

Meeting Minutes

Alaska Recreational Trails Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: January 13, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00PM

Location: Via Zoom

Meeting called to order by: Shannon McCarthy/Rebecca Garrett/Hazel Cristobal

In Attendance

- ARTAC Members Present: Lisa Agnew, Craig Compeau, Jeffrey Collins, Allie Sargent, Terry Valentine, and Jennifer Yuhas
- ARTAC Member Absent: Lee Hart
- Agency Staff Present: Ryan Anderson, Andy Mills, Shannon McCarthy, Hazel Cristobal, Rebecca Garrett (Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)); Ricky Gease (Department of Natural Resources).

Summary

The committee received information regarding Alaska's multi-use trail system, including winter trails, ice roads, and seasonal roads, and their role in statewide transportation access and economic development. Information was provided regarding expanded federal funding eligibility under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as challenges related to federal requirements, nonprofit agreements, and fund transfers.

Information was presented on the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and its flexibility in working with private non-profits. DOT&PF reported that, under Administrative Order 361, the RTP is being transitioned to the department and that the Alaska Recreational Trails Advisory Committee (ARTAC) has been formally established to provide advisory recommendations on prioritization and allocation of funds for multi-use trails, winter trails, snowtrails, and ice roads.

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was identified as a primary funding mechanism. DOT&PF reported that development of the 2026–2029 STIP is underway. ARTAC members were informed of challenges affecting the current Snowtrails Program, including federal requirements impacting implementation.

Roles and responsibilities were reviewed, with ARTAC serving in an advisory capacity and DOT&PF responsible for program administration, implementation, and compliance.

RTP funding requirements were reviewed, including allocation guidelines of 40 percent for diverse trail uses, 30 percent for motorized trails, and 30 percent for non-motorized trails. DOT&PF reported that RTP applications will be reopened using existing scoring criteria. The Snowtrails Program was reported to include 13 applications totaling over \$2 million in available funding, requiring ARTAC review and recommendation.

Follow-Up Items

- ARTAC will review and provide recommendations on existing Snowtrails projects, including the 13 current applications totaling over \$2 million in available funding.
- DOT&PF will reopen the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) application process using existing scoring criteria for current applications.
- ARTAC, in coordination with DOT&PF, will develop a prioritized list of trail projects suitable for matching funds from donors or private entities.
- ARTAC will deliberate and designate a public member to serve as Vice-Chair.
- ARTAC will identify and discuss statewide maintenance needs for existing trail systems.
- DOT&PF and ARTAC will consider development of a user survey to gather stakeholder input on trail use and funding priorities.
- ARTAC will review existing scoring criteria for Snowtrails, Ice Roads, and other RTP-funded programs.
- ARTAC will prepare for the review of Ice Road applications for the upcoming funding cycle.

Nomination & Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

A motion was made and seconded that the Commissioner's designee, Rebecca Garrett, be designated as Chair of ARTAC, with a public member to serve as Vice Chair. The motion passed. Selection of the Vice-Chair will be addressed as a future action item.

Next meeting

Quarterly meetings proposed (March, June or August, October, December or January) with additional smaller meetings as needed for time-sensitive items such as Snowtrails projects. Meeting times will remain flexible to accommodate member availability.

Motion to adjourn was made at 12:58 p.m. and was passed.