

Highway Safety Corridor - Sterling Highway - Sterling to Soldotna Widening

FY2013 Request: \$1,730,000
Reference No: 50762

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Kenai Areawide

House District: Kenai Areawide (HD 33-35)

Impact House District: Kenai Areawide (HD 33-35)

Contact: Pat Kemp

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

Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Appropriation: Safety

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project will widen the Sterling Highway between Sterling and Soldotna. This facility is a designated highway safety corridor due to the high incidence of fatal and major injury crashes. A 4-lane divided highway provides the greatest safety benefits by physically separating opposing lanes of traffic and is the preferred solution, though other solutions will be considered depending on site conditions. Sufficient right-of-way exists to accommodate the widening.

Funding:	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$1,730,000						\$1,730,000
Total:	\$1,730,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,730,000

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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

None.

Project Description/Justification:

There are four designated Safety Corridors in Alaska, and all are within Central Region. These include

- Seward Highway, Girdwood to Potter Marsh
- Parks Highway, Wasilla to Big Lake Road
- Sterling Highway, Sterling to Kenai Spur Road
- Knik-Goose Bay Road, Parks Highway to Pt. McKenzie Road

Fatal and major injury crashes are a serious problem in these Safety Corridors, all of which are two-lane roads that are at or near capacity. Summer traffic on the Sterling Highway between Sterling and Soldotna doubles from its annual average of approximately 8,300 vehicles per day to over 17,000 during the peak season. This far exceeds the 12,000 vehicles per day considered to safely accommodate travelers on a two-lane rural highway.

This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods.