



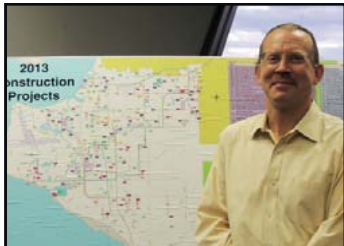
Central Region

# Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Fall Edition - Municipality of Anchorage

September 2013



**Rob Campbell, P.E.**

Central Region Director, is a lifelong Alaskan. He has a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Oregon State University, and a Master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Alaska. He has worked at DOT&PF for more than 30 years.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we approach the fall season, Alaska's DOT&PF is beginning its annual transition from summer to winter operations. While work on our construction projects will continue until complete or when forced by Mother Nature to shut down, by the time my next newsletter reaches your desk in December, we will be fully transitioned to wintertime operations. I'd like to take this time, then, to recap our construction season and share with you our view of the transportation world as we see it heading toward winter.

In the following you'll find some updated information about the continued roll-out of the federal highway authorization bill (known as MAP-21) provisions and the impacts we are seeing with its refocus on the National Highway System (NHS). This refocus has significantly impacted our project delivery, as reflected in a re-shaped Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) (<http://www.dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/cip/stip/map21.shtml>). In turn, this federal emphasis, along with other budgetary realities, shifts the Department toward a refocus on the NHS as well. You'll find a short discussion of how that could also affect on-going maintenance and operations.

In closing, I hope that everyone had a great summer and is looking forward to an enjoyable winter season. As always, my welcome mat is out if you would like to stop by and visit.

Comments on the Newsletter  
[DOT.CR.Director@alaska.gov](mailto:DOT.CR.Director@alaska.gov)

## LEGISLATIVE LIAISON



We say a fond farewell to Rick Feller, who has retired; and introduce Jill Reese, who has taken his place as the Media Liaison and assistant to Director Rob Campbell for the Central Region AKDOT&PF. She is the primary point of contact for the media, legislators, and the public for inquiries regarding Central Region.

Jill joined the Department in April of 2009 as a Right of Way Agent in Central Region, managing real estate purchased through projects as well as handling community outreach activities. This experience provided Jill with a broad knowledge of AKDOT&PF projects and its interworking. She has also assisted both state and federal agencies in a variety of special projects and has been active in leading community meetings and public information campaigns.

An Alaskan resident since 1960, Jill comes from private sector work with over 25 years of experience as a commercial real estate broker and property manager and over 17 years of experience as an entrepreneur and developer. Jill holds a Bachelor of Education Degree with an English major from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She enjoys getting outdoors and spending time with her grandchildren.

Please feel free to contact Jill with questions, comments, or just to say hello at (907) 269-0772 or at [Jill.Reese@alaska.gov](mailto:Jill.Reese@alaska.gov).

## WINTER MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

As revenues shrink, belt tightening is the only responsible reaction for DOT&PF. Through the years, the Department has worked to make our operations more efficient and affordable, as our mission expands and resources are flat or on the decline. This year, through equipment fleet efficiencies, a shift in maintenance station locations, and the expanded use of tow plows, we continued to seek out ways to deliver a quality service for less money. But while efficiencies are gained, "just in time" delivery of services does not allow for redundancy in the system.

Impacts for our maintenance and operations branch may not be noticeable to most that we serve. A mild to average winter may not reveal the compromises made to gain our greater efficiencies. However, for example, another record-setting snow fall could result in a noticeable increase in plow response times for our secondary roads. As always, we will continue to prioritize the high volume NHS routes for first response.



## PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

### Seward Highway and 36th Avenue Improvements Project Open House - October 2

Please join us at the Loussac Library from 5:30 to 7:30 pm to learn about interchange design options and the method(s) for selecting an appropriate design solution. <http://sewardand36th.com/>

### Project Nominations for AMATS TIP due by October 28

The public is invited to submit projects to be considered for the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a four year document that establishes priorities for federally funded transportation improvements. Nomination forms for projects are available online at:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/Pages/TIP.aspx>

## IMPORTANT LINKS

Where can I go to...

