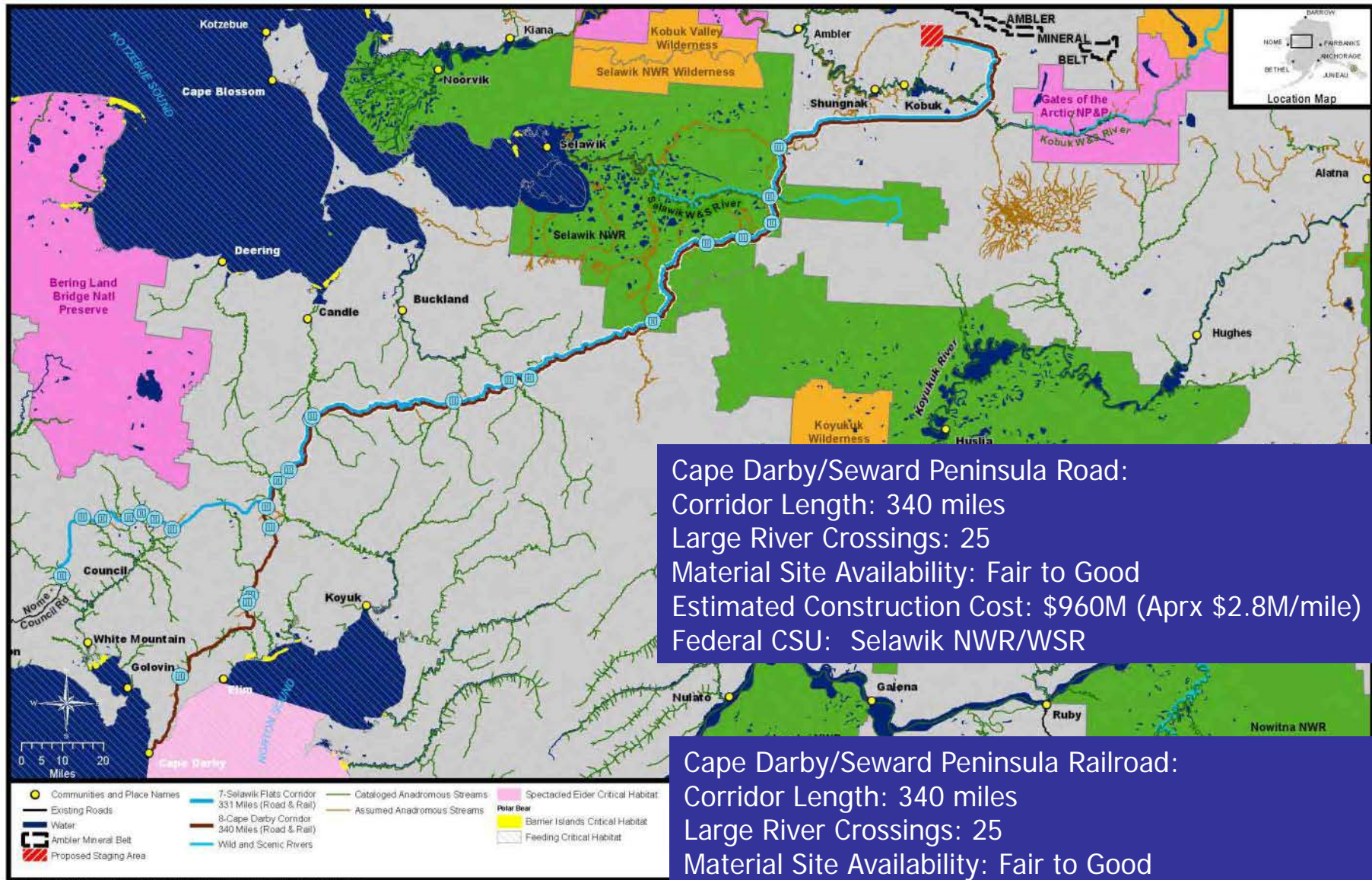


**Cape Blossom Road:**  
Corridor Length: 250 miles  
Large River Crossings: 22  
Material Site Availability: Fair to Poor  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$860M (Aprx \$3.5M/mile)  
Federal CSU: Kobuk Valley NP/Noatak NP

**Cape Blossom Railroad:**  
Corridor Lengths: 250 miles  
Large River Crossings: 22  
Material Site Availability: Fair to Poor  
Estimated Construction Cost: \$1.33B (Aprx \$5.3M/mile)  
Federal CSU: Kobuk Valley NP/Noatak NP



# Ambler Mining District to Cape Darby/Seward Peninsula – *Road and Railroad*



# Public Outreach



Informal Informational meetings to keep people informed and to listen.

