



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



Section of right-of-way and clearing activities within the project corridor on August 1, 2022.

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 August

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 August 25, 2022, 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 construction and design updates and project next steps. The meeting also provided the 21 attendees with an opportunity to meet the project team. Overall, the attendees submitted ample feedback on a variety of topics.



Environmental: Archaeologists continued to work at sites within the project footprint. This work will be ongoing for most of the project. Wildlife cameras continue to be checked to monitor wildlife movement near wildlife crossing structures.



Phase 1A: Phase 1A's second season of construction continued with work on retaining walls and animal crossings. 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.



Phase 1B: The Phase 1B team held a review meeting to provide comment responses to the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) team on the 95% design submittal. The design team is working to incorporate the CM/GC team's comments and feedback.



Phase 2: The design team progressed the Steel Plate Girder bridge concept design to 30%.



Phases 3–6 (new alignment): The Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package was awarded to Colaska/QAP–Traylor Joint Venture in August. Construction will start in early September and continue for several years. DOT&PF is working closely with land management agencies to permit this fall's pre-construction activities within Phase 5, which will include clearing and geotechnical investigations.



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: Advance the Steel Plate Girder bridge concept design to 40% in September 2022.



Phases 3–6: After clearing and geotechnical work are completed this fall, the design team will further the Tight Diamond Interchange. The Phase 5 design will be finalized by 2023.



Right-of Way (ROW): Right-of-way acquisition for Phase 1B and Phase 5 is taking place.

Contact

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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.



August

Public Involvement: The fall public meeting was held on August 25, 2022, at the Cooper Landing Community Club.



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.



August

CM/GC: The Phase 3 & 4 Early Work Package was awarded.