



Southcoast Region

Director's Quarterly

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Spring Edition

May 2017

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Michael J. Coffey

Southcoast Region director, is a degreed engineer from Humboldt State University & has over 34 years of maintenance, operations, design & construction experience with the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

May is National Bike Month, and we have bike safety on the mind! These days, more bikes are out on the roads than gathering dust in the garage. It is spring, and Southcoast Region drivers are starting to share the road with more than just the few hardy year-round bicyclists who brave winter conditions.

The Alaska Driver's Manual includes the following safety tips for bicyclists:

- Always wear a helmet and obey all traffic controls.
- Ride your bicycle near the right-hand edge of the road.
- Never carry another person on your bicycle.
- Always use hand signals when turning or stopping.
- Look out for cars at cross streets, driveways and parking places.
- Be careful when checking traffic and don't swerve when looking over your shoulder.
- Give pedestrians the right-of-way.
- Keep your bicycle in good condition and always ride carefully.

We encourage bicyclists to use reflectors or wear reflective clothing to help drivers and pedestrians see them. We all know that distracted driving is increasing across the country – unfortunately, that is also true here in Alaska. This applies to bicyclists also. **Put down the phone.** We should not even need to say this, but talking on the phone, texting, or checking Instagram while biking is a major no-no. Also, refrain from listening to headphones because it is more difficult to hear approaching cars and pedestrians.

The responsibility of staying safe does not just fall to bicyclists. Everyone on the roadway plays a part in safe travel. Here are some rules of the road for both bicyclists and drivers:

- Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway has all the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle .
- Bicyclists are required to obey traffic signs, signals and all other traffic laws. Always be alert for other traffic .
- Bicycles must ride in the same direction as traffic .
- With the increasing use of bicycles, drivers need to exercise more care while driving when bicyclists are present to ensure their safety. Bicycle riders have no vehicle structure to protect them, and are difficult to see in traffic. Some bicyclists lack skill, and many are too young to have knowledge of all the traffic rules. As a driver, you must be alert and courteous to all bicyclists .

The link below leads to a two-page summary of Alaska Bicycle Laws published by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities:

http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/hwysafety/assets/BikeandSafetyManual/Alaska_Laws.pdf

This summer, get out and enjoy the beauty that is Southcoast Alaska, I certainly plan to. But remember, please ride/drive safely!

PROJECT AWARDS & FUNDING

Fiscal Year 2017 Project Funding

Total FHWA funds SR obligated to date:
\$27,732,989.59

Of which: AMHS = **\$786,666.58**
OTHER = **\$26,946,323.01**

FY17 Project Awards

SR advertised 12 construction projects,
awarded 9 projects totaling **\$53,524,637**.
Those projects included:

- Cold Bay Airport Improvements
- KTN Trollers Creek Bridge Replacement
- SGY CWHM Bridge Replacement
- JNU Glacier Hwy Fritz Cove—Seaview Improvements.



PRECONSTRUCTION

Southcoast Region Major Projects in Design:



KTN Mission Mill Stedman St

Ketchikan: Front, Mill & Stedman Streets Reconstruction Project

Location: On S. Tongass Hwy between Grant St and Deermount intersection. The project will widen sidewalks, upgrade pedestrian crossings, add traffic calming measures, reconstruct road base, resurface road and bridge. Began in 2012, approved environmental document completed in 2015. Construction funding available this year, and is on track to begin construction in the fall/winter of 2017 using a detailed phasing plan to limit disturbance to businesses and tourists. Scheduled to advertise in late June.

Haines: Highway Reconstruction Project

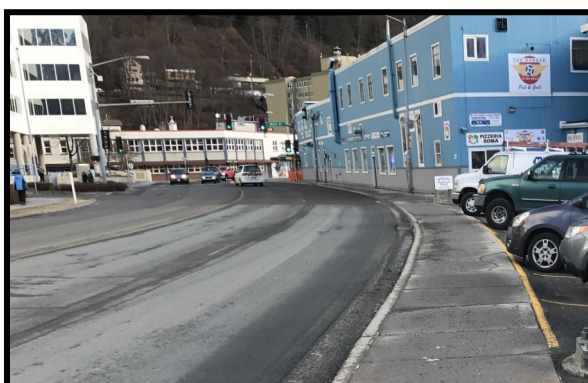
Location: From milepost 3.9 to 25.0. The project will bring the final U.S. segment of the Haines Highway up to 55 mph design standards; will widen shoulders to 6 feet, realign curves to provide sight distance, increase passing zones, replace the Chilkat River Bridge and mitigate debris flows within the project limits that are very costly to maintain. Began in 2004 with preliminary design and pursuit of an approved environmental document. In 2016, the Final Revised Environmental Assessment was completed and in August the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed. Construction funding available this year for the first phase of construction from milepost 3.9 to 12.0. Scheduled to advertise in late May.