- Find project advertising dates, contract status/award information, or Capital projects out for bid?
- Which projects AMATS selected to be funded from 2010-2013?
- Find out who owns a road in the Municipality of Anchorage?
- Find a previous Central Region newsletter?
- Find AMATS meeting schedules and documents?

- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/procurement/index.shtml>
- <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/2035MTP> \*
- [http://www.muni.org/Departments/MOA\\_Road\\_Ownership](http://www.muni.org/Departments/MOA_Road_Ownership) \*
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/newsletter.shtml>
- <http://www.muni.org/Department/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/> \*

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



## Construction Highlights

### Seward Highway Reconstruction

The New Seward Highway project is wrapping up. The project widened the highway from 4 to 6 lanes from Tudor Road to Dowling Road, installed and raised the bridges over Campbell Creek to connect the trail below, and made improvements to both frontage roads (Homer and Brayton Drives).

The total project is expected to be open with full capacity by the end of October 2013 with only a few minor items left to complete. For information on this project, contact the Project Engineer [Chong.Kim@alaska.gov](mailto:Chong.Kim@alaska.gov) or call (907) 770-2612.

### Birch Road Resurfacing

Birch Road is in the process of being resurfaced from O'Malley Road to Huffman Road. The contractor began work just after Labor Day. The total project is expected to be completed by the middle of October, 2013. For information on this project, please contact the Project Manager [Steven.Jochens@alaska.gov](mailto:Steven.Jochens@alaska.gov) or at (907) 269-0659. The Whispering Spruce Drive intersection on Birch Road will be improved in a separate project in 2014. This project will lower the vertical alignment of Birch Road just north of the intersection.



### Eagle River Road Rehabilitation MP 5.3 to MP 12.6

Construction activity will continue on Eagle River Road until freeze up. By winter the initial layer of pavement will be applied to two sections of road from milepoint 7.5 to 8.7 and milepoint 9.6 to 10.2.

Work will resume next spring and summer, with completion estimated for August of 2014.

For information on this project, contact the Project Manager [Stephen.Frey@alaska.gov](mailto:Stephen.Frey@alaska.gov) or call (907) 269-0664.

### Victor Road

Victor Road has been upgraded to minor arterial standards to include a minimum 3-lane section, pedestrian facilities, lighting, storm drainage, and landscaping.

The total project was completed in August 2013; only minor landscaping work remains.

For information on this project, contact the Project Manager [Robert.Lundell@alaska.gov](mailto:Robert.Lundell@alaska.gov) or call (907) 269-0448.



### Johns Road Improvements

Johns Road is being resurfaced from Klatt Road to Ocean View Drive. Sidewalks are being replaced on the east side between Klatt Road and High View Drive and new sidewalk is being constructed on the west side between Ocean View Elementary School and Botanical Circle.

The total project is expected to be completed by spring 2014.

For information on this project, contact the Project Manager [Sean.Holland@alaska.gov](mailto:Sean.Holland@alaska.gov) or call (907) 269-0670.



## Northern Access to U-Med District

ADOT&PF and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) have begun the next phase to provide a northern access to the U-Med district. This phase of the project will assess the four transportation alternatives identified in the 2011 Reconnaissance Report. Based on that assessment, a preferred alternative will be identified. The project team met with the public on August 27, 2013 and would like to continue to work with all interested parties (individuals and stakeholder groups) to help shape the outcome of this project and we encourage your participation. It is expected that this phase of the project will be complete by the spring of 2014.

The website will serve as one way to keep everyone informed about the project. Please refer to the site for the most recent information on project development, announcements of public meetings, and to add your comments or suggestions.

Visit [www.umednothernaccess.com](http://www.umednothernaccess.com) or call Rachel Steer at (907) 562-2000.

