



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update

The purpose of this monthly report is to provide a snapshot update of the project. For more detailed project information, please visit www.sterlinghighway.net.

PROJECT UPDATE

Tasks Performed in September:

- **Public Involvement:** Continued landowner outreach; public meeting presentation was available on project website until September 17. Updated project website.
- **Environmental:** Completed cultural resources field season (at the end of September); continued support on permitting.
- **Agencies:** Continued efforts for design input and required permitting.
- **Phase 1:** Phase 1A (MP 56–58) construction continued, paved surface for 2021 winter conditions; construction for Phase 1A expected to conclude in 2022; continued the coordination of Phase 1B (MP 44.5 to 47) utility agreements and intersection at Phases 3 and 1B; responded to requests for information as needed.
- **Phase 2:** Juneau Creek bridge (Steel Deck Arch) elevation was raised. This new concept lengthened the bridge to approximately 860 feet. 30% design is anticipated for late December. Michael Baker will be performing a value Engineering Study of the Juneau Creek Bridge after the 30% design milestone.
- **Phases 3–6:** Continued effort on design, which included the early works package for Pioneer Road and alternatives for the western intersection (Phase 5).
- **Field Efforts:** Continued minimal survey, wildlife, and cultural resource efforts.

Tasks Anticipated for October:

- **Public Involvement:** Continue landowner outreach.
- **Environmental:** Wrap up cultural resources fieldwork and begin data analysis. Intermittent wildlife fieldwork and continued wildlife fencing design.
- **Agencies:** Continue efforts for permitting and design input. Targeting several working group meetings and overall agency meeting at end of October/early November.
- **Phase 1:** Phase 1A construction going into winter shutdown, construction to resume in spring 2022; continue Phase 1B design and right-of-way process.
- **Phase 2:** Continue to develop the Juneau Creek Bridge design.
- **Phases 3–6:** Complete design to 75% stage for Phases 3 and 4.
- **Field Efforts:** Cultural resources fieldwork will continue in Phase 1A.

Near-term Schedule Goals:

- Develop Tract C (near Quartz Creek intersection).
- **Environmental:** Conduct wildlife fieldwork and permitting support as needed.
- Negotiate Pioneer Road early works package with Construction Manager/General Contractor for spring construction.
- Complete review process for 75% design of Phases 3 and 4.
- Choose a preferred alternative for the western intersection.
- Choose a preferred structure type for all wildlife crossings.



Some of the project's cultural resources team, Lia Amundsen, Sarah Garner, and Aren Rosholt, conducting fieldwork.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Sterling Highway Milepost (MP) 45–60 Project will reconstruct the east and west ends of the existing roadway from approximately MP 45 to 46.5 and MP 56 to 58, widening shoulders, straightening the road, and adding passing lanes. Between MP 46.5 and 55.5 (the off-alignment section), the project will construct 10 miles of new roadway north of Cooper Landing and the Kenai River, including a new bridge spanning Juneau Creek Canyon.

This project will bring the highway up to current standards by efficiently and safely serving through-traffic, the local community, and traffic bound for recreation destinations, both now and in the future. Schedule goals include beginning construction in 2021 and opening the new highway to traffic by the end of 2027.

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