



General Description and Key Features

This alternative creates a new corridor north of the existing roadway between MP 46.3 and MP 55. Heading west from MP 45, the alternative departs the existing corridor at MP 46.3 and climbs the hillside for 4.5 mi to Juneau Creek, approximately 0.5 mi below the falls. The alternative crosses Juneau Creek Canyon with a 730 ft bridge while on a 3.8% upgrade. From the bridge, the alternative continues to climb at a 0.6% grade for 0.7 mi to a maximum elevation of approximately 1160 ft. The alternative then follows the alignment of either the Forest Variant or Wilderness Variant to their connection with the existing Sterling Highway.

New Construction

- ⌘ 9 miles of new road
- ⌘ 1 new bridge crossing Juneau Creek

Project Costs

- ⌘ New Construction: \$45-\$55 million
- ⌘ Bridge Cost: \$17 million
- ⌘ Annual System Maintenance: \$112,800
- ⌘ Existing Road Bridge Replacement Costs: To be determined.

Changes to Existing Alignment

- ⌘ The existing alignment would become a state-maintained local road.
- ⌘ The new alignment would be signed as a truck route, and the borough would be encouraged to adopt a formal truck route ordinance making through truck traffic on the existing alignment illegal and a citable offense.
- ⌘ Signage would be placed on new route informing motorists of services available in Cooper Landing and distance to next services.

Effects on Traffic

- ⌘ Moves about 65% of traffic out of Cooper Landing community area (about 12,000 vehicles per day in 2020).
- ⌘ Improves level of service (LOS) on the existing alignment to LOS B/C during peak season.
- ⌘ New alignment will operate at LOS C during peak season.
- ⌘ Provides additional capacity in an otherwise congested corridor.
- ⌘ Passing lanes will be incorporated into the design of the facility throughout the project area.

What have we heard? Issues, Opportunities & Constraints

- ⌘ Crosses the Bean Creek Trail.
- ⌘ Bridge located approximately 1/2 mile below Juneau Creek falls.
- ⌘ Possible noise impacts to falls area.
- ⌘ Possible visual impact to trail users and river users.
- ⌘ Crosses Resurrection Pass Trail.
- ⌘ Provides better access to falls for physically challenged people. Crosses Juneau Bench trail twice.
- ⌘ Crosses into the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.
- ⌘ Potential conflict with Refuge Visitors Center or Sportsman's Boat Launch depending where roadway rejoins existing alignment.
- ⌘ Private property impacts north of Cooper Landing.
- ⌘ Impacts to Brown Bear and other wildlife habitat.
- ⌘ Moves through traffic/freight away from town/river.
- ⌘ Minimal construction disruption to traffic during peak season.
- ⌘ Potential for new development within Borough selected land.
- ⌘ Issues associated with increased elevation and grade.