



Central Region

Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Fall Edition - Greater Southwest Area

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

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 Alaska 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.



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.

As a quick reference, here is a link to the "M&O" stations in your area:
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/mapping/dataproducts/MaintenanceStations.pdf>



IMPORTANT LINKS

Where can I go to...

- Find an Airport Layout Plan (ALP)?
- Find websites for Central Region Projects?
- Find information on the Alaska Aviation System Plan?
- Find a previous Central Region newsletter?
- Find project advertising dates, contract status/award information, or Capital projects out for bid?

- http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/airports_public_central.shtml
- http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/project_info/
- <http://www.alaskaasp.com/>
- <http://dot.alaska.gov/creg/newsletter.shtml>
- <http://www.dot.state.ak.us/procurement/index.shtml>

Western Alaska

Kipnuk Boardwalk Improvements - Phase II

As of the middle of August, the contractor has completed 1.3 miles of the “at-grade” boardwalks.

The “above-grade,” or elevated portions, which composes a majority of the project, are expected to begin construction after freeze up in late October. This portion of the project involves installation of new pilings to keep the boardwalks well above any high water levels and away from sensitive environmental areas (such as the tidal flats).

Final completion is expected in the summer new and replacement boardwalks.

For questions, contact the Project Manager Laura.Paul@alaska.gov or call



Aleutian/Bristol Bay

Unalaska: Ballyhoo Road Paving



Update - Unalaska Airport Improvements

While Ballyhoo Road’s resurfacing is still ongoing, construction on the airport has wrapped up for the season. Half-width runway closures will begin in June of 2014 for the final phase of construction and the rehabilitation of the runway and markings. All remaining work on Ballyhoo Road will be completed by the end of August 2013.

For questions, contact the Project Manager Alan.Drake@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-0665.

Alaska Peninsula Highway Bridge Repair (King Salmon/Naknek)

Rehabilitation efforts are currently underway until mid-September to install temporary deck replacements to Leader Creek Bridge, King Salmon Bridge, and Pauls Creek Bridge along the Alaska Peninsula Highway to strengthen the bridges until further improvements can be done. Traffic delays are expected but should be kept to a minimum; with up to an hour wait. For questions, contact the Project Manager Burrell.Nickeson@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-0757.



Dillingham Airport Improvements

Phase I of Dillingham’s Airport Improvements is nearly complete for the season. Remaining groundwork for the runway safety area (RSA) extension will wrap up by mid-September and allow for settlement for the winter. For questions, contact the Project Manager Pat.Harvey@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-0616.

Kanakanak Road Resurfacing (Squaw Creek to Hospital): Phase I

This Dillingham project is the first of two phases along Kanakanak Road. Phase I stretches from Squaw Creek to the Hospital with three major culvert replacements and other smaller driveway repairs currently underway. Phase II paving and culverts from Squaw Creek to D Street will occur summer of 2014. For questions, contact the Project Manager Pat.Harvey@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-0616.



Kodiak Island

Chiniak Highway MP 23.7 Improvements Underway

Embankment work has begun along the new road alignment to straightened the curve along the Chiniak Highway. Several culverts have been installed with work continuing through October of this year. Estimated project completion is July 30, 2014. For questions, contact the Project Manager Steven.Jochens@alaska.gov or call (907) 269-0659.

FEMA Funded Repairs Holding Up Well

Improvements from flooding along Anton Larsen Road are holding up well and providing a safe route for users. Crews are currently clearing brush in several locations along both sides of the road and providing additional maintenance.

