



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



Section of right-of-way within the project corridor.

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 July

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 coordinated and implemented outreach on upcoming construction and fieldwork activities. The upcoming Public Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 25, 2022.



Environmental: A bald eagle nest production survey was completed on July 26, 2022. Archaeologists continued to work at sites within the Project construction footprint. This work will continue for the remainder of the summer.



Phase 1: Phase 1A's second season of construction continued with work on retaining walls, animal crossings, and erosion protection at MP 57. Design efforts were advanced for erosion protection at MP 58 and for animal fencing. Construction updates will continue to be available on DOT&PF's Navigator page at www.alaskanavigator.org.

The Phase 1B team submitted design to the CM/GM team for review. The team coordinated with the DOT&PF utilities, right-of-way (ROW), and design teams to continue advancing the

project to final Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E). Support was given to DOWL on the final PS&E development for the Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package that includes a section of Phase 1B. The team also facilitated coordination between DOT&PF and Three Bears Alaska on the future frontage road concept at MP 44.5.



Phase 2: The design team worked on the Steel Plate Girder bridge concept design. The team anticipates having the design at 40% in August.



Phases 3–6 (new alignment): The Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package will begin construction in August. DOT&PF is working closely with CIRI to permit this summer's pre-construction activities within Phase 5.



Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC): The CM/GC team completed negotiations for the Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package and provided comments on the Phase 1B design. Also, a rough cost estimate of work needed for all phases was submitted to DOT&PF to assist with financial planning.



We are here



Construction 2022

Construction efforts will occur on Phase 1A, Phase 3, Phase 4, Phase 5, and the pioneer roads.

Near-term Schedule Goals



Agencies: Finalize amendments to the Programmatic Agreement.



Phase 1: Phase 1B will continue design development, addressing and adjudicating review comments, work on final plans, and ongoing coordination with CM/GC team members.



Phase 2: Progress the steel girder bridge design to 30%.



Phases 3-6: The project team will begin design of the Phase 5 Interchange and gear up for clearing and geotechnical investigation.



Right-of Way (ROW): Work on ROW acquisition in Phase 1B and Phase 5 will occur.



CM/GC: QAP/Traylor will execute a subcontracting plan for the upcoming Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package, with an anticipated start date of August 15, 2022.

Tasks Completed 2022



January

Phase 5: The tight diamond alternative was selected for the Western Intersection.



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.



May

CM/GC: Risk workshops and estimate meetings were held for the Phases 3 and 4 EWP.



July

Environmental: A bald eagle nest production survey was completed on July 26, 2022. DOT&PF also secured more than half of the mitigation credits required for the United States Army Corps of Engineers permit through wetland preservation.



March

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



May

Phase 1B: The design was advanced to approximately 99% level of completion with the submission of the 99% PS&E assembly.



June

Phase 2: DOT&PF made a Bridge Type Selection; Concept 12: Steel Plate Girder bridge.



July

Agencies: An Agency site visit took place on July 28, 2022.

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