

Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resource Project

FY2022 Request: \$5,000,000

Reference No: AMD 62649

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning

Location: Utqiagvik
Impact House District: Arctic (HD 40)

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Contact: Cheri Lowenstein

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resource (ASTAR) is a partnership between the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources and the North Slope Borough. ASTAR seeks to work with North Slope communities and stakeholders to identify projects, resources, and studies which offer the most cumulative benefit to the North Slope region and its communities.

| Funding: | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1002 Fed Rcpts | | | | | | | \$0 |
| 1004 Gen Fund | | | | | | | \$0 |
| 1243 SBR | \$5,000,000 | | | | | | \$5,000,000 |
| Total: | \$5,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,000,000 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <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:

Sec19 Ch1 SLA2017 P22 L21 SB23 \$7,303,482

Project Description/Justification:

Mission: Identify, evaluate, and advance opportunities to enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities in North Slope communities through responsible infrastructure development.

Goal: Prioritize community needs and identify infrastructure opportunities that offer the most cumulative benefit and best enhance the quality of life for the region.

Project Funding

Upcoming field studies

- Gravel survey (2021)
 - Focused around the communities of Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, Wainwright
- Lake surveys: NPRA (2021) and ANWR (2022)
- Coastal Hazard assessment (2021)

- Erosion monitoring
- Shallow core drilling (2021)
 - Data will serve as an analogue for reservoir development and help guide future exploration on the North Slope

Stakeholder outreach

- Provide a series of virtual trainings to North Slope communities for the Project Evaluation tool and the Infrastructure Site Selection tool (software/computer programs)
 - Trainings to be completed by June 2021
- Mail deliverables to each North Slope community
 - ASTAR reports, studies, data, infrastructure analysis tools (software), and more
- Continue to work with North Slope Borough and communities to identify community/regional infrastructure needs, identify data gaps, and fill data gaps through field studies as funds allow

Proposed studies and work in 2022 ASTAR funding request (bond package - not put forward by the Legislature)

This request is intended to help develop critical resources that empower Alaska's Arctic communities.

ASTAR seeks to identify regional infrastructure needs. Through the ASTAR effort, alliances with willing Arctic communities and stakeholders have been formed to collaborate on opportunities that strengthen community infrastructure and facilitate access to Arctic resources. The goal is to identify infrastructure opportunities which offer the most cumulative benefit and best enhance the quality of life for the region.

This work supports natural outgrowth of previous ASTAR activities and empowers Alaska's Arctic communities through continued engagement with federal, state, and local land managers and delivery of resource information critical to community infrastructure planning, proposal, and development. Key objectives of these efforts include:

- North Slope sand and gravel survey. Because it is expensive to transport sand and gravel, identifying where construction-quality sand and gravel resources are located helps communities estimate costs of new infrastructure and facilitates industry development.
- Coastal hazards assessment for North Slope communities and facilities. Identify areas near North Slope coastal communities and development centers that are vulnerable to flooding and coastal erosion. Providing data on erosion rates and flooding along the coast will support development projects, community connectivity, public safety, and community resilience.
- Petroleum geology fieldwork from the eastern NPR-A to the ANWR coastal plain to provide regional and reservoir-scale geologic data for the Nanushuk, Torok, Seabee, Tuluvak, and associated petroleum-significant rock units. This work will include shallow coring of the Nanushuk, Seabee, and Tuluvak formations at several locations. Industry relies on publicly available geological information when deciding where to invest in seismic, exploration, and development activities. Because Alaska is a resource-rich state, making this information available attracts investment.
- Continue stakeholder outreach with North Slope Borough, North Slope communities, residents, and stakeholders.

Partnered funds for ASTAR projects

One of the ASTAR's biggest success stories has been our ability to leverage funds with other North Slope entities/stakeholders. Many North Slope stakeholders are very interested in advancing or adding to ASTAR studies. ASTAR offers an avenue for entities that are interested in this work and

data to participate in a variety of ways, including matching funds to increase and expand our efforts. Below is a rough estimate of partnered funds to date:

- Gravel research and field studies
 - \$560,000 BLM
 - \$600,000 North Slope Borough
 - Department of Transportation (DOT) is donating drill rig and staff time for field surveys
- Coastal Hazard assessment
 - \$1,000,000 NOAA
- Shallow Core drilling program
 - \$400,000 USGS
- North Slope stakeholder outreach
 - \$200,000 North Slope Borough
 - Countless hours from North Slope community leadership to participate and meaningfully engage with ASTAR team and efforts