



Northern Region

Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Summer Edition

June 2014



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Comments on the newsletter?
Email dotnrdirector@alaska.gov
or call (907) 269-0770

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

I am sending this newsletter to keep you better informed regarding the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities' (DOT&PF) activities in your region. I have been the Central Region director for several years, and I've worked with the department for more than 30 years. In Central Region, I regularly send a newsletter out to our legislators.

Commissioner Kemp has asked me to temporarily assume the duties of Northern Region director, upon the recent retirement of my good friend Steve Titus, to better exchange ideas and good business practices between the regions. This is one of those ideas.

This newsletter is intended to do two things:

- 1) Provide information about issues and projects in your area, and
- 2) Give you links to access information about project schedules, project websites and road conditions.

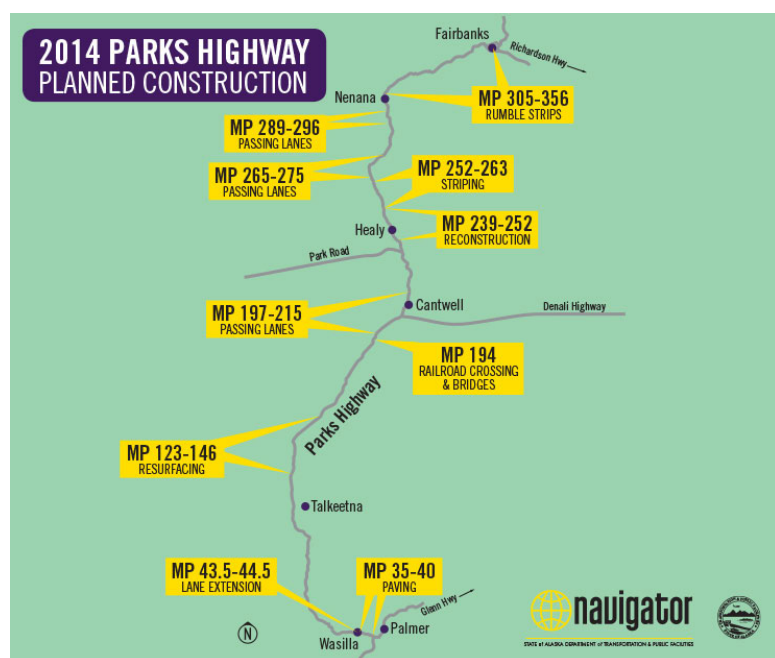
In the past, this letter was targeted to legislators; however with this edition, we will be sending it to some local officials and media, as well.

If you have thoughts about content for future editions, please drop me an email or give me a call.

Enjoy!

PARKS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS UNDER WAY

As the 2014 construction season gets under way, DOT&PF is working to improve safety and travel capacity on the Parks Highway. Roadwork is taking place at multiple locations throughout the length of the highway, from the Mat-Su Valley to Fairbanks. Projects include rumble strip installation, resurfacing, construction of passing lanes and reconstruction work.



PROJECT STATUS INFORMATION SOURCES

Did you know?

The George Parks Highway runs 323.688 miles and is the main artery for Anchorage-Fairbanks travel. The route's total annual average daily traffic (AADT) is 3,255; however, if you exclude the Fairbanks/Wasilla segments of the road and look at the AADTs from Ester to Houston, the AADT drops to around 2,300.

It's typical for the summer traffic to be double the winter traffic as the weather improves, providing a tourism boost as well as other outdoor activities, such as camping and fishing.

DOT&PF has resources available for those who want to know the status of projects; several include estimated wait times, project activities, and hours and days of operation:

- Visit 511.alaska.gov or call 5-1-1 for statewide construction updates, road conditions and weather information.
- Visit AlaskaNavigator.org for statewide construction updates.
- Email ParksHighway@alaskanavigator.org to receive weekly email updates for all construction projects on the Parks Highway.
- For more detailed information on the Parks Highway projects, visit dot.alaska.gov/parks2014.

SEASONAL TRAFFIC COUNTS

With summer's arrival, the department's Traffic Data program is conducting its annual short-term traffic counts, which typically run from May through September. Each traffic count collects seven consecutive days' worth of data for a specific roadway. This year, the Northern Region will conduct about 700 of these short-term counts on the road system.

The short-term traffic counts work using pneumatic road tubes that detect vehicle axles, sending the impulse to a portable counter located off the roadway. These short-term

counts consist of either one- or two-hose setups. In one-hose setups, the counter can collect information about volume, while two-hose setups, such as the one in the photo, can calculate the directional volume, vehicle classification, speed, gap and headway information of passing vehicles.

The department's Traffic Data program collects this data for planning and design purposes as well as federal reporting.

To view Northern Region traffic counts for past years, visit www.dot.state.ak.us/nreg/planning/traffic.shtml.



A portable/short-term traffic count in Nome

MEET THE NORTHERN REGION MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



Dave Miller came to DOT&PF Northern Region in 2013 with more than 33 years of maintenance, operations and construction experience.

Miller is a 1984 graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks’ petroleum engineering program. He has worked in Fort Wainwright

and Fairbanks in the public and private sectors. At the University of Alaska Fairbanks Facilities Services for seven years, Miller was director of maintenance and then design and construction.

Most recently, he was a senior project manager at RISE Alaska, where he was

responsible for projects such as the Fairbanks International Airport Terminal Development Program and the Tanana Chiefs Conference Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center.

Dave has called Alaska home for the past 35 years with his wife and enjoys fishing, hunting and curling.

SPRING MAINTENANCE



McCarthy Highway embankment slide

Maintenance and Operations crews performed emergency repairs to the McCarthy Highway in mid-May after an embankment slide at Mile .4 (just past Chitina on the way to McCarthy).



Spring breakup damage in Galena

State and contractor crews were in Galena in May and June fixing erosion damage on Campion Road as a result of spring breakup on the Yukon River. Campion Road is now open to traffic as work continues on the new roadway realignment project.



Taylor Highway seasonal opening

Crews worked this spring to open several highways in Northern Region that aren’t maintained during the winter, including Taylor Highway. Now, residents can travel to the Canadian border on the highway.

ANNUAL SUPER OPEN HOUSE

More than 650 people attend our second annual Super Open House on April 20 in Fairbanks.

The Super Open House provided a central location to learn about all planned road construction in the Fairbanks area. Also available was information about job opportunities with DOT&PF, Local 71, and UAF Community and Technical College; equipment displays for the kids; and lunch provided by the Local 71 Public Employees Union.

Project teams were available to provide information and answer questions about more than 60 projects throughout the region this year, including the Airport Way, Goldstream Road and Johansen Expressway construction projects here in Fairbanks, and projects along the Parks Highway.



Left: Northern Region’s Alexa Greene hangs out with Reflectosaurus during the Super Open House in Fairbanks. Far left: The Welch family shows off their souvenir hard hats.

IMPORTANT LINKS

How do I...

- Find general information about Northern Region?
- Find information about active Northern Region projects?
- Find websites for Northern Region Projects?
- Get MAP 21 information?
- Find project advertising dates, contract status/award information, or capital projects out for bid?
- Find key department contacts?

<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/>

<http://dot.alaska.gov/projects-status/index.cfm>

<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/projects/index.shtml>

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/procurement/index.shtml>

<http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/contacts.shtml>