

Copper River Highway Wood Canyon Bridges & Trails

FY2025 Request: \$4,250,000
Reference No: 65237

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Transportation
Location: Copper Center

Project Type: Construction
House District: Copper
 River/Delta/Tok/Yukon (HD 36)

Impact House District: Copper
 River/Delta/Tok/Yukon (HD 36)

Contact: Dom Pannone

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2956

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Construct improvements along the Copper River Highway from Chitna to Haley Creek, including the completion of the O'Brien Creek and Haley Creek Drainage Crossings. Work includes completing road, bridge, wayside, and erosion protection improvements along this entire route, and preservation activities for the early 1900s railway trestles. The improvements will be completed in collaboration with the Chitina Joint Task Force.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000				\$12,750,000
Total:	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,750,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input 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:

Project Description/Justification:

Chitina is a community located in the Copper River Valley in Alaska. Along the Copper River, a trail follows the old alignment of the Copper River Railway, an early 1900's railway route that transported copper ore from Kennicott, Alaska to Cordova, Alaska. A specific section of this old alignment travels between the community of Chitina and Haley Creek, a drainage located approximately eight miles south. This specific length of road and trail is heavily used in the summer by fisherman, as part of the Chitina subdistrict personal use fishery.

The State of Alaska has a right of way along this route which accesses the Copper River in several locations along the eight-mile project area. The right of way is surrounded by private lands, including Native allotments, Native corporations, and other private lands. Over the past several years, the State has been working closely with the Tribe and corporations to ensure land uses for both residents and private landowners are compatible. Several areas of trail improvements have been identified by the Chitina Joint Task Force, a group consisting of local government leaders and landowners.