

Western Access - Road to Tanana**FY2013 Request: \$10,000,000****Reference No: 50843****AP/AL:** Allocation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Tanana**House District:** Interior Villages (HD 6)**Impact House District:** Interior Villages (HD 6)**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:**

Extend a road from the existing Elliott Highway, near Manley Hot Springs, then following along the existing Tofty Road to the Yukon River near the village of Tanana. This project will fund and initial construction phase to connect Tanana and other river communities to the contiguous highway system. The Manley Hot Springs to Tanana Road is the first segment identified in the Western Alaska Access Study. The road would improve access between remote villages, larger hub communities and to the road networks near Fairbanks and Nome; also reduce the cost of goods and services in remote villages; thereby supporting their continued sustainability.

Funding:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
AIDEA Div	\$6,400,000						\$6,400,000
Gen Fund	\$3,600,000						\$3,600,000
Total:	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000

<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
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

\$1,250,000 - Ch 5 FSSLA 2011 Pg 101 Ln 30; \$1,000,000 - Ch 43 SLA 2010 Sec 7 Pg 38 Ln 18;

\$1,000,000 - Ch 82 SLA 2006 Sec 1 Pg 108 Ln 11.

Road access will also allow for development of natural resources and alternative energy and provide business opportunity and jobs for villages along the route. Western Alaska Access Planning Study – Corridor and Alternatives Report completion by September 2011

Project Description/Justification:

A recent Western Access Study, completed in January 2010, looked at connecting the existing highway system to the Seward Peninsula highways. The study considered access to communities and minerals, avoiding federally protected lands, minimizing environmentally sensitive areas and extreme terrain. The Study recommended the Manley Hot Springs to Tanana section as the first segment for construction. Public meetings were held from October 2010 to March 2011. There was broad support from both Tanana and Manley for this project, receiving written support from the regional councils, corporations, communities of the area including the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Approximately 39 miles of unimproved trails and terrain separate the community of Tanana at the

junction of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers from the Alaska Highway System. The communities of Manley and Minto are nearby communities already linked by road via the Elliott Highway to the junction with the Dalton Highway and then south to Fairbanks. This is an area of significant mining, subsistence and recreational use. Tanana is uniquely situated to support and benefit from more affordable and flexible year round passenger travel, potential resource development, extension of the barging season, reduction of costs for providing fuel and supplies and ultimately the development of economic drivers for the benefit of Tanana and other communities along the Yukon River.

Advantages:

- Lower cost of living, which could entice some families to move back to rural Alaska
- Lower cost of fuel and freight
- Potentially valuable mineral deposits would become economical
- Increased job opportunities
- Village survival depends on affordable access
- Improved access to village communities
- Increased recreational access providing economic opportunities at Tanana and along the river
- Potential for increased barge operations and port development at Tanana
- No federal lands
- Connects to the statewide transportation system
- Broad support from both Tanana and Manley

This project contributes to the Department's Mission by improving the mobility of people and goods and increasing private investment.