

Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resource Project

FY2023 Request: \$2,500,000

Reference No: 62649

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Development

Project Type: Research / Studies / Planning

Location: Utqiagvik

House District: Arctic (HD 40)

Impact House District: Arctic (HD 40)

Contact: Jashryn Mendoza

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Arctic Slope Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) project is a collaborative effort initiated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to form a cooperative group of stakeholders in the region who will guide the development of future infrastructure projects. Its goal is to benefit the communities of the North Slope by identifying material sites and water sources critical to resource development, mitigating geologic hazards impacting critical facilities, attracting new petroleum investors, and providing access to areas that may require remediation from previous exploration activities. This request is for Phase 3 of 4 phases planned to develop resources that empower Alaska’s Arctic communities.

| Funding: | <u>FY2023</u> | <u>FY2024</u> | <u>FY2025</u> | <u>FY2026</u> | <u>FY2027</u> | <u>FY2028</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1004 Gen Fund | \$2,500,000 | | | | | | \$2,500,000 |
| Total: | \$2,500,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,500,000 |

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

Sec8 Ch1 SLA2021 P76 L3 HB69 \$5,000,000
Sec1 Ch1 SLA2019 P5 L10 SB 2002 \$2,500,000
Sec19 Ch1 SLA2017 P22 L21 SB23 \$7,303,482

Project Description/Justification:

The Arctic Slope Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) project will 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 project supports natural outgrowth of previous ASTAR activities and empowers Alaska’s Arctic communities through continued engagement with federal land managers and delivery of resource

information critical to community infrastructure planning, proposal, and development. Key objectives of the project are:

- Sand and gravel survey in the Coastal Plain.
- Water resource survey of the Coastal Plain to collect information about water depths and fish presence, which will inform water needs for ice road and ice pad construction.
- Coastal hazards assessment for North Slope communities and facilities.
- Petroleum geology fieldwork from the eastern National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR–A) to the ANWR coastal plain

The Department has effectively spent and allocated funds appropriated for ASTAR to execute key objectives and facilitate the State’s participation in complementary planning efforts, such as for oil and gas leasing with the newly defined Coastal Plain. Phase 1 and 2 activities are underway to: finish compiling existing sand and gravel data for the entire area; conduct field mapping, lake surveys, and reconnaissance auger drilling for gravel in the Wainwright-Atkasuk-Peard Bay area along proposed transportation corridors; plan additional drilling for construction materials exploration in NPR—A; prepare for airborne geophysical surveys, instrumentation, and data collection to evaluate water resources; collect baseline data and map coastal hazards; and plan petroleum geology field mapping and shallow core drilling.

| Line Item | Amount |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1000 Personal Services | 750,000.00 |
| 2000 Travel | 140,000.00 |
| 3000 Services | 1,550,000.00 |
| 4000 Commodities | 60,000.00 |
| 5000 Capital Outlay | |
| Total Request | \$ 2,500,000.00 |