



Central Region

Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Fall Edition - Municipality of Anchorage

September 2012



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Central Region Director,
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the second "Director's Quarterly" newsletter. As with our summer edition, our intent is to provide a directory of useful information sources to assist you and your staff in navigating the Department's web site for project and contact information. In this issue we will address the new highway bill, introduce you to the Planner for your area, highlight a few projects and maintenance activities, and roll out our new Public Involvement Calendar.

Congress recently authorized the new surface transportation bill. MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act) was passed in July, providing stable highway funding for the next two years. SAFETEA-LU, the previous bill, was extended 10 times after it expired in 2009. MAP-21 keeps the funding at about fiscal year 2012 levels, providing Alaskans with over \$5 in federal transportation funds for every dollar spent on federal gas tax, and eliminates earmarks and most discretionary programs. The bill establishes national performance goals in seven areas: 1) safety, 2) infrastructure condition, 3) congestion reduction, 4) system reliability, 5) freight movement and economic vitality, 6) environmental sustainability, and 7) reduced project delivery delays. The Department will be continuing to assess MAP-21's impacts on our programs, projects and processes, as the Federal Highway Administration produces supplementary guidance and issues federal rulemaking.

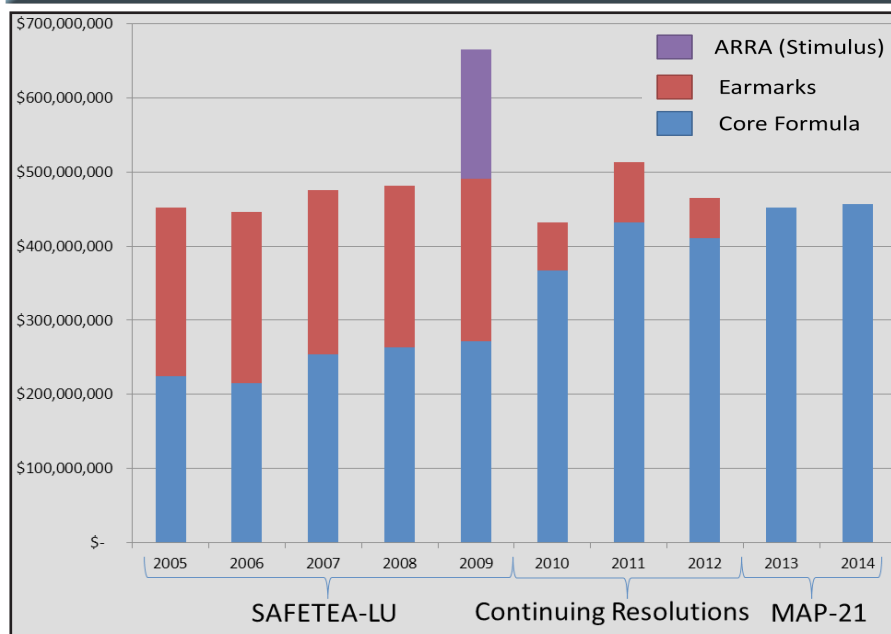
Over the next few months our construction projects will be shutting down for winter. Please refer to our Navigator and 511 links for the latest construction updates. The next newsletter (Winter Edition) will highlight some maintenance activities and introduce you to the Department's and Central Region's legislative contacts in advance of the new session.

Have a great autumn. I look forward to hearing from you.

Comments on the Newsletter

DOT.CR.Director@alaska.gov

MAP-21 provides 90% of SAFETEA-LU Transportation Funding levels to Alaska



Seward Highway Expansion received over \$40 million in federal "core formula" funds during the 8 years of SAFETEA-LU and subsequent Continuing Resolutions to complete the section from Dowling Road to Tudor Road.

NEW Public Involvement Calendar

In response to requests for easier access to information about upcoming public meetings and events, Central Region is proud to announce the launch of its Public Involvement Calendar. This calendar includes public meetings, open houses and any public event where Central Region staff is invited to present information (such as Chamber of Commerce or community council meetings). The calendar can be found at: <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/calendar.shtml>

IMPORTANT LINKS

How Do I...

- Find general information about Central Region?
- Get more information about active Central Region projects?
- Locate the Central Region Public Involvement Calendar?
- Find out who owns a road in the Municipality of Anchorage?
- Find a Municipality of Anchorage project?

Where Can I Go To....

- Find a previous Central Region newsletter?
- Find websites for Central Region projects?
- Get MAP-21 information?
- Download an Anchorage traffic map?

I am Trying to Find Information about....

