

Agency: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Project Title: **Project Type:** New Construction and Land Acquisition

Traffic Safety, Congestion, Mitigation and Notification

State Funding Requested: \$790,000
One-Time Need

House District: Statewide (1-40)

Brief Project Description:

Projects to mitigate traffic incidents and improve safety for commuters on the Glenn Highway includes; portable message boards, 12 new emergency vehicle cross-overs (U-turns), and traffic control plan. when directed. Requires 6:1 slopes, drainage. Professional traffic control contracts for Glenn Highway incident support. On-call signs, cones, arrow boards for lane closures. 3 year term, up to 10 events per year, design and implement TCP's.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$790,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	(\$790,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:
No funding history to date

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Portable Changeable Message Boards -- Trunk Storage: \$90,000
Intended for use in patrol cars and rapid deployment, Alaska State Troopers and Anchorage Police Department could benefit from having 6 or more portable message boards in the trunk of many vehicles. They run on 12 V power from the vehicle or a battery pack for a single shift. At 18x28 or 24x60, 29 to 43 pounds, these can fit in a trunk and be hitch mounted. They can be laptop or phone controlled remotely as needed. There appears to be only one manufacturer of portable vehicle signs at this time: All Traffic Solutions. During an incident, these could be deployed in advance to inform motorists of delays or what is going on. This will reduce driver frustration and perceived delays. The benefit of this effort in terms of vehicle-hours saved per dollar invested is not estimated to be much. However, the public information benefit in terms of public satisfaction and service would be high. The devices can provide information alerts and be linked to the 511 Traveler Information phone and website information for automatic updates when deployed. Maricopa County, Arizona is recently obtaining these devices for incident response and can offer feedback once experience is gained.

Glenn Highway Emergency Vehicle Crossovers: \$500,000
This project would increase the number of emergency vehicle -- u-turn crossovers on the freeway.
Crossovers do not occur at a uniform frequency or always near interchanges. For some incidents, this means the ability to turn around traffic or emergency vehicles or direct u-turning traffic is limited. During severe freeway backups, some traffic is u-turning in the ditched median, which is undesirable. Instead, more crossovers will allow emergency responders to authorize their use either as emergency vehicle turnarounds or for traffic directed to u-turn. At least 12 additional crossovers have been identified for further consideration based upon inspection by Alaska State Troopers. These would require earthwork and drainage grates for very flat slopes in order to ensure the potential for crossovers to become crash obstacles

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\$790,000
Approved

11:55 AM 5/13/2014

is minimized.12 Additional crossovers between interchanges. For authorized use only, possible u-turnarounds when directed. Requires 6:1 slopes, drainage.

Traffic Control Plan and Device Contract for Glenn Highway Support: \$200,000

Per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), signing and devices should be employed after events lasting at least two hours or more. Most likely this would take up to six hours to implement. These devices and methods are basically the same as employed in roadway construction for work zone traffic control. Professional traffic control involves setting up orange or purple incident management related regulatory, warning, and guide signing, message boards, cones, drums, etc. It involves setting up standard single and double lane closures as well as detour scenarios to adjacent roads when available. Either this is provided with in-house, agency staff on call 24/7, or it is contracted out as a term agreement. In south central Alaska, these services are available from several certified and well-trained traffic control and road contractors. This would come at a premium price with insurance and agreements needed to be contracted out on-call. While a preplanned simple setup can cost \$3000, a short notice detour on-call could easily be double that cost. Devices for a full detour could be up to four or more times the cost. In the case of most main highways, existing detour routes are either nonexistent or of lower capacity than the main roadway.

Traffic Mitigation

Project Timeline:

Portable Changeable Message Boards are items to be purchased and are listed in the Glenn Freeway Incident Management Report as having a 1-3 year delivery range.

Emergency Vehicle Crossovers can be constructed within 1-3 years, according to Glenn Freeway Incident Management Report, pending summer construction schedules.

Traffic Control Plan and Device Contracts also have a 1-3 year delivery potential

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No