

Ambler Mining District

FY2013 Request: \$4,000,000

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: Pat Kemp

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Appropriation: Roads to Resources

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will continue environmental studies, and alignment options for a highway between the Ambler mining district and Dalton Highway, or other logical corridor options. The evaluation will identify the viability of communities along the route to reduce costs for freight and passenger traffic. The ultimate goal is to define a preferred build alternative, secure environmental permits and right-of-way that can be transferred to a public-private partnership for final design, finance and construction. This project is one of several new public-private partnerships being explored to help the state accomplish the development of its natural resources.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
AIDEA Div	\$4,000,000						\$4,000,000
Total:	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000,000

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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$1,250,000 - Ch 5 FSSLA 2011 Pg 101 Ln 28; \$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 mineral resources within the Ambler mining district. Mineral resources in the region have long been known and access has been a most significant factor in the region's lack of development. The goal of this effort is to define an optimal corridor, proceed with permitting and environmental documentation, and establish a right-of-way. Thereafter, some form of public-private partnership would be structured to proceed with private finance and construction relying on user commitments to repay the funds used to construct the facility.

AIDEA has been engaged in discussions with the department and also major resource owners in the district. They would likely lead this finance part of the partnership, while DOT&PF's role is to assemble the project to the point of an approved project and established right-of-way.

The most likely transportation option consists of a truck haul route between the district and then easterly to the Dalton Highway. However, other options will be considered such as rail, and possibly

land routes to other destination. The straight line distance from the Dalton Highway to Ambler district is 200 miles, though it is likely a selected road route would involve a somewhat longer distance to avoid sensitive areas and areas where land status does not permit a road.

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.

DOT&PF is currently negotiating a contract for the environmental and engineering feasibility studies 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.