



Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Summer Edition - Matanuska-Susitna Borough

June 2013

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This edition of my newsletter marks its first anniversary. Over the past year and four newsletters we have used this forum to push reference tools and information to you, while discussing seasonally topical subjects such as major construction projects, maintenance and operations, legislative liaisons and ongoing highway safety enhancement efforts. Through it all ran the main theme of providing useful resources, for you and your staff.

As I said in the first edition, this newsletter continues to be a work in progress. My goal was to hear from you as to what you felt valuable, and to focus future newsletter editions accordingly. To that end, I appreciate the time your staff spent with us while we conducted the recent survey. What I found out is that the most value we can provide you is in project reporting and public meeting announcements. Beginning with this newsletter edition, I will follow that lead to provide you more of what you want to know.

Following this message you'll find links to two key resources for project information: our Alaska Navigator program for the latest information about projects currently under construction and our new Project Viewer for those projects in the federal funding plan. In addition, you'll find a link to Central Region's Public Involvement Calendar for upcoming meetings and events as well as an overall project status search tool.

Have a great summer. As always, I'd like to end my message with an open invitation for you to stop by and spend some time with us. We welcome your time and appreciate any opportunity to share information.

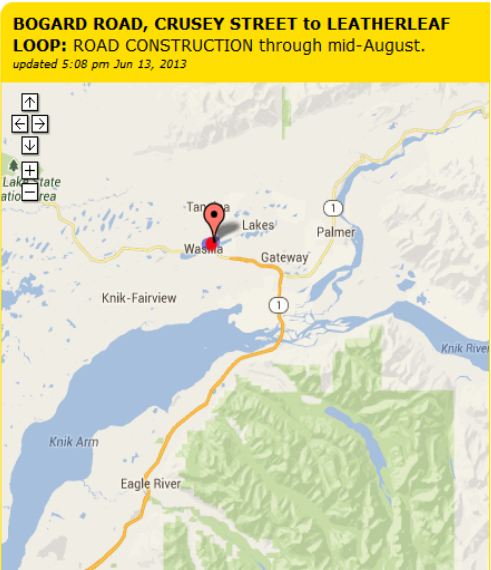
Comments on the Newsletter
DOT.CR.Director@alaska.gov

Project Status Information Sources

Alaska Navigator (for Projects in Construction)

The Alaska Navigator (www.AlaskaNavigator.org) continues to be refined to provide more information for those road and highway projects in active construction. Users can now access information about project duration, contractor and DOT Project Office contacts and a brief description of the completed project by clicking on the "View Project Details" tab for each project.

The Alaska 511 system is also available for travelers, either online at <http://511.alaska.gov/>, by dialing 511, following @alaska511 on Twitter or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/Alaska511. The system provides statewide road condition information, including road closures, alerts to emergency incidences, and weather conditions affecting travelers.



CLOSURE

ROAD CLOSURE: Peck Street is closed from Bogard Road to Seneca Avenue and is tentatively scheduled to reopen the week of July 1. Access Bogard via Yakima Street, or Lakeshore Drive to Crusey Street. Local access to Peck Street will be maintained.

ROAD CLOSURE: Beginning 7:00pm Friday, June 14, Peck Street will be CLOSED just north of Bogard Road until 5:30am Monday, June 17. Follow construction signs for DETOUR routes.

What You Need to Know

- Be alert to heavy equipment and construction workers on the shoulder.

