

Frequently Asked Questions

State / Federal Project No.: CFHWY00130 / OA33026



1. What is the purpose of this project?

The Sterling Safety Corridor Improvements Milepost (MP) 82.5 to 94 project is a federally funded project to reconstruct the Sterling Highway between Sterling and Soldotna to improve safety and reduce congestion.

2. What is the project area?

The project area begins in Sterling at Sterling Highway MP 82.5 and continues to Soldotna at Sterling Highway MP 94.



3. What are the project goals? What problems will this project solve?

The goals of this project are to:

- Provide a safe and reliable roadway that supports the efficient movement of goods, services, and people.
- Allow for decommissioning of the Traffic Safety Corridor by improving safety.
- Accommodate the seasonal increase of tourist and recreational traffic.
- Uphold the trust of stakeholders and the public.
- Balance needs to maintain access to roadside businesses and residences.
- Begin phased construction in 2026 or sooner, pending available funding.
- Realize the collaborative and innovative benefits of the Progressive Design-Build project format.

4. Why is this project needed?

Following the Traffic Safety Corridor designation in 2009, fatal and major injury crash rates declined; however, crash rates remain above national averages, with nearly half of these resulting

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from head-on collisions. Despite summer traffic being more than double winter traffic, most fatal and major injury crashes and 70% of animal-vehicle collisions occur during winter months.

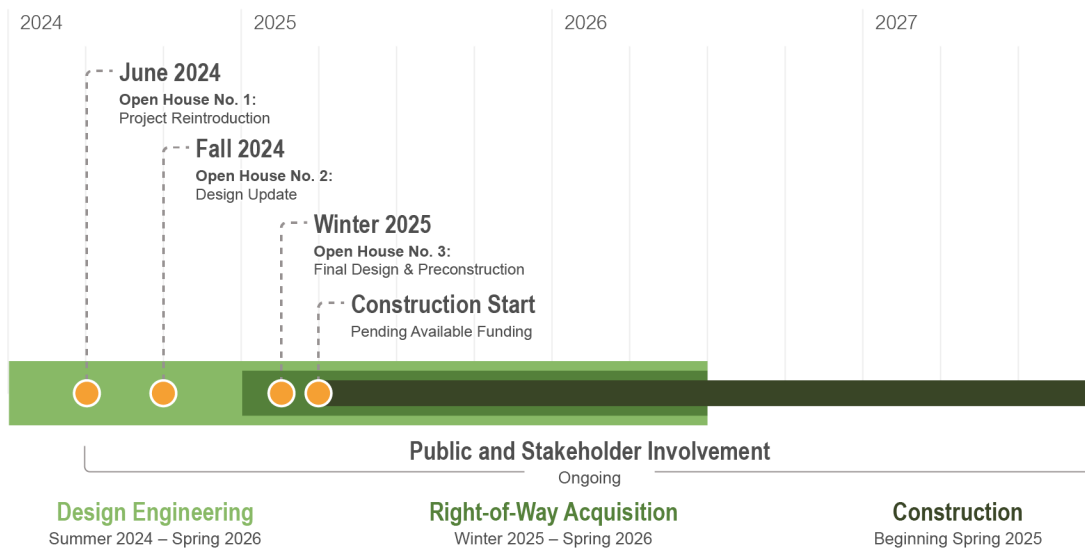
Traffic volumes have increased over 400% since the 1970s. Traffic exceeds current two-lane roadway's capacity and is expected to increase another 30% over the next 30 years.

5. What is a Progressive Design-Build project? What are the benefits?

The contractor and design consultant work together to advance design and construction tasks as a joint team to:

- Encourage collaboration
- Foster engineer/contractor innovation
- Lower risk of budget overrun
- Increase flexibility of the construction schedule and construction phasing
- Maintain continuity of project knowledge through construction

6. When will this project be constructed?



7. What happened to the previous project/design? Will this project consider comments and concerns shared during that project?

The Design-Build project initiated in 2022 was cancelled to allow time to better address public comments received related to safety and access. Comments and input provided by the public and stakeholders in response to the 2022 project are documented and will be considered during the current project.

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8. What are the right-of-way (ROW) needs for this project?

ROW easements and/or acquisition may be required at various locations along the corridor to accommodate intersection and access improvements, such as realignment of intersecting roads, new frontage roads, new side streets, and reconnecting driveways. ROW needs will be evaluated and refined during evaluation of design alternatives.

9. How will the project team resolve concerns through the design phase?

The project team will continue to gather input from the public and stakeholders; review the previous work, Environmental Assessment, preferred alternative, and key assumptions; gather, update, and analyze current safety and traffic data; and develop and evaluate different alternatives, including:

- Explore different typical sections for different portions of the corridor.
- Reassess opportunities for frontage roads and expanding side-street networks.
- Reevaluate side-street realignments and locations for median breaks where a divided highway is considered.

10. What activities are planned for 2024?

The project team will continue to gather input from the public and stakeholders at three public open house meetings and stakeholder meetings on specific topics:

- Public safety and emergency response
- KPB school district
- Business owners, tourism, and economic interests
- Trucking, freight, and transportation
- Wildlife and environment

The project team will collect and analyze updated engineering data:

- Survey
- Traffic and safety
- Geotechnical
- Utilities

The project team will develop and evaluate design alternatives, bringing these to the public and stakeholders at public open house meetings. The project team will also begin permitting and preparation for clearing and utility relocations to allow construction activities to begin in 2026 or as funding allows.

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11. How can I find out more about and be involved in the project?

- Visit the project website: www.SterlingSafetyImprovements.com
- Sign up to receive project update emails from the website
- Contact the project team to share your comments:
SterlingSafetyImprovements@dowl.com
- Participate in Public Open Houses