

Western Access - Road to Tanana

FY2013 Request: \$10,000,000

Reference No: 50843

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Tanana

House District: Interior Villages (HD 6)

Impact House District: Interior Villages (HD 6)

Contact: Pat Kemp

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Appropriation: Roads to Resources

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Extend a road from the existing Elliott Highway, near Manley Hot Springs, then following along the existing Tofty Road to the Yukon River near the village of Tanana. This project will fund and initial construction phase to connect Tanana and other river communities to the contiguous highway system. The Manley Hot Springs to Tanana Road is the first segment identified in the Western Alaska Access Study. The road would improve access between remote villages, larger hub communities and to the road networks near Fairbanks and Nome; also reduce the cost of goods and services in remote villages; thereby supporting their continued sustainability.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
AIDEA Div	\$6,400,000						\$6,400,000
Gen Fund	\$3,600,000						\$3,600,000
Total:	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$1,250,000 - Ch 5 FSSLA 2011 Pg 101 Ln 30; \$1,000,000 - Ch 43 SLA 2010 Sec 7 Pg 38 Ln 18;

\$1,000,000 - Ch 82 SLA 2006 Sec 1 Pg 108 Ln 11.

Road access will also allow for development of natural resources and alternative energy and provide business opportunity and jobs for villages along the route. Western Alaska Access Planning Study – Corridor and Alternatives Report completion by September 2011

Project Description/Justification:

A recent Western Access Study, completed in January 2010, looked at connecting the existing highway system to the Seward Peninsula highways. The study considered access to communities and minerals, avoiding federally protected lands, minimizing environmentally sensitive areas and extreme terrain. The Study recommended the Manley Hot Springs to Tanana section as the first segment for construction. Public meetings were held from October 2010 to March 2011. There was broad support from both Tanana and Manley for this project, receiving written support from the regional councils, corporations, communities of the area including the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Approximately 39 miles of unimproved trails and terrain separate the community of Tanana at the

junction of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers from the Alaska Highway System. The communities of Manley and Minto are nearby communities already linked by road via the Elliott Highway to the junction with the Dalton Highway and then south to Fairbanks. This is an area of significant mining, subsistence and recreational use. Tanana is uniquely situated to support and benefit from more affordable and flexible year round passenger travel, potential resource development, extension of the barging season, reduction of costs for providing fuel and supplies and ultimately the development of economic drivers for the benefit of Tanana and other communities along the Yukon River.

Advantages:

- Lower cost of living, which could entice some families to move back to rural Alaska
- Lower cost of fuel and freight
- Potentially valuable mineral deposits would become economical
- Increased job opportunities
- Village survival depends on affordable access
- Improved access to village communities
- Increased recreational access providing economic opportunities at Tanana and along the river
- Potential for increased barge operations and port development at Tanana
- No federal lands
- Connects to the statewide transportation system
- Broad support from both Tanana and Manley

This project contributes to the Department's Mission by improving the mobility of people and goods and increasing private investment.

AB# 2785174 1

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

TO: Colleen K. O'Sullivan
Division of Budget Review
Office of Management and Budget

DATE: June 10, 2015

OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

Thru: Marc Luiken *ML*
Commissioner

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 451-2211

JUN 15 2015

FROM: David J. Miller *DJM*
Regional Director
Northern Region

SUBJECT: Revised Program Type 2
Chapter 17 SLA 2012
Roads to Resources
ADN #25-5-2933

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities requests your approval to reallocate general fund authorization between two allocations in Chapter 17 SLA 2012.

Western Access – Road to Tanana: Increase allocation in Chapter 17 SLA 2012 page 134 line 9 by \$2,700,000.

The Road to Tanana is a Road to Resources project that upgrades 16.5 miles of existing roads and trails, 19 miles of new road, and a new bridge at Boulder Creek. The road is being constructed as a "pioneer road" to accommodate the limited funding that was allocated for the project. The project is in its second year of construction and scheduled to be complete by December 15, 2015. During the design phase the engineer's relied on terrain and vegetation data, as well as site visits to determine the appropriate road design criteria for the new road segments. Centerline drilling was not performed due to inadequate funding availability. During construction, additional borrow quantities were required to account for areas with increased settlement due to poor drainage conditions. An additional \$1,500,000 is required for the increase in borrow quantities.

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Additional funding is requested for the Manley Airport Snow Removal Equipment Building and Highway shop project. The project is 95% designed and is currently being updated for advertising. The new shop/snow removal equipment building will support both the airport at Manley and the increased highway maintenance needs required by the new Tanana Road. The project currently has Federal Aviation Administration approval and we are seeking funding in the Airport Improvement Program for the airport dedicated portion of the building. We do not have the needed funds to construct the highway portion of the building. The project requires an additional \$1,200,000 to fully fund the building construction.

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Road to Umiat – Foothills West Continued Environmental Impact Study Development: Decrease allocation in Chapter 17 SLA 2012 page 134 line 5 by \$2,700,000.

The project performed preliminary engineering and environmental work in support of an environmental document for a multi-modal study to evaluate transportation options in the Foothills West Study Area. The Foothills West Road is an approximately 100 mile westerly route from the Dalton Highway across the foothills of the Brooks Range, accessing existing oil and gas leases on state lands.

2933

DOT&PF completed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process, and draft chapters 1-4 of the EIS before we put the project on hold. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was the lead Federal agency on the EIS, and we hired a third party contractor to perform the work (AECOM). The project was put on hold to allow time for Linc Energy, the current oil exploration/development company, to evaluate possibilities of developing a private road to the Umiat oil resource. The remaining task of finalizing the EIS is anticipated to be within the funding remaining in this allocation.

This revised program will not adversely impact the Northern Region Capital Improvement Program. Your approval of this revision is requested.

Thank you.

SP

Attachments: Revised Program Summary
Authorized Budget screen print from AKSAS
Copy of Capital Allocation and Appropriations

cc: Judy Chapman, Chief, Planning and Administration, Northern Region
Shelley Dykema, Chief, Project Control, Northern Region
Paul Wehe, Transportation Planner, Program Development, Headquarters

Agency Document No. 25-5-2933

Approved this 19th day of June, 2015



Colleen K. O'Sullivan, Chief Budget Analyst
Office of Management and Budget

