

Southcoast Region

Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Summer Edition

June 2015

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Rob Campbell, P.E. 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, Anchorage. He has worked at ADOT&PF for more than 30 years.

Comments on the newsletter? Email dotscrdirector@alaska.gov or call (907) 465 - 1763

Greetings,

Southcoast Region director, This is the first of what I intend to be regular quarterly reports compiled to keep legislators up to date on Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities activities by providing information on topics of interest specific to Southcoast Region, such as helpful links to project schedules and websites, budget updates and more.

> During my 30 years with the department, I have served as Central Region director for several years, as well as Northern Region director between 2013-2014.

> Commissioner Luiken requested that I assume the duties of Southcoast Region director in order to assist with the transitions related to new leadership

within the department and regional boundary changes. One of my top priorities in this position is to promote efficient communications and coordination between the department's three regions.

In this issue, we'll review the regional boundary shift, answer FAQs related to the public information process and feature the new Navigator system. In addition, we'll touch on the facts regarding how eminent domain is used to obtain property and how that process relates to DOT&PF.

This publication is a work in progress, and my goal is to make it as valuable a tool as possible to you. If you have ideas for future topics or general feedback, please contact me at dotscrdirector@alaska.gov or 907-451-1763.

BOUNDARY SHIFT UPDATE

Work continues on implementing the recently adopted boundary changes for Central and the newly formed Southcoast regions. The four boroughs being transferred to Southcoast from Central are: Lake and Pen, Aleutians East, Bristol Bay (Dillingham census area excluded) and Kodiak.

While some duties have already shifted, there remains a large amount of responsibility to transfer. The current goal for each section or functional area is to have a plan in place to

begin the process of repositioning projects and responsibilities to Southcoast by July 1st.

Staff in both regions will continue to work together until all details are successfully in place to ensure that the process of transitioning workload from Central to Southcoast is done in a systematic, well planned way as we move forward as "One" DOT&PF.



EMINENT DOMAIN: DOT&PF PROPERTY ACQUISITION TOOL OF LAST RESORT

Many people have the misconception that DOT&PF obtains most or all private property it needs for a project through the power of eminent domain. This is simply not the case. DOT&PF works diligently with property owners to reach a fair agreement for necessary property. Using eminent domain to acquire property is a stressful, lengthy, litigious, and expensive process, not taken lightly.

The Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution states that, "private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation". To provide uniform and equitable treatment of persons whose property is acquired for public use and to ensure their "just compensation", Congress passed the "Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970" (also known as the "Uniform Act") and its subsequent amendments.

The Right of Way (ROW) section of DOT&PF is responsible for ensuring that enough public property is available for the construction, operation, and maintenance of each project DOT&PF constructs. When more right of way is needed, the acquisition of that property falls to them. Abiding by the requirements set by the Uniform Act, the ROW acquisitions process generally includes the following steps:

- ROW notifies the owner of DOT&PF's intentions to acquire the property.
- An appraiser visits the property. The owner is invited to accompany the appraiser.
- Appraisal is submitted to the Department's Review Appraiser for approval.
- Just compensation is determined for the property.
- ROW provides the owner with a summary of the property to be acquired and a written offer.
- ROW negotiates with the owner for the purchase of the property. The owner is never offered less than full market value (according to the current arms-length appraisal), plus relocation benefits and sometimes additional funds for extenuating circumstances.
- If negotiations are successful, ROW completes the acquisition and pays the property owner.
- If negotiations are unsuccessful, the parties may consider an administrative settlement (usually additional funds or terms relating to unusual circumstances) to complete the acquisition.

If an agreement cannot be reached after this process, DOT&PF will then invoke eminent domain, though this is rarely required. For the Federal Fiscal Years 2012-2014, Central Region DOT&PF acquired 339 permanent interests in parcels for capital projects with only 22 requiring eminent domain action.

IMPORTANT LINKS

- Alaska Navigator for Southcoast Region
- Subscribe to receive news and updates via email
- Access department news and updates on Facebook & Twitter
- Get the scoop on Southcoast Region summer construction projects

alaskanavigator.org

public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOT/subscriber/new?

facebook.com/AlaskaDOTPF * @AlaskaDOTPF

dot.alaska.gov/screg/projects-status/

BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

Throughout the month of May, the department conducted its biennial bridge inspection program in communities across Southcoast Region.

In Skagway, Prince of Wales Island, Haines, Ketchikan and Sitka, DOT&PF engineers utilized a piece of equipment called the Aspen A30 Snooper to "reach" beneath the underside of bridges.