- Project advertising dates
- Which projects AMATS selected to be funded from 2010-2013
- AMATS: Meeting Schedules, Agendas, and Documents
- An Eagle River traffic map

- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/projects-status/index.cfm>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/calendar.shtml>
- http://www.muni.org/Departments/MOA_Road_Ownership *
- <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Projects> *

- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/newsletter.shtml>
- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/projectinfo/central.shtml>
- <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>
- http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/Anchorage_Traffic_Map *

- http://www.dot.state.ak.us/apps/Project_Advertising_Date *
- <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/2035MTP> *
- <http://www.muni.org/Department/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/> *
- http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/Eagle_River_Traffic_Map *

*Link will only work in the electronic version of the Newsletter

Bart Rudolph, AMATS Transportation Planner



Bart Rudolph is the Transportation Planner for the Anchorage area and State coordinator for Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS). He participates in the development and implementation of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, oversees the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and works with the public and regional stakeholders regarding transportation issues in Anchorage.

Bart has a degree in Urban Planning and Design,

and before joining ADOT&PF he held transportation planning positions at the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization in Lawrence, KS and the Mid America Regional Council in Kansas City, MO.

As a Planner, Bart tracks emerging transportation needs and helps oversee the process for selecting which projects receive federal transportation funds. He can be of great assistance to community groups and your constituents by providing an understanding of ADOT&PF processes and policies. He can be reached at Bart.Rudolph@alaska.gov or at (907) 269-0515.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Road Construction

Girdwood Streets and Drainage Improvements - Road and street improvements within the vicinity of Town Square Park include resurfacing, drainage, lighting, pedestrian facilities and parking. This project is expected to be completed at the end of this construction season.

Highway Safety Improvement Program: Jewel Lake Road - 63 Avenue to International Airport Road and Spenard Road Intersection - The project installed a raised median between 63rd Avenue and Old International Airport Road to separate opposing traffic. At the International Airport Road intersection, dual left turn lanes were installed for the northbound and southbound approaches. The final paving, new lane configuration and signal poles are expected to be completed in the next few weeks and the project is anticipated to be completely finished by the end of October 2012.

Victor Road - Construction is underway to upgrade the roadway to a 3-lane section, and includes pedestrian facilities, lighting, storm drainage, and landscaping. During the remainder of construction, two lanes and a sidewalk will remain open to traffic. Construction is expected to be completed next summer.



Seward Highway Frontage Road Girder Placement - Homer Drive Bridge



Deferred Maintenance funds being used to repave a portion of Birch Road.



Girdwood Street and Drainage Improvements: Hightower Road - Work in Progress. This is a Municipal project funded by congressional earmarks, constructed by ADOT&PF

Seward Highway: MP 89 to 96.6 Resurfacing - Construction is underway to resurface the Seward Highway from historical MP 89 near Girdwood to historical MP 96.6 near Bird Point. Weather permitting, this project is scheduled to be completed by the middle of September.

Seward Highway Reconstruction: Dowling Road to Tudor Road - This project is widening the Seward Highway to six lanes. Homer Drive is currently closed as crews are building a new bridge. Once built, the southbound traffic on the Seward Highway will be redirected to the new bridge on Homer Drive. A sound barrier wall is also scheduled to be completed during the winter. During the 2013 construction season, the remaining three bridges will be replaced. It is anticipated that traffic will be flowing in the final configuration with all safety components complete by the Fall of 2013. Go to: <http://sewardhighway.info/>.

West Dowling Road Phase I: Old Seward Highway to C Street - Paving the new 4-lane alignment has already begun. This project is anticipated to be open for the traveling public by the end of October 2012. Landscaping and other final improvements for this segment will be completed during the 2013 construction season. The final connection to Raspberry Road at Minnesota Drive could begin construction in 2014. Go to: www.dowlingroad.com

Deferred Maintenance - Anchorage Maintenance District had a very successful paving season and put down more than 8,000 tons of hot mix asphalt on large projects: 6th Avenue, Birch Road, Alyeska Highway, Clarks Road, the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Post Road, Eagle River Road, Raspberry Road and elsewhere throughout the greater Anchorage area.

Tire Changeover - Studded tires are allowed on paved highways and roads in Anchorage beginning on **September 16th**. Additional information can be found at the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles: <http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/faq/faq.htm>



Responding to public input, ADOT&PF installed guardrails separating vehicle traffic from the pathway along the Old Glenn Highway near Chugiak Elementary School.

NAVIGATOR and 511 Your Source for Construction and Travel Information



The ALASKA NAVIGATOR website is your best source for the most up to date traffic information about state road projects actively under construction. The page consists of an interactive map that provides travelers with the latest news needed to minimize delays during the short construction season. Linked pages include a description of the project, a basic map, and project management contact information. <http://www.alaskanavigator.org/>



For a variety of travel information including weather, traffic incidents, driving conditions, and construction delays: <http://511.alaska.gov/alaska511/mappingcomponent>

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