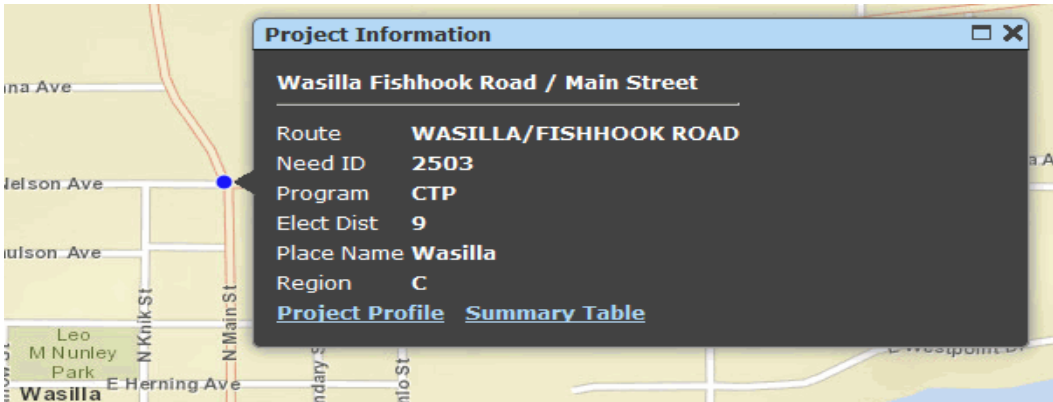
Traffic Impacts

Be alert to heavy equipment and construction workers on shoulder, LANE CLOSURES, flagging operations, and a possible detour route.

End Result Once Project is Complete

The Alaska Department of Transportation, in partnership with Tutka, LLC, is working to improve travel on Bogard Road, from Crusey Street to Leatherleaf Loop. Construction will include a new turn lane and a new traffic signal.

STIP Project Viewer (for Projects Still in Preconstruction Phases)



The Department's new Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Project Viewer allows users to search for projects in the STIP (generally consisting of those projects that are federally funded but not yet under construction) by zooming in on a map and clicking an individual project "dot" to obtain additional information. This is the Department's first effort to provide a map-based display of the current STIP projects on our website.

The STIP project viewer can be found at <http://arcgisserver.geonorth.com/adot/>

Central Region Public Involvement Calendar



It is important for you to know when a public meetings is happening – before the event, and not after. And hopefully before a constituent lets you know. It is for this purpose that our Public Involvement Calendar was created <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/calendar.shtml>.

Project Status Search Tool (for All Projects)

If a road or highway project is not currently under active construction and is not an independent stand alone project in the STIP, its status can still be found using the <http://dot.alaska.gov/projects-status/>.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Where can I go to...

- Find a previous Central Region newsletter?
- Find websites for Central Region projects?
- Find Matanuska-Susitna Borough projects?
- Find Alaska's Highway Safety Corridors?
- Find project advertising dates, contract status/award information, or Capital projects out for bid?

- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/newsletter.shtml>
- http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/project_info/
- <http://www.matsugov.us/predesign/pre-design-projects> *
- http://www.dot.alaska.gov/comm/safety_corridors.shtml
- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/procurement/index.shtml>

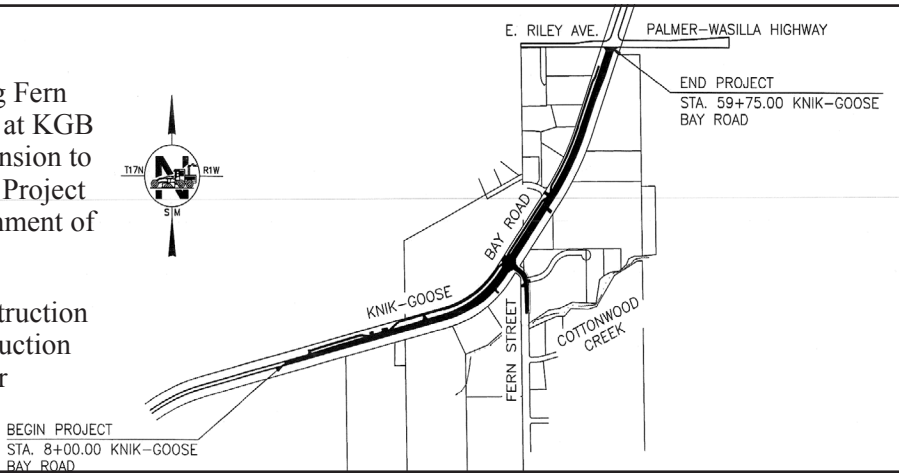
*Link will only work in the electronic version of the Newsletter