Juneau: Egan Drive – 10th Street to Main Street

Location: Egan Drive between 10th Street (Douglas Island Bridge) and Main Street. The project will reconstruct pavement structure, upgrade street lights to LED lighting, make sidewalk widths more uniform, add two pedestrian crossings, repair a retaining wall on Egan Drive and Main Street. Also will add bike lanes between the bridge and the Main Street improving bike access from Douglas Island into downtown Juneau. Scheduled to advertise to construct in July or August 2017. Construction could begin as early as fall 2017 and is planned to be complete by the Fall of 2018.

Juneau: Mendenhall Loop Road Improvements

Location: Intersection of Nancy Street to the intersection of Back Loop Road. The project will construct three roundabouts, improve medians, upgrade sidewalk and bike path, reconfigure turn lanes, and update lighting. Roundabouts are proposed at the cross street intersections of Steven Richards Drive, Floyd Dryden Access Road, and Mendenhall Boulevard. Public meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2017. This State-funded project is planned to start construction 2018.



JNU 10th & Main

IMPORTANT LINKS

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

alaskanavigator.org

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

[@AlaskaDOTPF](https://facebook.com/AlaskaDOTPF)

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

CONSTRUCTION

Ketchikan Trollers Creek Bridge Replacement

Originally built in 1938 by the Bureau of Public Roads, for 79 years the Trollers Creek bridge served as a connecting link until; age and deterioration rendered the bridge limited for continued service. In August 2016, a contract to replace the current bridge was awarded to Orion Marine Contractors, Inc. of Tacoma, Washington. The \$1,549,850.00 project will replace the structurally deficient timber bridge with a new concrete bridge that will provide a wider travel-way capable of safely carrying all legal loads.



Removing the Trollers Creek Bridge

On-site construction of the replacement bridge began January 27, 2017, with demolition of the current bridge. As of April 26, 2017, the original bridge has been removed and two new concrete abutments have been completed. As soon as the contractor completes backfilling the abutments, five new 123ft-long pre-stressed precast concrete girders will be installed. The contractor’s latest schedule shows completion of work occurring on July 19, 2017, approximately two weeks ahead of the contract’s August 4 completion date.

Juneau Glacier Hwy. Reconstruction: Fritz Cove Rd. to Seaview Ave.



Excavation for Glacier Hwy Realignment at Auke Bay

Alaska DOT&PF entered into a \$13,795,076.00 contract with Secon of Juneau, Alaska on February 13, 2017 to reconstruct a portion of Glacier Highway near Auke Bay. Approximately one month later, the contractor began onsite construction, starting with clearing, grubbing, and removing invasive plants. Currently, excavation for a realigned section of Glacier Highway near the former NOAA Auke Bay laboratories is in progress.

Being a little more than two months into an 18 month contract, the work is anticipated to progress continuously until a shutdown is necessary during the winter offseason. The contractor’s current schedule shows project completion by August 31, 2018. Upon completion, this corridor of Glacier Hwy will have safer pedestrian facilities and improved highway geometrics, allowing greater driver sight distance, thereby meeting current highway standards.

Projects in Construction

- Chignik Public Dock
- Cold Bay Airport - Crosswind Improvements
- Cold Bay Airport Improvements - Main Runway Rehab
- Gustavus Rink Creek Bridge Replacement
- Haines Klehini Bridge and Transfer
- Haines Airport Drainage Improvements and Pavement Rehab
- Juneau Glacier Hwy. Multi-use Separated Path to UAS
- Juneau Glacier Hwy. Reconstruction: Fritz Cove Rd. to Seaview Ave.
- Juneau Lawson Creek Bridge Resurfacing
- Juneau N. Douglas Pavement Rehabilitation Roundabout to Fish Creek
- Kake Ferry Terminal Passenger Facility
- Ketchikan N. Tongass Hwy. Illumination Upgrade HSIP
- Ketchikan Replacement of Water Street Trestle #2(KTN Off-System Bridge)
- Ketchikan Airport ARFF Building Renovation
- Ketchikan Roosevelt Dr & Franklin Rd Pavement Rehab
- Ketchikan to Shelter Cove Road Stage 2 Construction
- Ketchikan Trollers Creek Bridge #0864 Replacement
- Kodiak Ferry Terminal
- Petersburg Haugen Drive Bike Path Improvements
- Petersburg Haugen Drive Sewer Line Improvements
- Petersburg Nordic Drive Refurbishment: Haugen Drive to Ferry Terminal
- Petersburg Nordic Drive Sewer Line Improvements
- Skagway Mine Mountain Repeater Power System Upgrade
- Skagway Replace Capt. William Henry Moore Bridge
- Yakutat Highway Fish Passage Improvements

