

Western Access Project

FY2012 Request: \$1,250,000

Reference No: 50843

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning

Category: Transportation

Location: Nome

House District: Bering Straits (HD 39)

Impact House District: Bering Straits (HD 39)

Contact: Frank Richards, Deputy
Commissioner

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2011 - 06/30/2016

Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Appropriation: Roads to Resources

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Western Alaska Access Study Project (WAASP) will continue the development of a transportation corridor connecting the existing road system with the Nome area road system. The project would provide economic development opportunities, create jobs and lower the cost of living for the residents of western Alaska.

Funding:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Gen Fund	\$1,250,000						\$1,250,000
Total:	\$1,250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250,000

<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	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$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.

Project Description/Justification:

The current study is analyzing road corridors from the contiguous highway to the Seward Peninsula. The requested funding will be used to continue the project to the preliminary engineering phase. Operating cost estimates were derived from the existing costs to maintain the Dalton Highway, a similar type of roadway. Additional highway maintenance staff would have to be hired to maintain the facility.

Corridor Planning Report was completed January 2010 and DOT&PF is moving into the next stages of the project to obtain broad public input on the alternatives considered in the WAAPS Corridor Planning Report, conduct additional limited analysis of selective new options proposed or refinements of existing options proposed during the public review, and identify a proposed staging plan and alternative construction techniques.

The current estimate of this phase of the project is \$5,000,000. This project funding would advance crucial elements of work to proceed beyond the current Western Access Planning Study to the preliminary engineering phase. Additional work would include advanced field engineering analysis such as detailed construction recommendations, satellite imagery, GIS work, necessary advanced

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field studies, in-depth cost estimates, and earlier development of permits.