



Alaska DOT&PF 2027-2028 Research Program Overview

February 2026



Goals of the DOT&PF Research Program

To fund research that solves real-world transportation challenges in Alaska, delivers measurable cost-benefits, produces implementable results, and improves safety and infrastructure performance statewide.

Visit the *DOT&PF Research & Innovation* website for more details: [Research & Innovation](https://dot.alaska.gov/dmio/research.shtml)

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- 1.** Research Applications due **April 30, 2026**
- 2.** 27-28 Research Cycle Begins **October 1, 2026**
- 3.** Total Budget Available for 27-28 Research Program **~\$4.5M**

The Alaska DOT&PF Research Program selects research projects through a process that aligns with federal requirements (23 CFR 420) and DOT&PF Strategic Investment Areas:

Economic Vitality
Sustainability
Safety
Resiliency
State of Good Repair

What is Research?

Applied Research - Solves a DOT&PF surface transportation problem, improves efficiency, evaluates an innovation, and/or improves policies and operations. Partnering with Industry to advance technology adoption.

What is considered "Surface Transportation"?

Transit, Sidewalks, Bike-infrastructure, Ferry system, Ports, Harbors, Roads, Streets, Bridges, Trails, Ice roads

What makes a good project?

- ✓ Addresses a specific need
- ✓ Less than 2 years
- ✓ Low risk
- ✓ Engaged Technical Advisors to keep the project moving!

Each research project is required to have a DOT&PF project champion to support the research project from inception through implementation.

To have your research idea considered, a Research Need Statement must be completed.

Research Needs Statements are scored on criteria such as

- Department need
- Cost/benefit ratio
- Potential for implementation
- Innovation
- Available funding



Figure 1.—Typical open pipe fish ladder application



Photo 4: Dynamic Friction Tester with Case and Water Source

How is research conducted?

DOT&PF uses experts to complete selected research projects:

- University of Alaska
- University Transportation Centers (UTC)
- Universities
- Consultants
- In-house experts

Research Needs Statements must include the following:

1. Purpose Statement & Background
2. Tie to DOT&PF Strategic Investment Areas
3. Objectives & Expected Outcomes
4. Expected Benefits
5. Implementation plan
6. Cost Estimate
7. Equipment Needs (\$10K limit on individual items)
8. Estimated Schedule

Research Needs Statements can be submitted here:

[DOT&PF 2027-2028 Research Needs Submission](#)

For more information contact the DOT&PF Research Section at dot.research@alaska.gov