



Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



Phase 4 excavation work conducted by QAP.

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 November

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 completed and upcoming project activities.



Environmental: Archaeologists continued to work on required post-field reporting. Archaeological work will be ongoing for most of the project. DOT&PF continued to prepare a modification request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to update the wetland permit to match the refined highway design. DOT&PF also held several agency working group meetings for topic-specific discussion.



Phase 1A: Phase 1A shut down for the winter in mid-November. Construction will resume in spring 2023, and updates will be available on DOT&PF's Navigator page at www.alaskanavigator.org.



Phase 1B: The Phase 1B team finalized the design and submitted the 99% complete plan set assembly on November 30, 2022. Minor design and plan drawing changes are anticipated as the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) and DOT&PF review the plans.



Right-of-Way: DOT&PF completed the needed right-of-way acquisitions for Phase 1B.

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; Memorandum of Agreements with regard to Wildlife, Vegetation, and Maintenance; and a modification request to USACE.



Phase 1A: Phase 1A is expected to be completed in July 2023.



Phase 1B: Next tasks include supporting the CM/GC and Independent Cost Estimator with the upcoming estimate and incorporating/finalizing design changes resulting from the cost estimations based on reviews of risk, innovations, and construction efficiencies.





Phase 2: The Steel Plate Girder bridge 95% design will be submitted in February 2023.




Near-term Schedule Goals

continued...

 **Phases 3–6:** Phase 5 clearing and geotechnical investigations will occur in 2023. This clearing work will help provide better access for archeologists, hydrologists, engineers, drill rigs, and surveyors. The team will then further the Phase 5 tight diamond interchange design after the geotechnical investigation results are available. The Phase 5 design will be finalized by 2024.

 **Right-of-Way:** Right-of-way acquisition for Phase 5 is anticipated to be complete by May 2023.

 **Public Involvement:** The Public Involvement team will coordinate and prepare materials for the December 7, 2022, Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission Meeting; the December 21, 2022, Anchorage Snowmobile Club Meeting; and the January 12, 2023, Anchorage Transportation Fair.

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

Construction Questions

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

Shaun.Combs@alaska.gov

Tasks Completed in 2022

