

Western Alaska Access Reconnaissance Study**FY2010 Request: \$3,000,000****Reference No: AMD 48357****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Frank Richards**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-3900**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2009 - 09/30/2012**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This is a new FY10 Capital Request. The reconnaissance study will utilize the results of an ongoing planning study to begin refinement and detailed analysis of a transportation corridor to the Seward Peninsula. The reconnaissance study will consist of in-depth field studies, advanced route mapping, public involvement and preliminary engineering. This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods.

Funding:	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Total
AHCC Rcpts	\$3,000,000						\$3,000,000
Total:	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000

<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 checked="" 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:**Project Description/Justification:**

The current Western Alaska Access Planning Study will provide analysis, both economic and engineering, of transportation corridors identified in the study area. It will identify alternative routes based on potential economic benefits, topographic and environmental constraints and land management considerations. Planning level estimates will be prepared for design, construction and maintenance. The study will also include a review and update of all relevant information from previous publications and studies. This will lay the framework for future development of an overland transportation corridor to the Seward Peninsula.

Results of the economic and corridor analyses from the planning study will guide the reconnaissance study. The selected corridor(s) will undergo detailed analysis which will consist of:

In-depth Field Studies

- Hydrology and break-up
- Wetlands
- Historic and cultural sites
- Fish and wildlife habitat

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- Geotechnical investigations
- Meteorological assessments
- Subsistence areas

Advanced Route Mapping

- Acquisition of high-resolution aerial photography
- Detailed land ownership/management data
- Preliminary surveying
- Refine study area

Public Involvement

- Public meetings and newsletters
- Mailing lists
- Advisory group

Preliminary Engineering

- Feasibility analysis
- Bridge assessment

The reconnaissance study would begin in January 2010 and require two years for completion in order to allow two complete seasons of fieldwork.