



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 December:

- **Public Involvement:** Continued landowner outreach; provided project update to Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission at their meeting.
- **Environmental:** Completed wildlife camera field trip; continued effort on cultural resources data analysis and reporting; continued support on permitting.
- **Agencies:** Continued efforts for design input and required permitting; held overall agency meeting on December 1.
- **Phase 1:** Continued Phase 1A (MP 56–58) construction shutdown for winter; construction for Phase 1A expected to conclude 2022; continued coordination of Phase 1B (MP 44.5 to 47) utility agreements and intersection at Phases 3 and 1B; submitted Phase 1B 95% review package.
- **Phase 2:** Submitted Juneau Creek Bridge design 30% review package.
- **Phases 3–6:** Continued design efforts towards certification of the Early Works Package for Phases 3–4 grading, drainage, and structure design; presented alternatives for the Western Intersection (Phase 5).
- **Field Efforts:** Continued geotechnical work at bridge abutments.

Tasks Anticipated for January:

- **Public Involvement:** Continue landowner outreach; attend scheduled meetings with property owners; attend various community and agency meetings for project updates (January 5, 2022 Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission Meeting and January 13, 2022 Kenai River Special Area Advisory Board Meeting).
- **Environmental:** Continue data processing and analysis for cultural resources efforts; conduct intermittent wildlife fieldwork; continue permitting and environmental compliance efforts.
- **Agencies:** Continue efforts for permitting and design input; hold wildlife working group meeting to discuss fencing.
- **Phase 1:** Phase 1A construction to resume in spring 2022; Phase 1B 95% review meeting anticipated in late January.
- **Phase 2:** Conduct Juneau Creek Bridge 30% Value Engineering Review.
- **Phases 3–6:** Continue progressing design of Phases 3 and 4 for February 2022 95% submittal; select preferred alternative for Western Intersection (Phase 5).
- **Field Efforts:** Resume minimal geotechnical investigation at Juneau Creek Bridge site.

Near-term Goals:

- Develop Tract C (near Quartz Creek Intersection).
- Environmental: Conduct permitting support as needed.
- Phases 3 and 4 design is expected to be completed in March 2022.
- Choose a preferred structure type for all wildlife crossings.
- Select new CMGC contractor.
- Pioneer Road EWP to be constructed this spring to gain access to bridge abutments.



Sunrise at the West Abutment Drilling Set-up.



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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