The program is designed to ensure the traveling public that the bridges in Alaska are safe to cross. Routine bridge inspections help the department plan for future bridge replacements, repairs and maintenance activities.

Bridge inspection notices and road conditions for Alaska highways are available online at 511. alaska.gov or by calling 511. The department urges travelers to use these resources before traveling throughout the state.



ADOT&PF engineers use the A30 Snooper to inspect bridges all over the state of Alaska



NAVIGATOR COMING TO SOUTHCOAST

Your online source for road construction information in Alaska is coming to Southcoast Region summer 2015.

Proven successful in Northern and Central Regions, the Alaska Navigator system allows users to view construction projects and closures by visiting alaskanavigator.org.

The system is updated daily and covers traffic and construction events that impact drivers, pedestrians and cyclists.

Users in Southcoast Region can expect to start using this service by August 2015. Please check the department website for updates throughout the summer at www.dot.state.ak.us.



SOCIAL MEDIA

We use social media to keep the public informed about issues such as road conditions, emergency events, construction projects, public involvement opportunities and more.

Follow us at:

www.facebook.com/AlaskaDOTPF @AlaskaDOTPF on Twitter http://www.flickr.com/photos/akdotpf/> https://vimeo.com/user6209359 www.youtube.com/user/AlaskaDOTPF @alaska dotpf on Instagram

AERIAL SURVEYS

Residents of Southeast Alaska may have noticed low flying Temsco helicopters in certain areas during the month of May as DOT&PF staff conducted low level aerial surveys of eagle nests in Southcoast Region.

The purpose of the surveys was to determine the status and occupancy of eagle nests in proximity to DOT&PF construction activities.



(Pictured) Two eagles in a nest spotted by surveyors in the North Douglas area of Juneau.

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PREVIEW

Juneau

• Brotherhood Bridge Replacement Project: This \$30 million project moves into phase 2 this spring/summer, with completion scheduled for fall 2015. The new bridge will accommodate two lanes of traffic in each direction over the bridge and add both a multi-use path on the upstream side, and a sidewalk on the downstream side.

- North Douglas Pavement Rehabilitation Roundabout to Fish Creek: Having completed the overlay and guard rail installation in 2014, contractors will return this summer to complete unfinished driveways and install a new membrane and overlay for the Lawson Creek Bridge.
- Fritz Cove Pavement Rehabilitation Project: This \$3.1 million project will widen Fritz Cove Road, install new pavement and guard rails and rehabilitate the existing grade. The completion date is set for July 2015.
- Mendenhall Dust Control Project: This \$1.7 million projects includes new sub base and asphalt pavement on 13 City and Borough of Juneau residential streets in order to control dust. The project will wrap up in August 2015.

Haines

• **Haines Ferry Terminal:** Contractors have been stockpiling material and the off site fabrication of marine structures is under way. The \$15 million project is scheduled for completion summer 2016.

Kodiak

• DOT& PF is working to obtain a permit to allow contractors to work near the Steller sea lion habitat near the project site. The completion date for the \$9,197,000 million project is contingent on the permitting process.



Phase 2 of the Brotherhood Bridge Project includes the addition of two lanes and a center turn lane onto Industrial Blvd.

Akutan

• The Akutan City Dock Improvements: This \$1.21 million project will reconstruct portions of the existing City Dock to better accommodate AMHS ferries and additional shipping. Construction begins spring 2015.

Annette Bay

• Annette Bay Ferry Terminal Improvements: This \$782,000 project will provide a new mooring dolphin at the Annette Bay Ferry Terminal facility in order to better accommodate the AMHS and Inter-Island Ferry Authority ferry system vessels. Construction will begin spring 2015.

Cold Bay

• Cold Bay Dock Improvements Project: This \$1.32 million project that will restore the existing fender system and other deteriorated

components. The dock services AMHS ferries as well as additional shipping and freight. Construction is anticipated for fall 2015.

Homer

Homer City Dock Improvements: This \$1.22 million project will reconstruct the fender system and provide a covered pedestrian walkway for ferry passengers. Construction is scheduled to begin fall 2015.

Prince Of Wales

Hydaburg Highway Pavement Rehabilitation: This \$11.9 million project includes installation of new culverts, and a bridge railing. In addition, the contractor will correct super elevation on curves and install a chip seal surface over the 22 mile road. Completion is scheduled for August 2016.



The Haines Ferry Terminal Construction Project is scheduled for completionn summer 2016