



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



The DOT&PF Project Office is now located near the intersection of Quartz Creek Road and the Sterling Highway (21919 Sterling Hwy, Cooper Landing, AK, 99572).

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.



Tasks Performed in February

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. A project update was provided to the Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission at their February 8, 2023 meeting.



Environmental: Archaeologists continued to work on required post-field reporting and on planning for 2023. DOT&PF held meetings with Programmatic Agreement (PA) signatories to continue working on the PA. DOT&PF also submitted a modification request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to update the wetland permit to match the refined highway design and held several agency meetings for topic-specific discussion.



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



Phase 2: DOT&PF continued to work on the design of the Steel Plate Girder Bridge.



Phase 6: The Phases 3–6 team continued coordination with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and developed and submitted a 30% design level plan set of the Juneau Falls Trailhead and Juneau Falls Overlook.



Agencies: Regular coordination with Agencies was conducted. A meeting was also held with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Memorandum of Understanding for Wildlife Monitoring and Invasive Plant Species monitoring and treatment.

Near-term Schedule Goals



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



Near-term Schedule Goals

continued...

1A **Phase 1A:** Phase 1A construction will resume in early April 2023, and traffic updates will be available online at <https://511.alaska.gov> or by calling 511. Phase 1A is expected to be completed in July 2023.

1B **Phase 1B:** Next tasks include supporting the Construction Manager/General Contractor and Independent Cost Estimator with independently developing and confirming quantities; preparing construction cost estimates and resolving any differences; and incorporating design changes based on reviews of risk, innovations, and construction efficiencies. In addition, the team will continue their coordination and design support for the relocations of utilities, DOT&PF's design for the Langille Creek box culvert, and coordination with property owners on approaches and driveways.

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

3-6 **Phases 3–6:** Phase 3 and Phase 4 construction is scheduled to start the week of March 13, 2023. 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.

Contact

Alaska DOT & PF Design Questions

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Recent Tasks Completed



June 2022

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



July 2022

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



August 2022

GM/GC: The Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package was awarded to Colaska/QAP--Traylor Joint Venture.



September 2022

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



October 2022

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



November 2022

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



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.



January 2023

Public Involvement: The project team attended and hosted a booth at the January 12, 2023, Anchorage Transportation Fair to share project information with meeting attendees.



February 2023

Phase 6: A 30% design level for the Juneau Falls Trailhead and Overlook was submitted to USFS



February 2023

Agencies: A 6-month PA extension was determined on February 28, 2023