



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



Photo: An aerial view of the new alignment.

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 March



Public Involvement:

Work began on advertising and content development for the April 21, 2022, Public Meeting. The project team also continued landowner outreach.



Environmental: Aerial surveys to identify active bald eagle nests in and around the project area were scheduled for April. The wildlife movement study continued and provided data to aid in the design of the wildlife crossing structures.

The Annual Meeting for the Programmatic Agreement (PA) was held on March 22, 2022, with all PA Signatories. Archaeologists are finalizing reports to summarize the 2021 field effort and continued planning for 2022 fieldwork.



Phase 1: Phase 1A began its second season of construction, which will include wildlife crossings and riverine erosion protection. Final design for elements of Phase 1B that are to be included in the Phases 3 and 4 Early Work Package (EWP) were completed. The team continued design and coordination with utility companies in the area. Phase 1B also presented at the March 16, 2022, Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission meeting.



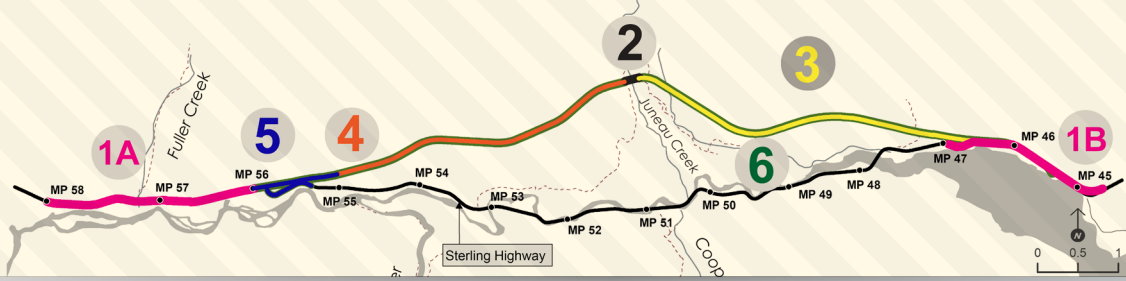
Phases 3–6 (New alignment): The Phases 3 and 4 EWP, that includes grading and drainage improvements to help provide access to the Juneau Creek Bridge, was nearly finalized. All minor structures (e.g., wildlife crossings) were brought up to a 95% level design which initiated DOT&PF's review.



Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC): DOT&PF recently awarded the new Sterling Highway MP 45-60 CM/GC contract to Colaska/Quality Asphalt Paving (QAP)–Traylor Joint Venture. The Joint Venture combines QAP's knowledge and experience with highway construction in Alaska with Traylor Bros expertise building Technical Bridges around the world. This CM/GC process allows opportunities for innovation, risk reduction, improved cost control, and schedule optimization while also meeting and exceeding the project's environmental commitments.

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.



We are here



Construction 2022

Construction efforts will occur on Phase 1A, Phase 3 and Phase 4.

Near-term Schedule Goals



Agencies:

Conduct bimonthly agency meetings and continue coordination with agencies for design and the PA.



Phase 1:

Phase 1A will continue construction during the 2022 season. Phase 1B will continue design development, addressing and adjudicating of review comments, and work on final plans. The Phase 1 project team will conduct ongoing coordination with new CM/GC team members.



Phase 2: Select bridge type.



Phases 3-6:

The project team and DOT&PF will work with the new CM/GC to finalize and negotiate the Phase 3 and Phase 4 EWP. The project team will start designing the Phase 5 interchange and gear up for spring fieldwork.



Right-of Way (ROW):

Acquire ROW in Phases 3 and 4.

Tasks Completed 2022



January

Environmental:

The PA annual report was submitted to Signatories.



January

Phase 2:

A Value Engineering Study was completed.



January

Phase 5:

The tight diamond alternative was selected for the Western Intersection.



February

Agencies:

An Agency Meeting was hosted on February 2, 2022.



February

Public Involvement:

The spring Public Meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2022



February

Phase 1:

95% Design was completed for Phase 1B



March

CM/GC:

The new CM/GC contract was awarded to Colaska/QAP-Traylor Joint Venture.



March

Pioneer Road Package:

This project will upgrade the existing West Juneau Access and Slaughter Ridge Roads and develop designated project staging and disposal sites. The Pioneer Road Package was Awarded to QAP-Traylor JV and will be under construction in April.

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