



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 October:

- **Environmental:** Completed cultural resources field season (concluded at the end of September); assisted with Phase 1A construction cultural work; continued support on permitting
- **Agencies:** Continued efforts for design input and required permitting
- **Phase 1:** Phase 1A (MP 56-58) construction was shut down for winter and surface was paved for 2021 winter conditions; construction for Phase 1A expected to conclude 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 design lengthened the bridge to approximately 860 feet and raised elevation
- **Phases 3–6:** 95% Design submittal for Phases 3 and 4; continued design included the early works package for Pioneer Road and alternatives for the western intersection (Phase 5)
- **Field Efforts:** Continued minimal survey, geotechnical, wildlife, and cultural resource efforts

Tasks Anticipated for November:

- **Public Involvement:** Continue landowner outreach; attend Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission meeting to discuss western intersection alternatives
- **Environmental:** Begin data processing and analysis for cultural resources efforts; conduct intermittent wildlife fieldwork and continue wildlife fencing design
- **Agencies:** Continue efforts for permitting and design input; target several working group meetings and overall agencies meeting in early December
- **Phase 1:** Phase 1A construction going into winter shutdown; construction to resume spring 2022; continue Phase 1B design and right-of-way process
- **Phase 2:** Continue to develop the Juneau Creek Bridge design; 30% design is anticipated for late December
- **Phases 3–6:** Complete design review of 95% stage for Phases 3 and 4; review alternatives for western intersection (Phase 5)
- **Field Efforts:** Minimal geotechnical investigation resuming at Juneau Creek Bridge site

Near-term Goals:

- Develop Tract C (near Quartz Creek intersection)
- Conduct environmental permitting support as needed
- Negotiate Pioneer Road early works package with Construction Manager/General Contractor for spring construction
- Complete review process for 95% designs of Phases 3 and 4 and continue design
- Choose a preferred alternative for the western intersection
- Choose a preferred structure type for all wildlife crossings
- Conduct Value Engineering Study of the 30% Juneau Creek Bridge design



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.

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