



# Safe Ice Roads for Alaska (SIRA) Application Guide

For 2025

July 2025

# 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Alaska's tribes, cities, boroughs, and local organized governments will have an opportunity to nominate seasonal/ice road projects for funding from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF). The Safe Ice Roads for Alaska (SIRA) program is a competitive funding opportunity administered by the DOT&PF exclusively for the development, maintenance, and operations of seasonal ice roads. The program emphasizes enhancing the safety of ice roads that are developed and maintained by local communities. Tribes and communities with experience developing and maintaining ice roads are encouraged to nominate projects for funding. Project nominations will be scored using established criteria by an evaluation board.

## 1.1. Federal Aid Availability

Federal funding has been set aside in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) from federal fiscal year 2026 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds for this program.

## 1.2. Eligibility

Eligible activities include the following:

- **Planning** – Route planning, selecting operations level, determining signage requirements, determining equipment requirements.
- **Surveying** – Manual surveying, Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) surveying
- **Route Selection** – Route selection, access points
- **Ice Road Establishment** – Preparing travel lanes, snow clearing, ice strengthening, surveying.
- **Signage** – Construction signs, entry signs, regulatory and advisory signs
- **Monitoring** – Visual inspection, surveying
- **Maintenance** – Repairing cracks, traffic control, updating signage.
- **Administration** – Controlling loads and speeds, safety, training. Not to be confused with administrative type activities.
- **Snow Fencing** – build temporary snow fencing to prevent snow drifting on the road.
- **Shutdown** – Close ice road to public use

NOTE: The following are examples but not a comprehensive list of ineligible activities under the SIRA program: ground-disturbing maintenance work, work involving the water column, permanent trail markings on land, and undocumented project charges.

## 1.3.Match

The program requires a 9.03% match. This match can be met by in-kind provisions (time and maintenance work on the ice road). Cash match is also acceptable. Tribal Transportation and/or Denali Commission dollars, if applicable, are eligible to provide the non-federal match.

In-kind match can be met through personnel and maintenance work on the ice road, but it must be documented just like the staff time to show the value of that in-kind match.

## 2. SCHEDULE, TIMELINES, DEADLINES

TASK	TIMELINE
Public Notice: Call for Projects:	August 8, 2025
Application Deadline:	August 29, 2025
Evaluation & Scoring:	September 1-5, 2025
Award Announcement:	October 1, 2025
Deadline for Reimbursements:	May 30, 2026
Program Closure:	June 30, 2026

## 3. SCORING CRITERIA

The Project Evaluation Board will evaluate and score each project against the following criteria. Scores are then weighted (see weight column below.) For example, if the applicant's project received an overall score of 5 for Safety Inspections their score will be:  $(5 \times 20) = 100$ . Total possible score for all categories is 500.

