



Kenai Spur Highway Rehabilitation: Sports Lake Road to Swires Road – Phase II

FACT SHEET

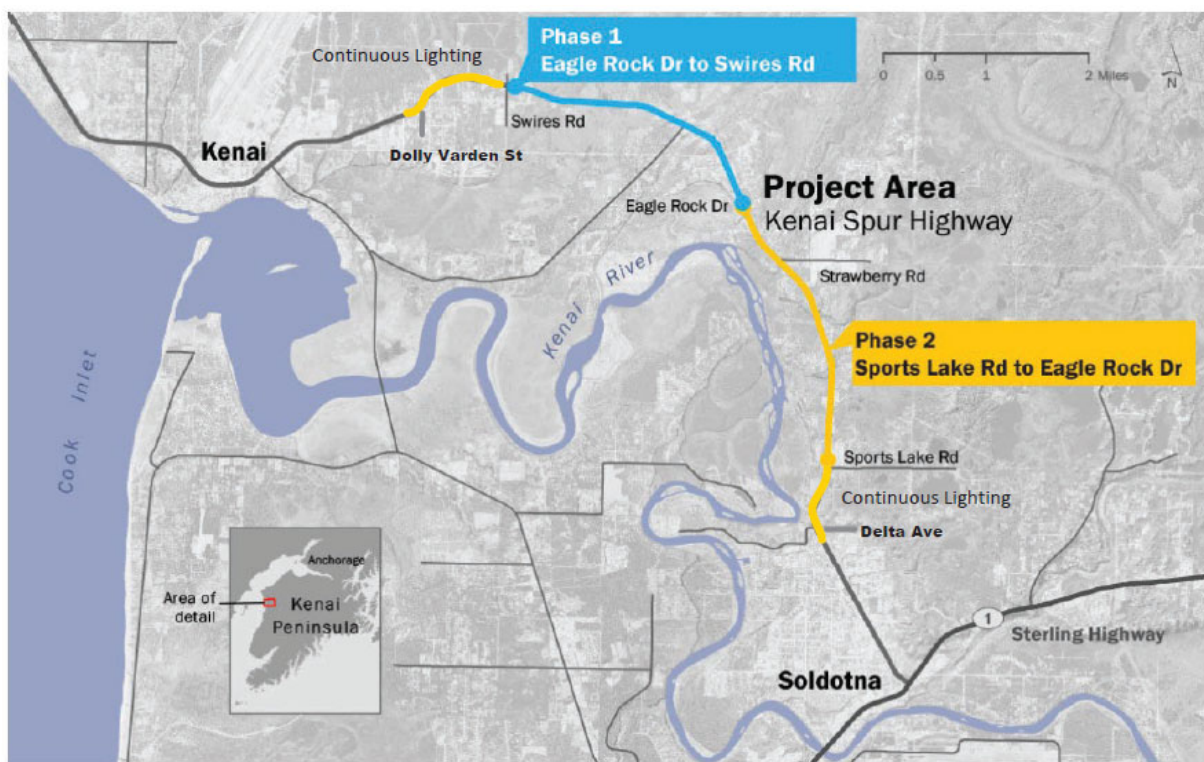
State Project No. CFHWY00253
Federal Project No. 0221(019)



Project Overview

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is rehabilitating 5.7 miles of the Kenai Spur Highway, from Sports Lake Road to Swires Road, to improve safety and capacity. The project will be constructed in two phases. The second phase will construct a 5-lane highway between Sports Lake Road and Eagle Rock Drive and install continuous lighting between Delta Avenue and Dolly Varden Street.

As the primary link between the communities of Kenai and Soldotna, this two-lane, undivided highway experiences higher crash rates than the statewide average and has the second highest rate of moose collisions in Alaska. Therefore, this project is a priority for both the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the State of Alaska.



In 2011, the DOT&PF received a \$20 million appropriation of state funding from the legislature for the project. From 2012 through early 2014, DOT&PF conducted reconnaissance engineering to develop and evaluate alternatives. The Cities of Kenai and Soldotna have expressed their preference for a five-lane highway, as it would best meet needs long-term. However, the project cost was greater than state funding appropriated. Therefore DOT&PF broke the project into two phases and pursued federal funding for Phase 2. Rehabilitation plans for the Kenai Spur project include:

- reconstructing and widening to a five-lane highway
- moose mitigation measures
- adding continuous lighting
- replacing culverts and guardrails
- minor pathway rerouting
- modifying or moving existing driveways



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Project Background

The project corridor is part of the 39-mile Kenai Spur Highway, constructed in 1956, that connects Soldotna with Kenai and Nikiski. In 2004, a 10-foot shared use pathway was constructed on the west side of the highway.

What's Happening Now

The design of the roadway and ROW acquisitions have been completed. Unfortunately, there are unresolved issues with some of the utility companies before DOT&PF can advertise the project for competitive construction bids and get utility relocation and construction underway. At least one of the utility companies cannot find needed materials that are confirmed to be compliant with the new Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), which is required for federal reimbursement. The utility company and DOT&PF are continuing to investigate the issue, but there is not a timeline on when a solution will be found.

Phased Plan

DOT&PF has separated its efforts into two phases.

Phase 1: Construction completed in 2020.

Phase 2: DOT&PF is pursuing a 2023 construction start but cannot guarantee it since there are factors beyond our control. The project website will be updated when a more specific timeline is known. Mailers will be sent out prior to construction.

Contact

If you would like to request additional information or share your ideas, please contact:

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