

From: [Commissioner, DOT \(DOT sponsored\)](#)
To: [DOT All Staff](#)
Subject: Commissioner's Weekly Update
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Good morning:

I thank each of you for your continued efforts dealing with the current health crisis, whether you are working at your office, from your truck or equipment, or telecommuting from your home. I also want to thank you for your understanding as we navigate our way through the current COVID-19 situation.

As we continue to deal with COVID-19, I have heard from many of you over the past few weeks at dot.commissioner@alaska.gov with your comments, concerns and suggestions. We pay attention to all of those and we implement your suggestions where we can. Some feel that we should do more, such as shut our offices down until the pandemic passes, but that is not an option.

It is essential to keep the State of Alaska up and running and the importance of what we at DOT&PF do every day for the people of Alaska cannot be emphasized enough. At DOT&PF, even during these times of social distancing, we like to say, "We touch every Alaskan every day." We do, and I also believe at times like this, we must maintain a sense of humor. A little levity can go a long way towards relieving the stress of the situation.

Each of you play an important part in that, whether you are on the front line of our service to Alaska, or behind the scenes making all the front line work possible. I can't emphasize enough the importance of DOT&PF to Alaska and your role in that is extremely important. We are public employees and we are here to serve the public. We have a responsibility to continue to carry out our mission.

At least two states – Pennsylvania and Washington have shut down their construction programs. That is not an option for us. Alaska's transportation infrastructure is the pulse of the economy and it is imperative that it be maintained and improved. We intend to advertise our 2020 construction program and work expeditiously towards getting

those construction projects underway. We're working with the rest of the industry and our funding partners on procedures for contingencies that will allow us to keep working with various shortages we can expect.

As you know, we have taken many steps to try to keep you all healthy as we work our way through this, making situational telecommuting possible for many, and trying to keep our workplaces as sanitary and clean as possible. Your health and well-being is important to us. We are pulling out the stops to see that your work space is safe and have instructed our cleaners to increase their attention to detail. I am asking each of you to continue to practice the highest level of hygiene possible. Your cooperation and patience with all of this is greatly appreciated.

Deputy Commissioner Mary Siroky is assigned full-time to the rapidly changing news of COVID and is communicating daily with DOT Leadership on the latest information.

We're learning that telecommuting has its own set of challenges. I look forward to the day when life returns to a more normal state, we can cancel situational teleworking and are all back together in our workplace doing business face to face.

These times are extremely stressful and confusing for many. I will keep you informed of what is happening at DOT&PF and please continue to check the [COVID-19 website](#) for the most current information and guidance regarding the new coronavirus.

John MacKinnon

Commissioner

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