Construction of Safety Improvements

Knik-Goose Bay Road – Fern Street Intersection Improvements

This project will complete a new link between KGB Road and Edlund Road along Fern Street. It will construct intersection improvements and install a new traffic signal at KGB and Fern Street. Approximately one mile of KGB, Palmer-Wasilla Highway Extension to just southwest of Fern Street, will be widened for the signal to function properly. Project includes widening for auxiliary lanes, illumination, utility relocations, re-establishment of drainage, pathway reconstruction, paving, signing and striping.

This effort is a partnership between the Department and the City of Wasilla. Construction will begin in July and substantial completion of the project is expected this construction season. For questions, contact the Project Manager Steven.Jochens@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0659.



Parks Highway intersection improvements at Stanley Road.

Parks Highway: Stanley Road Intersection Improvements

Project is within the Parks Highway Safety Corridor. Reconstruction of intersection to accommodate a new signal with turn pockets will reduce the incidence of crashes. Project was completed in late May 2013. For questions, contact Laura.Paul@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0463.

HSIP: Bogard Road and Peck Street Intersection Improvements

Project is located on Bogard Road between Peck Street and Crusey Street in Wasilla. Installation of new traffic signal and channelization improvements will reduce crashes. For questions, contact the Project Manager Stephen.Frey@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0664.

Glenn Highway: MP 67 – MP 86 Emergency Repairs

This project will be completed in June and provide embankment, shoulder stabilization and guardrail repair. For questions, contact the Project Manager Alan.Drake@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0665.

Maintenance and Asset Management Improvements

Parks Highway: MP 83 - MP 90 Weight Restriction Elimination

Project includes embankment reconstruction at locations of known pavement fatigue cracking (MP 83 - MP 84, MP 89 - MP 90), repaving for the entire length, widening and turn lanes. Also includes grading, drainage, signing and striping. Expect flagging and pilot-car operations with delays up to 20 minutes through October 15th. For questions, contact the Project Manager Laura.Paul@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0463.

Parks Highway: MP 146 – MP 163 Pavement Preservation

Project rehabilitates road surface and includes necessary guardrail, dig-outs, drainage, signs and striping from Byers Lake to Little Coal Creek. Motorists should be prepared for travel delays associated with traffic restricted to one-lane in the construction area through October 15th. For questions, contact the Project Manager Laura.Paul@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0463.



MP 83 - MP 90 May 2013



Trunk Road Phase II

Trunk Road Phase II – Palmer/Wasilla Highway to Palmer Fishhook Road

Project constructs four lanes from Palmer-Wasilla Highway to Bogard Road, and two lanes from Bogard Road to Palmer-Fishhook Road. Major earthwork has been completed. A new signal has been installed at the intersection with Palmer-Fishhook Road. Be alert for road closures, lane restrictions, flagging operations, detours and changing traffic patterns. For questions, contact the Project Manager Steven.Jochens@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0659.

Old Glenn Highway: MP 15 Erosion Protection

Project will install erosion protection along the Old Glenn Highway and adjacent pathway near MP 15 in the Butte area for up to 750 linear feet. For questions, contact the Project Manager Robert.Lundell@alaska.gov or (907) 269-0448.

Roads to Resources Initiative

West Susitna Access Study

The Department's Roads to Resources Program initiated the West Susitna Access Reconnaissance Study in January 2013. The purpose of the reconnaissance-level study is to evaluate and consider the need for surface access to resource development opportunities west of the Susitna River.

This Study aims to identify locations that may benefit from a proposed surface connection. Providing surface access to some of these natural resource-dense areas could facilitate further exploration and development. The adjacent figure summarizes the results of past access evaluations.

By mid-2013, the outcome of this preliminary study will be a draft transportation analysis and recommendation report. Contact Murray Walsh, Roads to Resources Manager, (907) 465-6973 or Murray.Walsh@alaska.gov for further information.

