



# Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Fall Edition - Matanuska-Susitna Borough

September 2012



## 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.

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 M.S. in Engineering Management from the University of Alaska Anchorage. He has worked at ADOT&PF for more than 30 years.

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](mailto:DOT.CR.Director@alaska.gov)

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



ADOT&PF was able to use \$6.5 million core formula funds this summer for the Parks Highway MP52-57 Rehabilitation project.

### 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 information about Alaska's Highway Safety Corridors?

- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/projects-status/index.cfm>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/calendar.shtml>
- [http://www.dot.alaska.gov/comm/safety\\_corridors.shtml](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/comm/safety_corridors.shtml)

### Where Can I Go To....

- Find a previous Central Region newsletter?
- Find websites for Central Region projects?
- Get MAP-21 information?
- Download a Matanuska-Susitna Borough traffic map?

- <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/mapping/trafficmaps/adcentral.shtml>

### I am Trying to Find Information about....

- Project advertising dates
- The Port MacKenzie Rail Extension project
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough projects
- My local Road Service Area (RSA)

- [http://www.dot.state.ak.us/apps/Project\\_Advertising\\_Date](http://www.dot.state.ak.us/apps/Project_Advertising_Date) \*
- <http://www.portmacrail.com/>
- <http://www.matsugov.us/predesign/pre-design-projects> \*
- <http://www.matsugov.us/publicworks/road-maintenance>

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

## Allen Kemplen, Matanuska-Susitna Area Planner



Allen is a 30-year Alaska resident and has worked for ADOT&PF since 2003, coming over from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development where he was a Regional Planner. He is a current member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, with over sixteen years of planning related work experience. Allen is a graduate of the University of Alaska Anchorage where he holds graduate level degrees in Planning and Public Administration. He has held the job of Mat-Su Area Planner since 2010.

As a Planner, Allen tracks emerging transportation needs within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and helps oversee the process for selecting which projects receive federal transportation funds. He can be of great assistance to the Mat-Su Borough communities and your constituents in providing an understanding of ADOT&PF processes and policies. He can be reached at [Allen.Kemplen@alaska.gov](mailto:Allen.Kemplen@alaska.gov) or at (907) 269-0513.

## Public Involvement



The fifth annual Mat-Su Transportation fair was held this year at the Menard Sports Center. Over 400 people attended. More information can be found at <http://matsutranspofair.blogspot.com/>

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### Capacity Improvements



Trunk Road Reconstruction Phase II

**Trunk Road Reconstruction Phase II – Palmer-Wasilla Highway to Palmer-Fishhook Road** - Substantial progress on major earthwork was accomplished this season with construction continuing next summer. Traffic will continue using Old Trunk Road through the winter. Palmer-Fishhook Road improvements are complete with new fish-friendly culverts installed. Work will continue through mid-October and then shut down for the winter. More information can be found at:

<http://www.trunkroad.com/>

**Glenn Highway MP 34-42 – Parks to Old Glenn Highway** - This project will reconstruct the road to four-lanes. A contract to Geotek, Alaska, Inc. was awarded in June and they have been actively drilling cores to determine material type and quality along the road. Design efforts are nearing an end. Right-of-Way acquisition is beginning. Construction could be ready to begin in late 2015.

<http://www.brooks-alaska.com/glennhighway/>

**Seward Meridian Reconstruction Phase I – Parks Highway to Palmer-Wasilla Highway** - Paving is complete and new lighting has been installed. Seward Meridian Parkway is open for travel in the final configuration. A frontage road connection between Naomi and Whispering Woods Drive is to be constructed by the end of September 2012.

### Pavement Rehabilitation

**Parks Highway MP 83 to 90** – This \$11 million project will eliminate seasonal weight restrictions and widen shoulders. The project was awarded to Quality Asphalt Paving in July 2012. Some earthwork and clearing may occur this year but the bulk of the improvements will occur next summer. Additional information can be found at:

[http://projects.hdlalaska.com/\\_current\\_projects/Parks83to90/project%20overview.html](http://projects.hdlalaska.com/_current_projects/Parks83to90/project%20overview.html)



Seward Meridian Reconstruction Phase I

### Major Maintenance



Hatcher Pass Road Maintenance Work

**Glenn Highway Signing Replacement and Repair – Anchorage to Palmer** - Work continues on this project with intermittent lane closures.

**Willow-Fishhook Road** - ADOT&PF maintenance staff has been working to improve the 20 mile unpaved portion of the Hatcher Pass. Using in-house crews, culverts were replaced to allow drainage and some of the worst areas of the road section were resurfaced.

**Knik River Road Maintenance** - ADOT&PF addressed the most deteriorated sections of pavement on the road this summer by putting down asphalt overlay to extend the life of the facility. Drainage ditches were dug out to channel water away from the road surface and prevent glaciation during the winter.

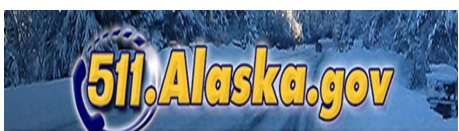
**Tire Changeover Information** - Studded tires are allowed on paved highways and roads in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough beginning **September 16th**. Additional information can be found at the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles website: <http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/faq/faq.htm>.

## NAVIGATOR and 511

### Your Source for Construction and Travel Information



The ALASKANAVIGATOR 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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#### For More Information Contact:

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