



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 November:

- Public Involvement: Continued landowner outreach; updated project website; provided update to Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission at their meeting.
- Environmental: Completed cultural resources field season (concluded November 9th); continued cultural data management and reporting efforts; continued support on permitting.
- Agencies: Continued efforts for design input and required permitting.
- Phase 1: Shut down Phase 1A (MP 56-58) construction for winter, paved surface 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 continued development towards 30% review package.
- Phases 3–6: Completed design review of Early Works Package for Phases 3-4 grading, drainage, and structure design; presented alternatives for the Western Intersection (Phase 5).
- Field Efforts: Continued minimal geotechnical work at bridge abutments.

Tasks Anticipated for December:

- 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; 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 in early December.
- Phase 1: Phase 1A construction to resume in spring 2022; Phase 1B 95% design submittal anticipated in late December.
- Phase 2: Juneau Creek Bridge 30% design is anticipated for late December 2021.
- Phases 3–6: Continue progressing design of Phases 3 and 4 for January 2022 95% submittal; review alternatives for Western Intersection and select preferred alternative (Phase 5).
- Field Efforts: Minimal geotechnical investigation resuming at Juneau Creek Bridge site.

Near-term Goals:

- Choose a preferred alternative for the western intersection.
- Conduct Value Engineering Study of the 30% Juneau Creek Bridge design.
- Phases 3 and 4 design is expected to be completed in March 2022.
- Develop Tract C (Near Quartz Creek Intersection) and Pioneer Road in late spring.



October 14th Test Hole at Gerome Court on East Side bridge. Phase 3 of the corridor.



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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