



Denali National Park and Preserve Long-Range Transportation Plan

Appendix D: Current and Future Partner Projects

Memo

To: Denali National Park Long Range Transportation Plan Team

From: ATKINS Email:

Phone: 720-841-2956 Date: Sep 19, 2014, Modified August 28, 2017

Ref: cc:

Subject: Possible Foreseeable Projects/Plans near Denali National Park

Matanuska Susitna Borough LRTP

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

This transportation plan assesses growth in the Mat-Su Borough over the next 20 years, and identifies the key elements of the Borough’s future transportation system that will be needed to serve its growing communities. The transportation plan will help the residents develop a Borough that is a pleasure to live in, with public infrastructure that supports their daily lives.

Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP)

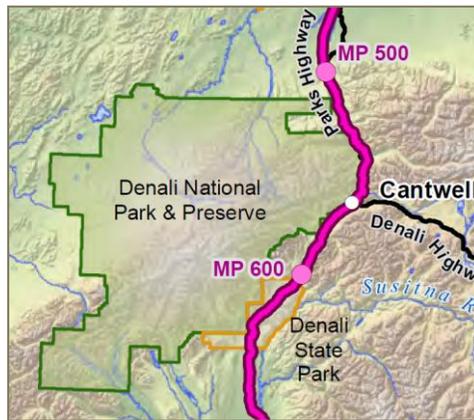
Source: <http://www.asapeis.com/>

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.

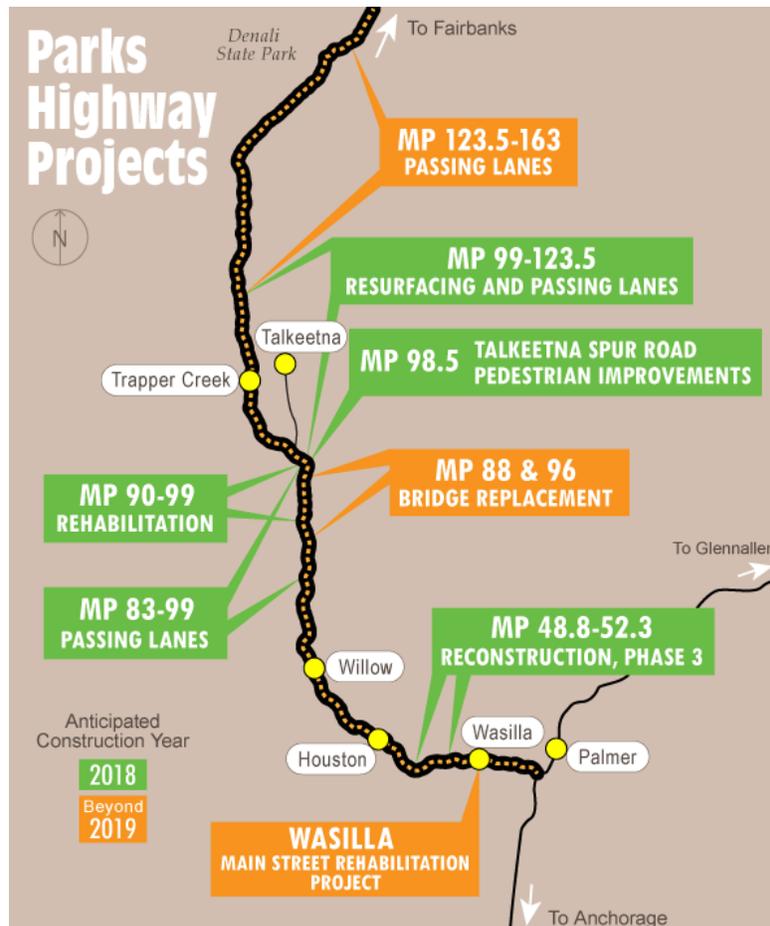


DOT Parks Highway Projects

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

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

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ADOT&PF Area Plans

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

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 2010. The plan includes transportation impacts to topic areas that include:

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

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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 – 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 could be 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 have economic impacts on the area. The project would generate 2,800,000 MWh of 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.

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

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.

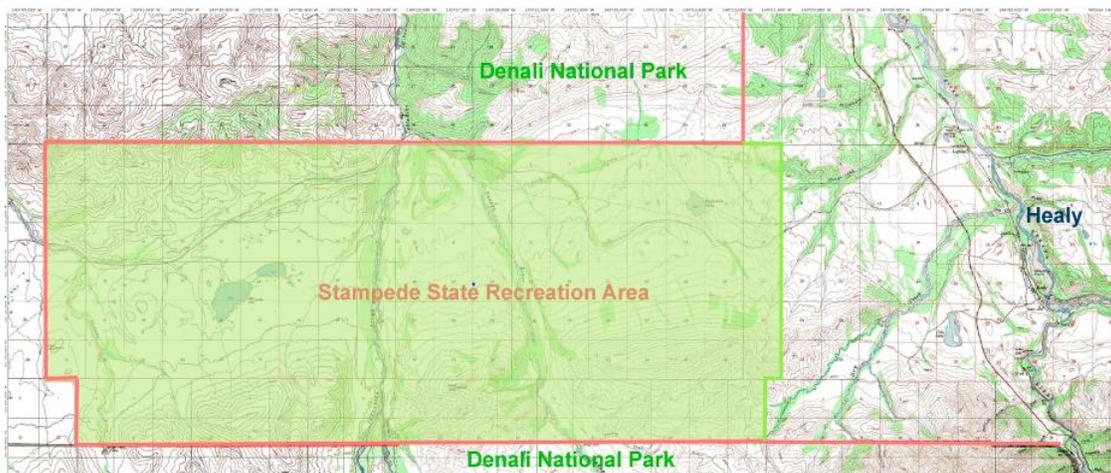
Usibelli Coal Mine Exploration License Plan of Operations: Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. has submitted a request to carry out a Coalbed Methane drilling exploration program at a prospect site approximately seven miles east of the town of Healy. The project will consist of a single vertical coal-bed methane exploratory well drilled inside the exploration license area. The exploratory well

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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.



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).