

Ambler Mining District

FY2012 Request: \$1,250,000

Reference No: 51748

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:

This project will evaluate potential transportation corridors from the Dalton Highway serving the Ambler Mining District. This evaluation will identify the viability of communities along the route to reduce costs for freight and passenger traffic and through employment in development of newly identified accessible resources. This project contributes to the Department's Mission by improving the mobility of people and goods.

| Funding: | <u>FY2012</u> | <u>FY2013</u> | <u>FY2014</u> | <u>FY2015</u> | <u>FY2016</u> | <u>FY2017</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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:

\$4,000,000 - Ch 43 SLA 2010 Sec 7 Pg 38 Ln 12.

Project Description/Justification:

The purpose of this project is to provide all season access for exploration and development of potential resources within this district. Mineral resources in the region have been identified in previous studies. The goal will be to optimize the transportation corridor to facilitate access to areas of high potential.

The work includes the evaluation of transportation modes such as roads, rail, barge and airport networks. The entire region is characterized as arctic conditions. Considerations will have to be made to address permafrost, poor soil conditions, arctic drainage characteristics, as well as wintertime access issues. Maintaining grades for railroad access may be one of the largest challenges.

The transportation corridor will also address critical infrastructure needs for the development of natural resources such as power generation and communications. Straight line distance from the Dalton Highway to Ambler is approximately 200 miles.

with a consultant. Project informational community meetings are being conducted in Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk at this time, with additional communities to be added as the corridor location is better defined through feasibility studies. Informational meetings have been conducted with the Northwest Arctic Borough, NANA Regional Corporation, and State and Federal agencies.

The requested funding will be used to facilitate environmental and engineering studies related to subsistence activities in the region, and to specifically address these activities related to acquiring community support for this project. During initial scoping activities with local governments, maintaining traditional use of the land related to subsistence has been identified as an important issue.