



# Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



*QAP-Taylor Joint Venture begins excavation and construction of the new highway within Phase 4 of the project.*

*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](http://www.sterlinghighway.net).*

## Tasks Performed in September

### 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:** A project update was provided to the Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission at their September 7, 2022, meeting.



**Environmental:** Archaeologists continued to work at sites within the project footprint. This work will be ongoing for most of the project. DOT&PF worked on preparation of a modification request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to update the wetland permit to match the refined highway design.



**Phase 1A:** Phase 1A paved and prepared for winter shutdown in late October. Due to a number of project delays, Phase 1A completion is now anticipated for July 2023. Construction updates will continue to be available on DOT&PF's Navigator page at [www.alaskanavigator.org](http://www.alaskanavigator.org).



**Phase 1B:** The Phase 1B team worked to incorporate the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) constructability comments into the Phase 1B final design. The project team also revisited the mass balance for Phase 1B/Phase 3 and began coordination with utility companies.



**Phase 2:** The design team progressed the Steel Plate Girder bridge concept design to 30%. The CM/GC and Independent Cost Estimator (ICE) began reviewing the design to prepare a cost estimate.



**Phases 5 (western intersection):** The Phase 5 team coordinated for an advanced clearing package to begin this fall. This clearing work will help provide better access for archeologists, hydrologists, engineers, drill rigs, and surveyors.



## Near-term Schedule Goals



**Agencies:** DOT&PF will work with Agencies to finalize amendments to the Programmatic and Curation Agreements, Temporary Water Use authorizations within Phase 3, Maintenance Agreements, and a modification request to USACE.



**Phase 1:** The Phase 1B team will prepare the Phase 1B/Phase 3 final plan set by incorporating the Phase 3 final profile into the Phase 1B final plans. The team will participate in breakout meetings to work out the plan set details. This phasing arrangement is the result of excess excavated material in Phase 1B that will be used to construct Phase 3.



**Phases 3–6:** Geotechnical investigations for Phase 5 will occur in spring 2023. The design team will then further the Phase 5 tight diamond interchange design after the investigation results are available. The Phase 5 design will be finalized by 2024.



**Right-of-Way:** Right-of-way acquisition for Phase 1B and Phase 5

## Contact

### Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

#### Design Questions

Jonathan Tymick, P.E.  
DOT&PF Project Manager  
907-269-0453

[jonathan.tymick@alaska.gov](mailto:jonathan.tymick@alaska.gov)

#### Construction Questions

Shaun Combs  
DOT&PF Project Engineer  
907-595-2217

[Shaun.Combs@alaska.gov](mailto:Shaun.Combs@alaska.gov)

## Tasks Completed 2022



**January**

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



**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 to Colaska/QAP–Traylor Joint Venture.

**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 USACE permit through wetland preservation.

**August**

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