



# 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](http://www.sterlinghighway.net).

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Construction activities began in mid-March. For the most recent construction information, visit [www.alaskanavigator.org](http://www.alaskanavigator.org).

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Tasks Performed in August:

- **Public Involvement:** New schedule announcement; public comment follow-up; public meeting held on August 24, 20 people signed in.
- **Environmental:** Continued cultural resources field season; waiting for additional information for MP 58 permit.
- **Agencies:** Continued efforts for design input and required permitting; agency meeting held August 2; Programmatic Agreement mid-year check-in held August 19.
- **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 Type Selection Memo (Steel Deck Arch) advanced.
- **Phases 3–6:** Continued effort on design, which included the early works package for Pioneer Road.
- **Field Efforts:** Continued minimal survey, wildlife, and cultural resource efforts.

### Tasks Anticipated for September:

- **Public Involvement:** Continue landowner outreach; presentation available on project website until September 7.
- **Environmental:** Continue intermittent wildlife fieldwork and the cultural resources field season with a focus on Phase 1A data recovery; MP 58 permit application.
- **Agencies:** Continue efforts for permitting and design input.
- **Re-evaluate** the Environmental Document for work at MP 57.
- **Phase 1:** Continue Phase 1A construction; continue Phase 1B design and right-of-way process.
- **Phase 2:** Continue to develop the Juneau Creek Bridge design.
- **Phases 3–6:** Continue to work on mass/balance between different phases.
- **Field Efforts:** Cultural resources fieldwork to continue.

### Near-term Schedule Goals:

- **Development of Tract C** (Near Quartz Creek Intersection).
- **Environmental:** Conduct intermittent wildlife fieldwork as needed.
- **Advance design** to 75% stage by late fall.
- **Cultural resources fieldwork** will occur through September.



Outdoor Public Meeting held on August 24, 2021, from 5pm to 7PM at the Cooper Landing Community Club.



### 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 opening the new highway to traffic by the end of 2027.

### CONTACT

Sean Baski, P.E.  
State of Alaska DOT&PF  
Project Manager  
907-269-0547  
[Sean.Baski@alaska.gov](mailto:Sean.Baski@alaska.gov)

Katherine Wood  
HDR Public Involvement Lead  
907-644-2153  
[sterlinghwy@hdrinc.com](mailto:sterlinghwy@hdrinc.com)