

Highway Safety Corridor - Seward Highway - Widening to Address Congestion **FY2013 Request: \$10,000,000**
Reference No: 54398

AP/AL: Allocation **Project Type:** Construction
Category: Transportation
Location: Anchorage Areawide **House District:** Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32)
Impact House District: Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32) **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 provide for safety improvements on the Seward Highway that will likely include passing lanes, turnouts, and other safety improvements as applicable, on selected segments of the Seward Highway.

Funding:	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$10,000,000						\$10,000,000
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 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:

FY2009 - \$20,000,000 G.O. Bonds; FY2007 - \$12,000,000 GF.

Project Description/Justification:

This project funding will be applied to the Windy Corner section (MP 105 to 107) to address safety issues and provide tourist and recreational amenities on a tightly curved portion of the Seward Highway that has a high percentage of the total accidents between Anchorage and Bird Point along the Turnagain Arm. Total cost of this project is likely to approach \$80 million, and thus it will be pursued in stages. Stage 1 will relocate the railroad to a revised alignment. Stage 2 will build the southbound lanes (2). Stage 3 will complete the northbound lanes (2) and a major scenic turnout. In addition to these costs there will additional costs for design and right-of-way.

This segment of the Seward Highway is designated a Traffic Safety Corridor due to the extremely high incidence of major injury and fatal accidents along this portion of the roadway. This stretch of highway has a 50% higher accident rate than average due to traffic congestion, lack of passing lanes, icy conditions, high speeds, curves and vehicle conflicts.

The Seward Highway has been declared an "All American Road", the highest level of scenic byway designation, due to its spectacular scenery. Tourist traffic, intent on viewing scenery and wildlife, is exceptionally heavy in the summer, and is mixed with high volumes of through traffic, creating conflict

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between vehicles and wildlife viewers. Travelers stuck behind these and other slow moving vehicles become impatient and often take risks to pass in less than ideal situations. Additional passing lanes are needed to help accommodate passing vehicles and improve safety.