



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



DOT&PF Consultant Coordinator, Alvin Talbert speaks with a meeting attendee about the activities anticipated to take place during the 2022 construction season.

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 April

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.



Public Involvement: The project team hosted a Public Meeting on April 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Cooper Landing Community Hall. The purpose of the event was to provide information on project development and to share design/plan changes, the updated schedule, and next steps. The meeting also provided the 19 attendees with an opportunity to meet the project team. Overall, the attendees submitted ample feedback on a variety of topics.



Environmental: Aerial surveys to identify active bald eagle nests in and around the project area were completed in April. Field visits with the wildlife working groups were conducted. Permitting is underway; we are working with the agencies and the public might see notices of permitting activities.



Phase 1: Phase 1A began its second season of construction, which will include wildlife crossings and riverine erosion protection. Work on the retaining wall and wildlife crossings have begun.

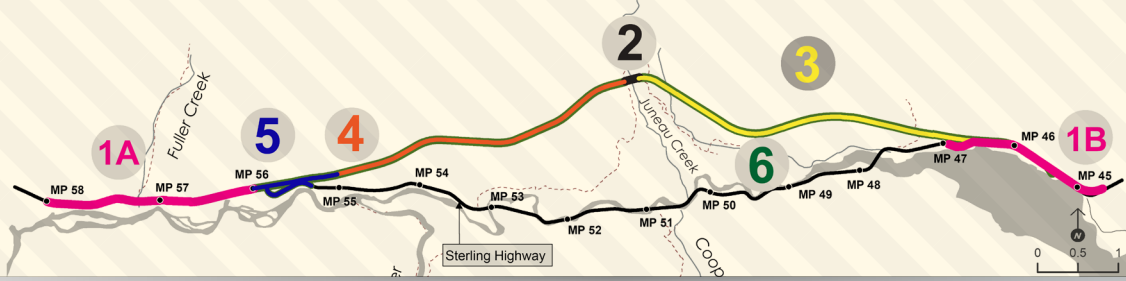
Final design for elements of Phase 1B, which are to be included in the Phases 3 and 4 Early Work Package (EWP), were completed. The team continued utility relocation and coordination with utility companies in the area.



Phases 2–6 (new alignment): A highway easement was acquired from the United States Forest Service. Also, the first phase of the land swap was completed, resulting in CIRI as the current owner of Phase 5. The project team also finalized the quantities for estimating the Phases 3 and 4 EWP and the Value Engineering Study for the Juneau Creek Bridge (Phase 2).



Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC): The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities issued a Notice to Proceed to the CM/GC team for the Pioneer Roads.



We are here



Construction 2022

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

Near-term Schedule Goals



Agencies:

Conduct agency meetings for design and the Programmatic Agreements.



Phase 1:

Phase 1B will continue design development, addressing and adjudicating review comments, and work on final plans. The Phase 1 project team will conduct ongoing coordination with new CM/GC team members. Starting in June there will also be a large crew of archeologists in the field for the final season of data recovery.



Phase 2: Select bridge type.



Phases 3-6:

The project team and DOT&PF will work with the new CM/GC Contractor to finalize and negotiate the Phase 3 and Phase 4 EWP. The project team will begin design of the Phase 5 Interchange and gear up for spring fieldwork.



Right-of Way (ROW):

Acquire Kenai Peninsula Borough ROW in Phases 3 and 4.

Tasks Completed 2022



January

Environmental:

The wildlife camera field trip was completed.



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

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.



April

Phase 1:

Preparation began for the 2022 field and construction season.



April

Phases 2-6:

A highway easement was acquired from the United States Forest Service. Also, the first phase of the land swap was completed, resulting in CIRI as the current owner of Phase 5.



April

Public Involvement:

The spring Public Meeting was held on April 21, 2022.

Contact

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