- January 10-11, 2011: Upper Kobuk Communities
- April 25-26, 2011: Upper Kobuk Communities
- May 12, 2011: Tri Village meeting in Shungnak
- Dec-Jan 2011/2012: Project Update meetings in Kobuk, Shungnak, Ambler, Allakaket/Alatna, Bettles/Evansville, Selawik, Kotzebue, Noorvik, Kiana, Buckland, Hughes
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Tri Village meeting in Ambler

Meeting Notes: <http://ambleraccess.alaska.gov>





# Public Outreach

## Community Comments

- ❑ Need more opportunities for lower cost of living and Jobs
- ❑ Worries that Cultural Resources in certain areas may be affected
- ❑ Ability to maintain Subsistence lifestyle and cultural values in the future
- ❑ Importance of Sheefish and Caribou
- ❑ Who will be allowed road access and what types of uses?
- ❑ City of Bettles Resolution



# Public Outreach

## DOT&PF Commitments

- Facilitate a Upper Kobuk Transportation Working Group with Representatives of Tribes and Cities.
- Begin Subsistence Mapping effort in conjunction with ADF&G
- Work with appropriate organizations to facilitate discussions with Elders for Traditional Knowledge
- Begin economic studies to evaluate road benefits to Communities.
- Facilitate ADF&G Caribou presentations and studies.
- Conduct fish studies to identify areas of concern
- Work with NWAB School District (through our Contractor DOWL HKM) to encourage involvement of younger people.
- Continue to identify and utilize Cultural/Subsistence Advisors for project field studies and community outreach
- Identify and address road access issues, and utilize existing road development models to better understand possibilities.





## Ambler Mining District Access – Next Steps

Develop a Proposed Action considering engineering, environmental and Public input parameters.

### 2012 Proposed Baseline investigations:

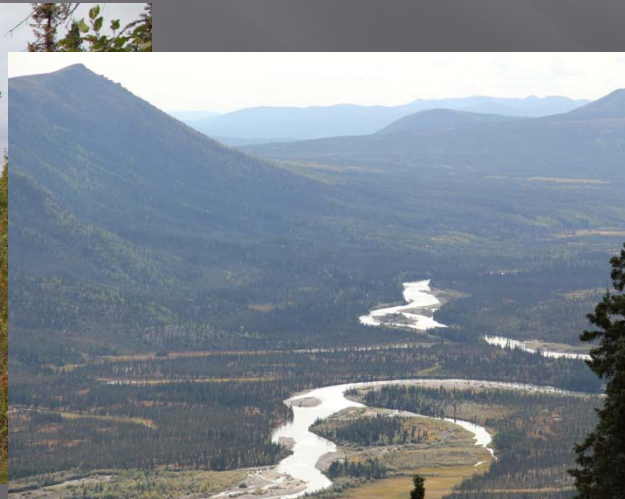
- Environmental Studies:

Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife, Floodplains, Cultural Resources

- Engineering Studies:

