

Memo

To: Denali National Park Long Range Transportation Plan Team

From: ATKINS Email: Steve.Hoover@AtkinsGlobal.com

Phone: 720-841-2956 Date: Sep 19, 2014

Ref: cc:

Subject: Foreseeable Projects/Plans near Denali National Park

Matanuska Susitna Borough LRTP

Source: <http://www.matsugov.us/plans/lrtp>

Project details still being researched

Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP)

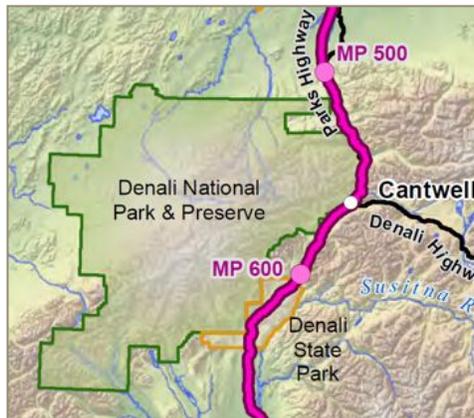
Source: <http://www.asapeis.com/>

The Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) Project is a 727-mile long, 36-inch-diameter natural gas transmission mainline extending from the GCF near Prudhoe Bay south to a connection with the existing ENSTAR pipeline system in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. A 29-mile-long, 12-inch-diameter lateral pipeline will connect the mainline to Fairbanks. The proposed pipeline will be buried except at possible fault crossings, elevated bridge stream crossings, pigging facilities, and block valve locations.

The pipeline will bypass Denali National Park and Preserve to the east and will then generally parallel the Parks Highway corridor to Willow, continuing south to its connection into ENSTAR's distribution system at MP 39 of the Beluga Pipeline southwest of Big Lake.

The Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has been designated the lead federal agency and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (SPCO) are participating as cooperating agencies in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) development process.

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Alaska LNG project

Source: <http://www.arcticgas.gov/alaska-lng-project>

The Alaska LNG export project would be among the world's largest natural gas-development projects. The project is in the pre-front-end engineering and design phase, or pre-FEED. The project consists of constructing a 58-mile pipeline from Point Thomson gas field to Prudhoe Bay and 800-mile pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Nikiski.

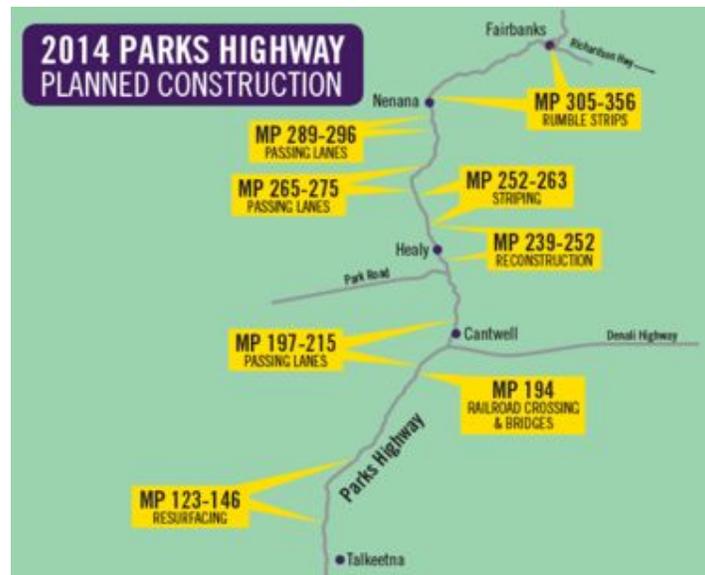


DOT Parks Highway Projects

Source: <http://dot.alaska.gov/parks2014/>

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is performing road construction on the Parks Highway during the 2014 construction season. Work includes turn lanes, passing lanes, re-surfacing, bridge repairs.