Standard	Scoring Criteria		
<b>1a. Safety - Safety Inspections</b>	<b>(4-5)</b>	<b>(2-3)</b>	<b>(0)</b>
*The level of risk is determined from calculating the A Value from Gold's Formula. See University of Alaska Fairbanks, Design and Operation of Ice Roads manual (Chapter 5 & Chapter 9)	This project provides safety inspections (visual and survey) for the expected level of risk according to the A Value for Gold's Formula.	The project provides <b>adequate</b> safety inspections (visual and survey) for the expected level of risk and is not at the level recommended.	The project includes <b>little to no</b> safety inspections.
<b>1b. Safety - Safety Activities</b>	<b>(4-5)</b>	<b>(2-3)</b>	<b>(0)</b>
*Safety activities are listed on the application.	This project includes a <b>comprehensive</b> list of safety activities such as regular maintenance to clear or flatten snow and smooth ice, trail markings, illuminated signage, max speed limits, advisories, flagging, etc.	This project includes <b>moderate</b> safety activities where some activities are listed.	This project includes <b>little to no</b> safety activities.
Standard	Scoring Criteria		
<b>2. Economic Benefits</b>	<b>(4-5)</b>	<b>(2-3)</b>	<b>(0-1)</b>
	This project <b>significantly</b> enhances the economic development by including more than two of the following: 1) Supporting subsistence living; 2) Providing access to employment; 3) Supporting the movement of freight; 4) Connecting communities.	This project <b>moderately</b> enhances economic development by including one or two of the following: 1) Supporting subsistence living; 2) Providing access to employment; 3) Supporting the movement of freight; or 4) Connecting communities.	This project provides <b>little to no</b> economic benefits.
Standard	Scoring Criteria		
<b>3. Health &amp; Quality of Life</b>	<b>(4-5)</b>	<b>(2-3)</b>	<b>(0-1)</b>
	This project <b>significantly</b> enhances health & quality of life by including more than two of the following: 1) Providing recreational opportunities; 2) Increasing social, cultural, and physical connections; 3) Increasing access to employment, health services, public facilities and goods; 4) Reduces the cost of living.	This project <b>moderately</b> enhances economic development by including one or two of the following: 1) Providing recreational opportunities; 2) Increasing social, cultural, and physical connections; 3) Increasing access to employment, health services, public facilities and goods; 4) Reduces the cost of living.	This project provides <b>little to no</b> contribution to health & quality of life.
Standard	Scoring Criteria		
<b>4. Access to Air Service</b>	<b>(4-5)</b>	<b>(2-3)</b>	<b>(0-1)</b>
	The project allows the community/entity to <b>gain access</b> to air service facility for essential purposes such as access to health care or vital goods.	The project <b>creates improved access</b> to air service for standard or everyday purposes to connect families and communities, procure services, and access resources.	The ice road provides <b>little to no change</b> over a community's current level of service.
Standard	Scoring Criteria		
<b>5. Contributing Factors</b>	<b>(4-5)</b>	<b>(2-3)</b>	<b>(0-1)</b>

	This project has <b>strong</b> contributing factors, such as: 1) proven project readiness, i.e., equipment is already available and in good condition, staff and resources available, secured partnerships to plan, build, maintain, operate and/or fund; <b>AND</b> , 2) other added benefits not already covered.	This project has <b>moderate</b> contributing factors, such as: 1) proven project readiness, i.e., equipment is already available and in good condition, staff and resources available, partnerships to plan, build, maintain, operate and/or fund; <b>OR</b> , 2) other added benefits not already covered.	This project has <b>little to no</b> project readiness or added benefits.
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## 4. APPLICATION

Applications will be hosted here: [State Programs | Transportation Funding Opportunity Hub](#). If your entity does not have an account, you will need to sign up for one.

- Scroll down to the section that says “No Account? Let’s Create One.”
- Click the yellow button that says Request an AKDOT Hub Community Account.

This will send an email to a Department Program Manager, and they will determine if an account is needed for that community/organization or if they already have one.

The Program Manager will then get in touch with information technologies, and they will create an account. Once the account is created, the user will get an email with the instructions on how to create a password and login.

After the user does this, they will be able to sign in on the funding hub site and track the progress of their submitted applications.

**Please note:** For answers/responses that need more space than the application provides, please use a separate document and include it with your application.

Check	Item	Important notes
	Pass the pre-screening	See 1.2 Eligibility.
	Safe Ice Roads for Alaska Application	Due to Alaska DOT&PF by August 29, 2025, 11:59 PM Alaska time.

	Memorandum of Agreement between project sponsor and the Alaska DOT&PF	This must be signed prior to project start
	Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity	If applicable, the document must be signed prior to project start for the scope of the agreement only
	9.03% Local Match	Required
	Notice to Proceed (NTP)	Once all documents have been signed, a complete package will be sent to federal highways for approval. Once approved, a NTP will be issued, and work (billing) can begin.

Additional information about the Safe Ice Roads for Alaska Program can be found on our website at:  
<https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/cip/stip/projects/SIRA.shtml>

### **Program Contact Information**

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If you are submitting your application via email, you will submit it to this address:

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