



Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Fall Edition - Greater Southwest Alaska Area

September 2012



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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.

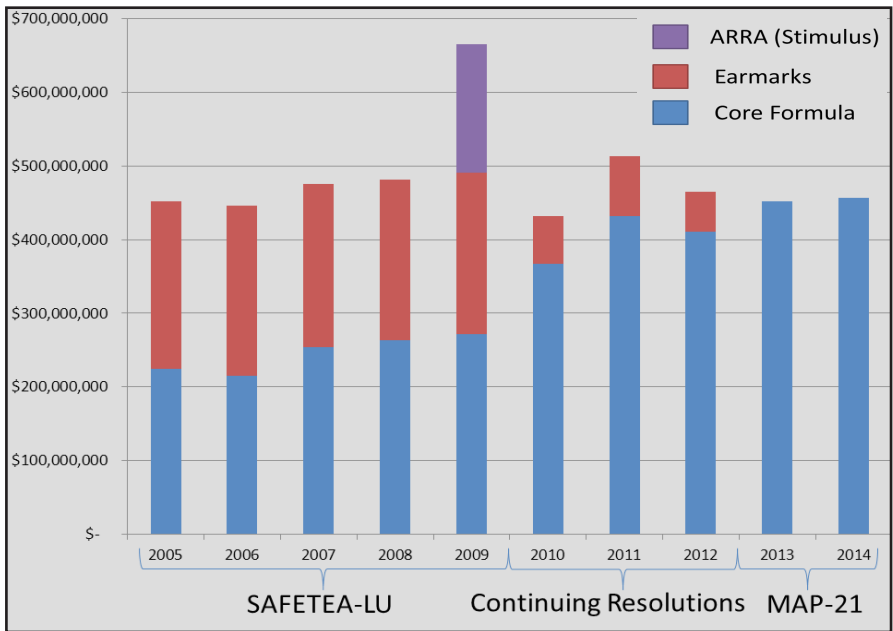
Congress recently authorized the new surface transportation bill. MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act) was passed in July, providing stable highway funding for the next two years. SAFETEA-LU, the previous bill, was extended 10 times after it expired in 2009. MAP-21 keeps the funding 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. Our maintenance stations have begun stockpiling salt and sand in preparation for winter operations. 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.

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

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

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



The Rezanof Drive Resurfacing project from the Kodiak Wye to Monashka Bay Road received nearly \$6 million in federal "core formula" funds to repave, install guardrail upgrades, curb ramps, drainage improvements and school zone upgrades. Project is expected to be completed by the end of October 2012.

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?
- Book a ferry trip?
- Find an Airport Layout Plan (ALP)?

Where Can I Go To....

- Find a previous Central Region newsletter?
- Find websites for Central Region projects?
- Get MAP-21 information?
- Find information on the Alaska Aviation System Plan?

I am Trying to Find Information about....

- Project advertising dates
- Key Department contacts
- Contract Status Award information
- Capital projects out for bid

- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/projects-status/index.cfm>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/calendar.shtml>
- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs/index.shtml>
- http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/airports_public_central.shtml

- <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.alaskaasp.com/>

- http://www.dot.state.ak.us/apps/Project_Advertising_Date *
- <http://www.dot.alaska.gov/comm/contacts.shtml>
- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/apps/contracts/CR> *
- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/apps/contracts/BidCal/CR> *

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

Central Region’s Planning staff track emerging transportation needs and help oversee the process for selecting which projects receive federal transportation funds. They can be of great assistance to communities and your constituents in providing an understanding of ADOT&PF processes and policies.



Joselyn Biloan is the Area Planner for the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island. She has worked in community and economic development for 10 years and as an Area Planner for ADOT&PF for the last 6 years. Joselyn has graduate degrees in economic anthropology and worked in the Russian Far East for many years. Before working as a Planner for ADOT&PF, Joselyn worked as Deputy Director at The American Russian Center at UAA. She can be reached at Joselyn.Biloan@alaska.gov or at (907) 269-0508.



Don Fancher was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska, and is the Kuskokwim Area Planner. Prior to beginning work at ADOT&PF in 2006, he worked in the public service sector for 25 years for the City of Unalakleet, Lower Kuskokwim School District, Bering Straits School District, AVCP Regional Housing Authority and Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority, primarily in the areas of construction management, utilities management and housing development projects. He can be reached at Don.Fancher@alaska.gov or at (907) 269-0516.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Kodiak Island Project Updates

Kodiak Area Pavement Preservation Projects - Look for construction in summer 2013 for pavement of four roads in the Kodiak area: Monashka Bay, Mission/Cape Spruce Road, Benny Benson Drive and Island Lake Road. These projects will extend the life of the roadways and address the areas of most need.

Southwest Alaska Project Updates

Akutan Airport Construction - New Airport Opens! This project constructed a new 4,500 foot paved runway on Akun Island for the community of Akutan, and was completed on time and within budget by Kiewit Construction. The new Airport opened September 1 and will be connected to Akutan by a hovercraft operated by Aleutians East Borough.

Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan - The Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan Update is underway. The project team has finished compiling inventory and forecast information for the plan, as well as some initial scoping of issues to be addressed. The next phase will be development of specific alternatives for addressing the issues identified. The team will meet with Southwest Alaska residents and groups in the fall to go over the work products and discuss potential alternatives and how they will be evaluated.

http://www.dowlhkm.com/projects/SWAKTP/new_website/index.html



New Airport on Akun Island to serve Akutan

Kuskokwim Area Project Updates

Bethel Airport Pavement Rehabilitation - This \$7.7 million project to resurface the existing runway was started in May 2012. The contractor had trouble producing the specified asphalt pavement mixture which caused delays during June, July and most of August. The initial repaving is currently scheduled to be completed in early September, at which point airport operations should return to normal. Repaving efforts will resume in the 2013 construction season (once pavement mixture is approved to reduce any construction delays and impacts on airport operations). Completion of the project is expected by July 2013.



Hangar Lake Road Rehabilitation

Kipnuk Airport Relocation - The \$13.5 million final construction phase of the overall \$23.0 million airport relocation project is nearing completion, and 80% of the new runway is expected to be open to operations this fall. This will allow work on the new apron and buildings to begin. Knik Construction is the contractor, and all work is expected to be completed next summer.

Chefornak Airport Relocation -The new 3,200 x 60 foot airport opened to air traffic September 4. This \$30.3 million project began in 2002 with embankment work to replace the 2,500 x 35 foot airport. The old airport is incorporated into the new 1.6 mile airport access road. Project includes 2 new snow removal equipment buildings and new snow removal equipment. A unique construction feature was the use of an ice road to access good material about 6 miles from the village. QAP finished the project ahead of schedule and within budget.



Construction of the Snow Removal Equipment Buildings at Chefornak Airport

Deferred Maintenance - Bethel Maintenance and Operations staff rehabilitated approximately one-half mile of Hangar Lake Road in Bethel. Crews laid geotextile fabric over the old roadbed and put down material and surface course, raising the grade of the road by 1-2 feet, then graded and smoothed the surface.

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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