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ADOT&PF Statewide Plan

Source: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/areaplans/lrtpp2014/index.shtml>

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is responsible for updating and maintaining a Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) every five years. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is close to halfway through their planning process, having already completed several working group meetings and identification of baseline conditions. Included in the baseline conditions analysis is a map of mineral resources across the state. Below is a section of the resource map that includes Denali National Park:



ADOT&PF Area Plans

Source: http://www.dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/areaplans/area_regional/index.shtml

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These are regional, multi-modal transportation plans developed for specific areas of the state, designed to address movement between communities in the region, and from the region to points beyond. Each of these plans incorporates economic modeling to evaluate potential projects and prioritize them to best meet state and regional goals. Denali National Park is partially included in the Interior Alaska Transportation Planning Area. The most recent plan for this area was adopted in 2008. The plan includes transportation impacts to topic areas that include:

- Gas Pipeline
- Mineral Development
- Military Training
- Railroad Development
- Tourism

The Plan examines potential impacts of these and other developments to highways, rail, aviation and local community roads, and although the plan did not fiscally constrain priority projects, several projects were identified as short-term capital improvement needs. Among these projects were recommendations for improvements on the George Parks Highway in the area of Denali National Park. This project as described by the plan includes passing lanes from MP 113 to MP 163 for an estimated cost of \$15 million.

Alaska Railroad - HAP Track and Wye Extension

Source: <http://www.alaskarailroad.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KLao3LTnECc=&tabid=408>

The proposed HAP track spur will extend approximately 1,225 feet of tangent track from the West 2 siding. The Wye track extends west of the mainline from the south leg at railroad milepost (MP) 360.23 and the north leg at MP 360.53. The project will extend the wye from the start of the tail 1,500 feet and will include an adjacent access road.

Alaska Railroad – Healy Canyon

Source:

http://alaskarailroad.com/Portals/6/pdf/projects/2012_01_04_Healy_Canyon_Stabilization_FS_PROJ.pdf

Work is being proposed in Healy Canyon, between Denali Park Station at Milepost (MP) 348 and Healy (MP 358). The Alaska Railroad has proposed projects to:

- Stabilize the track bed (ongoing)
- Control the rock fall problems
- “Daylight” (remove the top) Moody Tunnel at MP 353.6 (complete).
- Realign tracks around Garner Tunnel (complete).
- Realign the tracks to enhance safety at MP 353.6 (Moody Tunnel) and MP 357 (complete).

Proposed Susitna-Watana Dam

Source: <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/project/project-description/>

Susitna-Watana Hydro is a large hydro project on the Susitna River, upstream of Denali National Park. This project would provide long-term stable power for generations of Alaskans and is expected to have economic impacts on the area. The project will generate 2,800,000 MWh of

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annual energy, once it comes online in 2024. The installed capacity is 600 megawatts (MW). Environmental studies are currently underway.

DOT Mile 231 Proposed Pedestrian Project

Source: <http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=173914>

The project scope includes constructing a new pedestrian bridge across the Nenana River, trail connections, a rest area, and intersection improvements. Conceptual designs, preliminary engineering, and environmental studies are currently underway. A public meeting to gain feedback is scheduled for September 30, 2014.

Denali State Park/Southside new facilities

Source:

http://dnr.alaska.gov/shared/mediareleases/dsp_media_release.cfm?id=1891&title=State%20to%20host%20Aug%2E%2016%20groundbreaking%20for%20South%20Denali%20recreational%20facilities

Construction is underway on a South Denali campground and day-use area. The project includes parking and trailhead access to more than six miles of new hiking trails at the base of Curry Ridge in Denali State Park.

Initial construction will include a 1.5-mile access road, a 22-space parking lot/trailhead, more than six miles of interpretive trails, a 15-site walk-in tent campground, a 32-site RV campground with electrical hookups, a ranger station and maintenance facility, and the extension of the electrical grid along the Parks Highway to Mile 134. The road, campground and electrical extension are scheduled to be completed by late summer or fall of 2014. Funding sources for this work included legislative appropriations and private-sector donations.

