



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Alaska Division**

March 6, 2018

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Dear Reader:

The Federal Highway Administration and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities are pleased to release the Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation (EIS) for public review and comment. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the EIS examines the human, physical, and natural environmental impacts of the proposed alternatives and identifies the Juneau Creek Alternative as the preferred alternative. The Section 4(f) Evaluation (Chapter 4 of the document) examines impacts to parks, recreation areas, wildlife refuges, and historic properties that are protected by Section 4(f) of U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (as amended).

We released the Draft Supplemental EIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation March 27, 2015. A review and comment period ran 60 days, closing May 26. We held open houses and public hearings in Cooper Landing, Soldotna, Anchorage, and Washington, DC. We received about 800 comments in about 200 emails, letters, and testimony transcripts. These comments informed the completion of the final document. To complete this final EIS, several new analyses have been added as appendices, including a second safety study in Appendix A and Appendices G-K, which are new. These are summarized in the EIS.

Other changes in the EIS include: (a) refinement of analyses; (b) corrections and clarifications in response to comments; (c) re-calculation of impact numbers (no large changes have resulted); (d) a fresh look at reasonably foreseeable future actions; (e) incorporation of the views of agencies; and (d) additional examination of using the existing alignment throughout (explained in Chapter 2).

Open house meetings are scheduled for public information about the project and the Final EIS:

- March 27, 2018: Cooper Landing Community Hall, Mi. 0.8 Bean Creek Rd., 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- March 28, 2018: Soldotna Sports Center, 538 Arena Dr., 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- March 29, 2018: Anchorage, Z.J. Loussac Public Library (Learning Commons, 4th floor), 3600 Denali St., 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

This Executive Summary provides a brief summary of the EIS. The EIS highlights text to assist readers in identifying areas of change. Comments are due April 16, 2018. Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Sandra A. Garcia-Aline  
Division Administrator