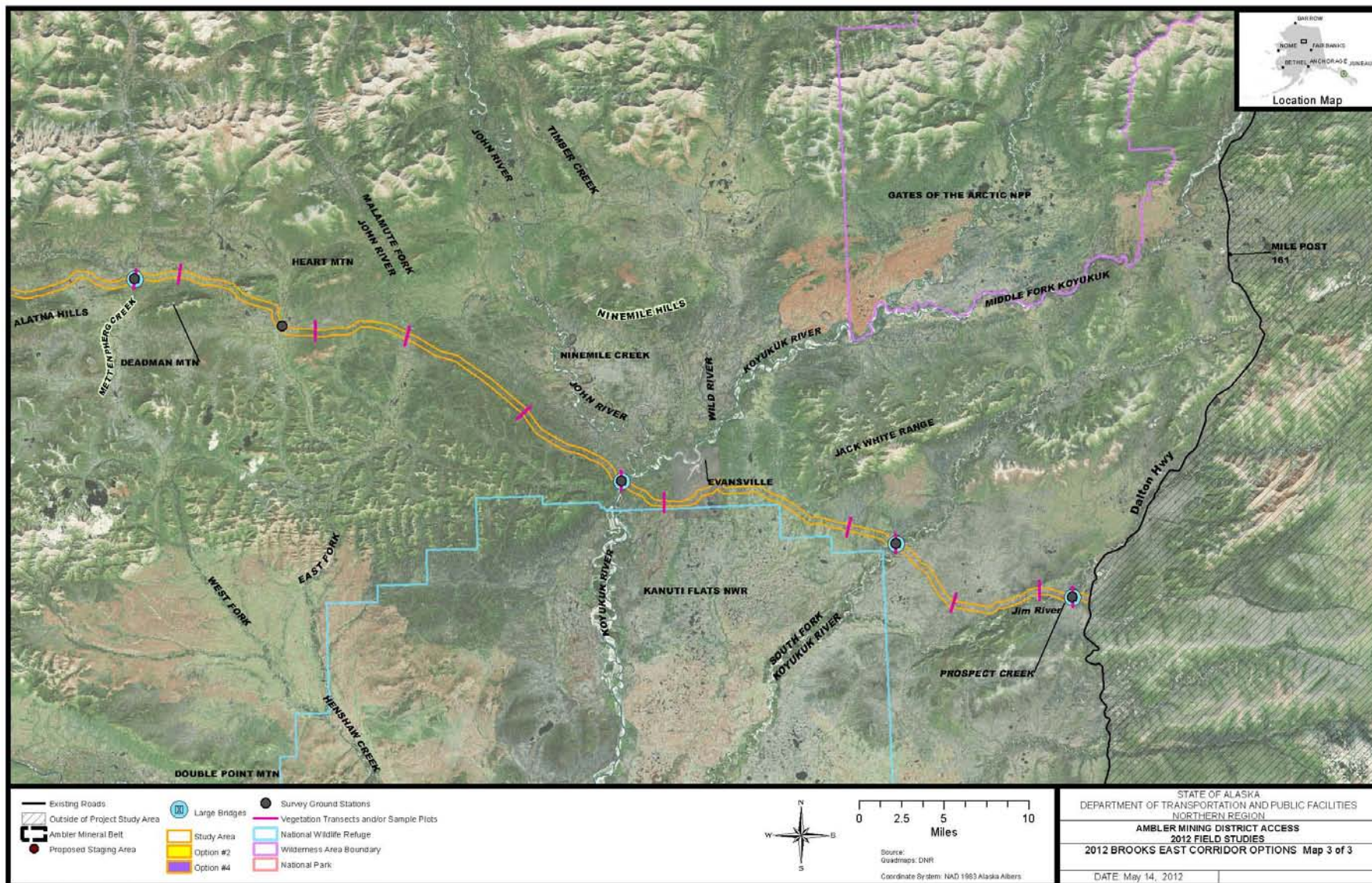
Imagery, LIDAR, Surveying, River Cross Sections, River Hydrology(UAF), Geotechnical Reconnaissance, Alignment evaluations

### Additional Public Outreach Activities





# 2012 Field Study Corridor



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**Legend:**

- Existing Roads
- Outside of Project Study Area
- Ambler Mineral Belt
- Proposed Staging Area
- Large Bridges
- Study Area
- Option #2
- Option #4
- Survey Ground Stations
- Vegetation Transects and/or Sample Plots
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Wilderness Area Boundary
- National Park