The State has been working to develop a visitor center complex on the south side of the Alaska Range with project partners including the National Park Service, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Princess Cruises. Development of the proposed visitor center is still in the planning, design and funding stages.

Other Area Energy Projects (Wind, Coal, Natural Gas exploration)

Healy Unit 2 Power Plant: After a recent transfer of ownership from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to Golden Valley. A consenting agreement decreed the following stipulations.

- Installation of the most rigorous emission controls available on Healy Unit 2 with an estimated cost of \$88 to \$92 million. This includes an estimated \$5 million for installing additional nitrous oxide controls on Healy Unit 1.

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- Devotion of funds to the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Denali Borough Woodstove Change-out program. This will help alleviate the particulate matter problems in the Interior.
- Negotiation of a minimal payment of \$115,000 to the EPA. Payments to the EPA are required under the rules of a Consent Decree.

Healy Unit 2 is expected to come online in 2015. (Source: <http://www.gvea.com/energy/healy2>)

Eva Creek Wind Project: Eva Creek is the largest wind project in Alaska at 25-megawatts. It is located 14 miles from Healy at the top of the 10-mile Ferry mining road.

The Eva Creek Wind project is visible from the Parks Highway. Heading north out of Healy, wind turbines are visible on the right in the vicinity of Milepost 263. (Source: <http://www.gvea.com/energy/evacreek/evacreek>).

Usibelli Coal Mine Exploration License Plan of Operations: Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. has submitted a request to carry out a Coalbed Methane drilling exploration program at a prospect site approximately seven miles east of the town of Healy. The project will consist of a single vertical coal-bed methane exploratory well drilled inside the exploration license area. The exploratory well will help determine whether sub-surface coal seams contain sufficient quantities of methane gas to justify further exploration in the area. (Source: http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Permitting/Documents/2014/Usibelli/Usibelli_LOCI_14_002_Drilling_at_Healy_Creek_Project_Notice.pdf)

Stampede State Recreation Area: There is a potential designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area west of the Panguingue Creek subdivision. In March 2013, Senator Representative David Guttenberg introduced HB148 in response to requests by the Denali Borough Assembly.



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Borough Planning Commissioners are currently working through recommendations for area management which include details of proposed allowed uses and a plan for land management. (Source: <http://northern.org/take-action/stampede-state-recreation-area-1>)

Air Traffic – Overflights council

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/aoac.htm>

The Denali National Park and Preserve Aircraft Overflights Advisory was established in 2007 to consider resource conflicts between aircraft tours and park visitors on the ground. The group is charged with advising the National Park Service (NPS) on ways to mitigate (reduce) sound impacts from aircraft flights over the park, develop voluntary measures for assuring the safety of passengers, pilots, and mountaineers, and achieve desired resource conditions at Denali as outlined in the Backcountry Management Plan (2006).

Riley Creek Bridge Replacement

Source: <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/rileycreek/>

Riley Creek Bridge Replacement - construction is expected to take 1 year. ADOT&PF, in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is replacing the Riley Creek Bridge near milepost 237 of the Parks Highway. In addition to the proposed bridge replacement, the project includes the following:

- Addition of a left turn pocket from the Parks Highway onto Park Road; realignment of the Parks Highway at this location to upgrade a sub-standard curve at the northern project limits and minimize traffic impacts during construction; minor realignment of adjacent bicycle and pedestrian path to improve intersection geometry; addition of a right turn pocket on Park Road to reduce delay for motorists turning onto the Parks Highway;
- Widening the proposed bridge to accommodate the left turn lane to access Park Road and 8-ft shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists; and,
- Minor grade adjustment under the Alaska Railroad overpass at the southern end of the project to provide additional vertical clearance for vehicles on the Parks Highway.
- A wetland delineation is to be completed for impacts to wetland resources in the area. Parts of the Parks Highway designated under SHPO will be considered during design. No significant social resources were identified during initial agency scoping.

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