

Foothills West District

FY2012 Request: \$8,000,000
Reference No: 50844

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Ambler

House District: Arctic (HD 40)

Impact House District: Arctic (HD 40)

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 Foothills West Transportation Access project proposes to construct a road from the Dalton Highway to Umiat. The purpose of the Foothills West Transportation Access Project is to provide access to oil and gas resources both along the northwestern foothills of the Brooks Range and within the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPRA). The road would provide both exploration and development opportunities for the area as well as facilitate a more economically feasible NPRA development. This second installment will complete the environmental impact survey (EIS).

Funding:	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$8,000,000						\$8,000,000
Total:	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000,000

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$8,000,000 - Ch 43 SLA 2010 Sec 7 Pg 38 Ln 15; \$4,000,000 - Ch 3 SLA 2005 Sec 58 Pg 136 Ln 28; \$5,119,971 - Ch 159 SLA 2004 Sec 1 Pg 48 Ln 17.

Project Description/Justification:

The current project is being proposed as multi phased. The first phase of the project would construct an approximately 85 mile long all season road to the Gubik Gas Fields vicinity, in order to capitalize on potential exploration and development within the project study area. The second phase would continue the construction of the road for an additional 15 miles to Umiat, and would include a bridge across the Colville River. This second phase would achieve a long term goal of all season access to the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska.

During the summer of 2009 DOT&PF performed and contracted for engineering and environmental studies of potential road corridors within the project study area. Preliminary assessments resulted in studies focusing on a potential road corridor from the Galbraith Lake area to Umiat. Subsequent engineering field studies focused on collecting the following information: imagery and survey data; hydrology data along the Itkillik, Anaktuvuk, and Chandler rivers; geotechnical data focusing on potential material sites within the corridor; and the potential road alignment routing options within the State of Alaska Capital Project Summary

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Reference No: 50844
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corridor. Environmental studies were also conducted within the project corridor and focused on baseline wetlands mapping, fish and wildlife species and habitats, cultural and archeological resources, and identifying subsistence resources and use patterns. Fieldwork continues in 2010, focusing on environmental baseline studies in preparation to begin the formal NEPA documentation process.

Previous funding for the project is \$17,119,971. The requested funding will be used to advance the project through the preliminary engineering phase and produce an environmental impact statement (EIS). This project has the potential to create numerous private sector jobs in the oil and gas industry. Future maintenance costs will depend on how the project is developed (public highway, public-private partnership, private transportation facility).