**Scale:** 0 to 10 Miles

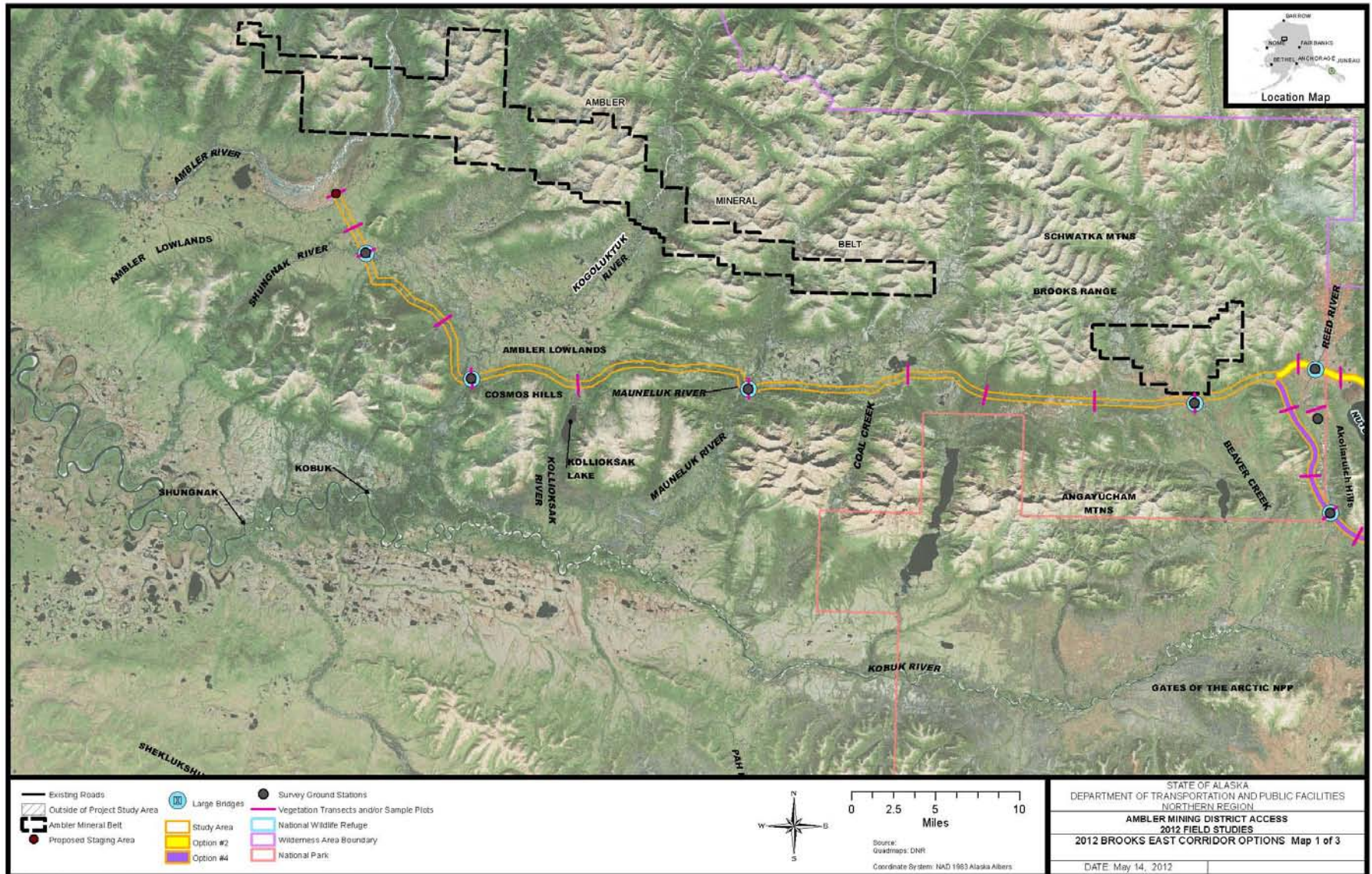
**Source:** DNR  
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Alaska Albers

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
NORTHERN REGION  
AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS  
2012 FIELD STUDIES  
2012 BROOKS EAST CORRIDOR OPTIONS Map 2 of 3**

**DATE:** May 14, 2012



# 2012 Field Study Corridor



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# Ambler Mining District Access – Next Steps

Summer 2012 – Spring 2013:

- ▣ Continued Public Outreach
- ▣ Continued Federal and State Agency Coordination
- ▣ Continue efforts to develop a feasible proposed action
- ▣ Move project into Preliminary Engineering/  
Environmental Phase



Preliminary Design /  
Environmental

Environmental Document /  
Final Design

Road Construction

15'

1737 R

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# Thank You



Project Website: <http://ambleraccess.alaska.gov>