

Statewide: Scenic Viewshed Improvements**FY2005 Request: \$550,000****Reference No: 36451****AP/AL:** Allocation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** John MacKinnon**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-6973**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2009**Appropriation:** Surface Transportation Program**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Highway preventative maintenance through vegetation clearing at guardrails, curves, ditches and other areas not suitable to mechanical techniques. This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage.

Funding:	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$550,000						\$550,000
Total:	\$550,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$550,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
9% = 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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

FY2004 - \$550,000; FY2003 - 550,000; FY2002 - \$550,000.

Project Description/Justification:

This project consists of an agreement between the Southeast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA) and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) for specific types of vegetation management within the State Right of Way. Vegetation management is necessary to maintain a safe right-of-way by providing clear sight distances, to clear signs and fixtures of vegetation for visibility and functionality, to provide adequate drainage in roadway ditches, and to provide snow storage and snow drift control. It is also necessary to protect the roadway surface from vegetation encroachment and to maintain drainage.

The genesis for this project was the availability of Federal Highway Funds from TEA-21. TEA-21 requires the U.S.D.O.T to encourage the use of youth conservation or service corps in the implementation of Transportation Enhancement activities where appropriate. TEA-21 states that where States and local officials are able to identify opportunities to enter into partnerships with these service organizations, they should fully consider the benefits to their own efforts and the benefits to the youth involved. The ADOT/PF recognized the benefit to the Department and to the community as a whole and entered into an agreement with SAGA for vegetation control within State Right of Ways throughout the State.

The most current list of eligible work items for the SAGA program include:

1. Brush cutting and clearing of debris (rocks, sand build up, grass clumps, and etc.) from under guardrail and within 3-5 feet behind the rail and posts.
2. Brush cutting and clearing of roadsides where sight distance and sign visibility is no longer acceptable due to brush and trees.

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3. Brush cutting and clearing of drainage ditches (back slopes and fore slopes included) where brush is impeding drainage and water ponding is evident.
4. Brush cutting and clearing of known animal crossings and areas where animals have caused accidents documented by accident reports.

The Department utilizes SAGA to supplement its own vegetation control efforts. Due to limited manpower availability, the Department concentrates on mechanical methods to control vegetation as the most cost-effective use of its resources. SAGA provides the necessary low cost labor to cost effectively accomplish labor intensive vegetation control in areas where mechanical brush cutting is impossible or cost prohibitive.