



General Description and Key Features

This alternative follows the existing Sterling Highway alignment, except for a 3.5 mi section through Cooper Landing. Heading west from MP 45, the alternative follows the existing alignment across Kenai Lake. The Cooper Landing Bridge will be replaced. At Snug Harbor Road (MP 47.7), the alternative turns south and climbs the hillside for approximately 1 mi with maximum grades of 4-6%. It then follows existing topography for 1.3 mi, reaching a maximum elevation of 700 ft. The alternative descends at a 6% grade, crossing Cooper Creek Canyon with a 650 ft bridge. It traverses a natural bench for 0.3 mi and descends the bluff at a 6% grade for 0.3 mi. The alternative rejoins the existing corridor at MP 51.3.

New Construction

- ✘ 3.6 miles of new road
- ✘ 1 new bridge crossing Cooper Creek
- ✘ 2 bridge replacements (Schooner Bend and Cooper Landing)

Project Costs

- ✘ New Construction: \$40-\$60 million
- ✘ Bridge Cost: \$22,830,000
- ✘ Annual System Maintenance: \$86,950
- ✘ Existing Road Bridge Replacement Cost: To be determined.

Changes to Existing Alignment

- ✘ The existing alignment between MP 52 and MP 58 will be upgraded to reduce curvature, widen shoulders, improve sight distance, widen clear zones or place guardrail where terrain does not allow for sufficient widening.
- ✘ New alignment would be signed as a truck route and the borough will be encouraged to adopt an ordinance, making through truck traffic on the existing road a citable offence.
- ✘ Signage would be placed on new route informing motorists of services available in Cooper Landing and distance to next services.

Effects on Traffic

- ✘ Moves 65% of traffic out of Cooper Landing community area (about 12,000 vehicles per day in 2020 peak season).
- ✘ Improves level of service (LOS) from MP 47.7 to MP 51.3 to LOS B/C during peak season (serving about 5200 vehicles per day in 2020 peak season).
- ✘ New alignment will operate at peak season LOS C.
- ✘ Improves capacity for length of new alignment.
- ✘ Alignment from MP 52 to MP 58 will experience localized congestion (LOS E) during peak season and fish runs around Gwins, the Russian River Campground, and Sportsman's Boat Launch.
- ✘ Passing lanes will be incorporated into the design of the facility throughout the project area.

What have we heard? Issues, Opportunities & Constraints

- ✘ Crosses Shackleford Creek and Powerline Trail
- ✘ Crosses Cooper Lake Trail
- ✘ Crosses Stetson Creek Trail
- ✘ Possible visual impact of bridge across Cooper Creek Canyon
- ✘ Possible noise impact to upper Cooper Creek Campground
- ✘ Private property impacts south of Cooper Landing.
- ✘ Impact to habitat.
- ✘ Moves through traffic/freight away from town.
- ✘ Construction disruption to traffic during peak season.