

**Statewide: Rural Airport Emergency Medical Evacuation
Lights – Battery Replacement**

**FY2012 Request: \$46,000
Reference No: 50767**

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Transportation

Location: Statewide

Contact: Marc Luiken

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)269-0730

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

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

DOT&PF provided emergency helicopter landing zone lights or temporary emergency runway lights, during the period of 2003-2005, to a total of 71 Alaskan communities that did not have permanent landing lights. The emergency landing lights are battery operated and deployed for night medevac operations. The batteries have now reached the end of their projected five-year useful life and need to be replaced. These funds will provide for purchase, distribution, and installation of approximately 692 new batteries, and recycle of the old batteries. 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:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Gen Fund	\$46,000					\$46,000	\$92,000
Total:	\$46,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$46,000	\$92,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input 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>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is the first year for this project.

Project Description/Justification:

DOT&PF continues to have airport runway lighting as a strategic goal. This general fund (GF) request is part of an ongoing effort to provide 24-hour access to medical facilities for remote Alaskan communities as identified in Congressional House Report 106-940 *Aviation Access to Remote Locations in Alaska, Recommendations to Increase Aviation Access to Medical Facilities* that accompanied H.R. 4475, FFY 2001 USDOT Appropriations.

While the long-term development program is to provide permanent runway lighting at as many public airports as possible in Alaska, in the short-term there are still many communities that have no runway lighting. Typically these rural communities have no road access and almost all of them rely solely on aviation for emergency medevac. A total of 50 rural airports currently do not have operable permanent airport lighting systems. The emergency landing lights are the only safe option for night medevac flight operations at those airports.

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These emergency landing lights are high-performance battery operated, and certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. The lights were deployed in 2003-2005. Alaska DOT&PF has received complaints from communities and medevac air carriers about some emergency landing lights not working because the batteries are not able to hold the electrical charge. These battery failures suggest additional battery failures will happen soon. The batteries have reached the end of their projected useful lives. All the batteries need to be replaced so the communities without permanent runway lights can continue to have minimal emergency medevac access. The manufacturer indicates the batteries need to be replaced only once every five years.