



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



An estimate review meeting held for the 30% design stage of the Juneau Creek Bridge.

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.



STERLING
HIGHWAY MILE POST 45 TO 60
ALASKA

Project Overview

The Sterling Highway Milepost (MP) 45 to 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.

This construction will widen shoulders, straighten the road, and add 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. Construction began in 2021 and the goal is to open the new highway to traffic by the end of 2027.



Public Involvement: The project team coordinated and implemented outreach on completed and upcoming project activities. They also coordinated and prepared materials for the December 7, 2022, Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission Meeting and the December 21, 2022, Anchorage Snowmobile Club Meeting.



Environmental: Archaeologists continued to work on required post-field reporting. Archaeological work will be ongoing for most of the project. DOT&PF continued to prepare a modification request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to update the wetland permit to match the refined highway design. DOT&PF also held several agency working group meetings for topic-specific discussion.



Phase 1B: The Phase 1B team coordinated with utility owners to better assess and address potential utility impacts, constructability, and construction phasing challenges. This coordination will continue in 2023.



Phase 2: The project team performed an estimate review of the Juneau Creek Bridge 30% design stage.

Near-term Schedule Goals



Agencies: DOT&PF will work with Agencies to finalize amendments to the Programmatic Agreement; Temporary Water Use authorizations within Phase 3; a Memorandum of Understanding with regard to Wildlife, Vegetation, and Maintenance; and a 404 Permit Modification request to USACE.



Phase 1A: Phase 1A construction will resume in spring 2023, and updates will be available on DOT&PF's Navigator page at <https://www.alaskanavigator.org/>. Phase 1A is expected to be completed in July 2023.



Phase 1B: Next tasks include supporting the Construction Manager/General Contractor and Independent Cost Estimator with the upcoming estimate and incorporating/finalizing design changes based on reviews of risk, innovations, and construction efficiencies.



Near-term Schedule Goals

continued...



Phase 2: The Steel Plate Girder bridge 95% design will be submitted in February 2023.



Phases 3–6: Phase 5 clearing and geotechnical investigations will occur in 2023. This clearing work will help provide better access for archaeologists, hydrologists, engineers, drill rigs, and surveyors. The team will then further the Phase 5 tight diamond interchange design after the geotechnical investigation results are available. The Phase 5 design will be finalized by 2024.



Right-of-Way: Right-of-way acquisition for Phase 5 is anticipated to be complete by May 2023.



Public Involvement: The public involvement team will coordinate and prepare materials for the January 12, 2023, Anchorage Transportation Fair.

Contact

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Design Questions

Jonathan Tymick, P.E.
DOT&PF Project Manager
907-269-0453

jonathan.tymick@alaska.gov

Construction Questions

Shaun Combs
DOT&PF Project Engineer
907-595-2217

Shaun.Combs@alaska.gov

Recent Tasks Completed



January 2022

Phase 5: The tight diamond alternative was selected for the Western Intersection.



May 2022

Phase 1B: The design was advanced to approximately 99% level of completion with the submission of the 99% PS&E assembly.



July 2022

Agencies: An Agency site visit took place on July 28, 2022.



September 2022

The Project Management Plan and Annual Financial Plan were finalized and submitted to FHWA FHWA.



November 2022

Phase 1B: The design team submitted the 99% plan set assembly.



April 2022

Phases 2–6: A highway easement was acquired from the United States Forest Service. Also, the first phase of the land swap was completed, resulting in CIRI as the current owner of Phase 5.



June 2022

Phase 2: DOT&PF made a Bridge Type Selection: Concept 12 – Steel Plate Girder bridge.



August 2022

GM/GC: The Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package was awarded to Colaska/QAP–Traylor joint Venture



October 2022

Phase 2: The design team progressed the Steel Plate Girder bridge concept design to 30%.



December 2022

Public Involvement: The team provided project updates at the December 7, 2022, Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission Meeting and the December 21, 2022, Anchorage Snowmobile Club Meeting.