



# Sterling Highway MP 45–60 Project Update



Photo: The Project team conducted Kenai River bathymetric studies during this winter's fieldwork season.



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).

## 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.

## Tasks Performed in February



**Public Involvement:** The spring Public Meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2022. Work began on advertising and content. The project team also continued landowner outreach.



**Environmental:** The team began planning for the summer 2022 field season, which will include cultural resources surveys and a spring eagle nest survey. Permitting efforts for the upcoming field season continued.



**Agencies:** An Agency Meeting was held on February 2, 2022. Ongoing consultation related to the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act process included regular meetings related to the Programmatic Agreement.



**Phase 1:** Phase 1B (MP 45–46.5) 95% Design was completed. Details of this design will be shared at the upcoming spring Public Meeting.



**Phases 3–6 (New alignment):** The Phases 3–6 Project team members worked on balancing materials across the project. Also, the final earthwork design for Phases 3 and 4 was wrapped up.



**Field Efforts:** Geotechnical work at bridge abutments was completed.



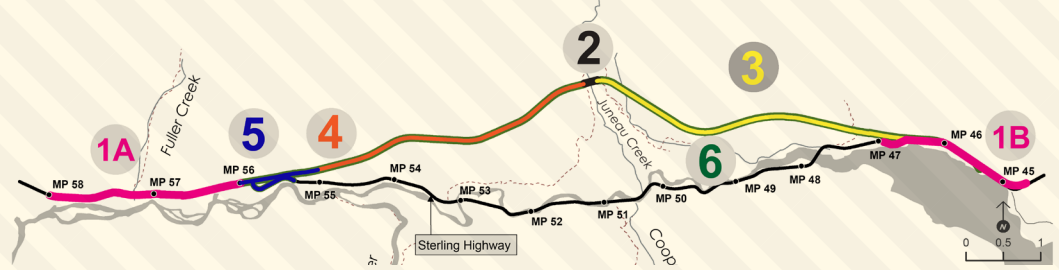
**Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC):** The Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) received and evaluated the new CM/GC proposals. An Intent to Negotiate was issued to Quality Asphalt Paving (QAP)/Traylor Joint Venture.

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## Construction 2022



Construction efforts will occur on **Phase 1A**, **Phase 3**, **Phase 4** and the Pioneer Roads.



## Near-term Goals



### Agencies:

Conduct agency meetings for design and programmatic agreements.



### Phase 1:

Restart Phase 1A construction (MP 56–58) and begin Pioneer Road construction.



**Phase 2:** Select bridge type



### Phases 3–6:

Complete design for Phases 3 and 4 is expected by the end of March.



**CM/GC:** Award new CM/GC Contract by the end of March.



**Right-of Way (ROW):** Acquire ROW in Phases 3 and 4.

## Tasks Completed 2022



### January

#### Environmental:

The wildlife camera field trip was completed.



### January

#### Phase 5:

The tight diamond alternative was selected for the Western Intersection.



### February

#### Public Involvement:

The spring Public Meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2022



### January

#### Phase 2:

A Value Engineering Study was completed.



### February

#### Agencies:

An Agency Meeting was hosted on February 2, 2022.



### February

#### Phase 1:

95% Design was completed for Phase 1B

## Contact

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