

West Susitna Road Access

FY2022 Request: \$8,500,000
Reference No: AMD 56220

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development
Location: Southcentral Alaska

Project Type: Construction
House District: Southcentral Region (HD 7-31)

Impact House District: Southcentral Region (HD 7-31)

Contact: Alan Weitzner, AIDEA

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026 **Contact Phone:** (907)771-3050

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project has completed phase two of the pre-development feasibility planning, which started in 2014 as the West Susitna Access Study led by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) as part of the agency’s Roads to Resources program. The purpose of the study was to identify options for an optimal access corridor to a broader, district-wide area of resources with connection to Port MacKenzie.

Funding:	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>Total</u>
1002 Fed Rcpts							\$0
1004 Gen Fund							\$0
1243 SBR	\$8,500,000						\$8,500,000
Total:	\$8,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,500,000

<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"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" 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

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

The proposed route is approximately 100 miles long, from the west end of Ayrshire Road to near the confluence of the Talachulitna and Skwentna Rivers. After crossing the Skwentna River, it would continue adjacent to the proposed Donlin Gold gas pipeline route on the north side of the Skwentna River. Near the Happy River crossing, the route would diverge away from the Donlin Gold gas pipeline route and continue west to a point of tie-in with existing mineral exploration roads.

Project Description/Justification:

This project will:

- Direct a route that implements broader access than a single purpose road;
- Expedite the development of the access for broader economic development within the Borough and State which would otherwise have been tied to a single user’s access requirements and timing; and

- Facilitate future resource development which otherwise would not have the resources to complete the permitting process.

This project is critical in terms of providing new job opportunities within the Borough, new revenue streams to the Borough and State, expanding the utilization of existing infrastructure like Port MacKenzie, providing support to complete Borough projects like the rail link to Port MacKenzie, as well as expanding access to Alaska's abundant resources within the Borough:

- **Mineral Resources:** Copper, gold, silver, platinum, and diamond potential; more than 3,000 active mining claims within the basin
- **Oil & Gas:** Active oil and gas exploration in the northern Cook Inlet continues; nine oil and gas producing units and fields in the study area
- **Forestry:** 700,000+ acres available for harvest; enhance fire suppression
- **Agricultural Resources:** More than 65,000 acres of agricultural land identified for potential agricultural uses
- **Alternative Energy:** Opportunities including geothermal and hydroelectric projects, and woody biomass resources
- **Recreational Resources:** Recreation resource opportunities including snowmachining, fishing, hunting, boating, recreational mining, and use of cabins