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Kodiak Airport Becomes First on the National Stage

Tow plows have been spreading and gaining popularity across the nation but the Kodiak Benny Benson Airport is the first airport in the world to utilize a tow plow for winter maintenance operations. The tow-plow is a towed trailer with a snowplow and the capabilities of spreading either sand or liquid anti-icing/deicing chemicals to aid in snow removal activities. This allows one operator and a single truck to do the work of 2 operators and 2 snowplows. The vendor, Maintenance & Operations, and the State Equipment Fleet partnered to overcome the many challenges to operating the tow plow in an airport environment. Kodiak Airport Manager Bruce McNeil operated the tow plow on its initial voyage and was impressed with its maneuverability and its snow and ice removal capabilities. Bruce believes that the tow plow will increase snow and ice removal efficiencies by over 100%. Overall the Kodiak crews were impressed with the tow plow and are looking forward to using it in the future.



Tow-plow at KDK Benny Benson Airport

MEET THE SOUTHCOAST REGION



Tom Renninger

Tom Renninger

SR is HAPPY to announce that we have hired our new Director of Maintenance & Operations, Construction, & Facilities. Please welcome Tom Renninger to the region & the department. Tom comes to us from the Nebraska Department of Roads where he spent the last 28 years of his career. We are lucky to have someone of Tom’s caliber joining us.

Southcoast Region Marine Engineering

DOT&PF has maintained a marine design section since territorial days, formerly under the Division of Waters and Harbors and now under Southcoast Region (SR). Five marine design professionals are responsible for marine-related infrastructure design and support within the State. Group members include David Lowell, PE SE; Tim Doggett, PE SE; Joel Osburn, PE; Misty Butler, PE; Casey Dubois, EIT and Jill Taylor, Environmental Analyst



Valdez Terminal

This group works on a diverse array of coastal and waterfront projects, primarily for the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS). They are responsible for design of new construction and major maintenance projects at the 42 ports served by the AMHS in 37 communities throughout Alaska and Prince Rupert, B.C. However, small boat harbors, seaplane facilities and an assortment of piers, docks and other coastal structures are routinely designed in-house at SR. From 1983 to 1994, the marine design section was under the direction of the AMHS, and in 1994 marine design activities returned to SR under the current organization. The marine design group has routinely worked statewide on many projects even prior to the expansion of the Southcoast boundary expansion.

The marine design section provides historical record keeping and knowledge of all AMHS ferry terminals. They are often called upon by the public and others who seek their specialized knowledge of marine structures in the Alaskan environment. Marine engineering is a diverse hybrid of several engineering disciplines including coastal engineering, civil engineering and structural engineering. It requires creative solutions to transfer traffic to 11 different AMHS vessels in coastal areas with a tidal range of up to 30 feet. The design work includes upland improvements involving public utilities, on-site sewage disposal systems and public building structures. Members of this group are also responsible for providing seasonal inspections of the marine infrastructure that is utilized by AMHS as part of the State’s ferry system. The results of this inspection work support the drafting of the annual shore facilities condition survey report which serves as a tool to inform the public and determine project development needs.

Project development for marine facilities has become more challenging with respect to increased environmental permit requirements. Our environmental staff routinely encounters complex offshore permit conditions and is working on a number of Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) permits that require a lengthy and involved process with various federal regulatory agencies.

The marine design section is currently working on a number of interesting and important marine transportation projects including a new multipurpose pile supported dock for the City of Sandpoint and major refurbishment to the existing ferry terminals in Haines, Skagway, Gustavus, Ketchikan and Tenakee Springs, work valued at over \$61 million to be obligated for construction within FY17 and FY18.