

Whittier Tunnel: Jet Fan Repairs and Communication System Upgrade

FY2012 Request: \$350,000
Reference No: 50872

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Equipment / Commodities

Category: Transportation

Location: Whittier

Contact: Frank Richards, Deputy Commissioner

House District: Chugach State Park (HD 32)

Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2011 - 06/30/2016

Appropriation: Highways and Facilities

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Repair and relocate jet fans to extend the life of existing equipment (\$100,000). Upgrade existing communication system to current standards (\$250,000). This project contributes to the Department's Mission by improving the mobility of people and goods.

Funding:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Gen Fund	\$350,000						\$350,000
Total:	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000

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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is the first year for this project.

Project Description/Justification:

This project is required to ensure the safety of those traveling to and from Whittier. The Whittier Tunnel is equipped with six jet fans for removing air pollutants generated by vehicles, trains and for emergency situations when a fire might occur. Currently, one of the fans has a severe imbalance and needs to be removed for repair. Another fan has high hours and is nearing the end of its useful life. This funding (\$100,000) would allow for the repair of the fan with severe imbalance, and relocation of the high hour fan to a location where it will be utilized less. These efforts will extend the life of the existing equipment, deferring replacement needs. Replacement costs could exceed \$300,000 if the fan breaks down and can no longer be repaired. If this budget item is not approved to cover the needed repair, it could result in a reduction in the service level overall for the Anton Larson Memorial Tunnel due to tunnel closures.

Requested funding (\$250,000) would also upgrade the communication system to current standards. The upgrades would involve purchasing a new communication system. The current Optical Telecommunications Network (OTN) is no longer supported by Siemens, and they have been working with us to repair cards that have gone down. Additionally many of the cards in the system no longer have spares available for purchase. In one case we bought out the last remaining stock in the world. The OTN manages all communications at the tunnel, this includes cameras, phones, fire alarms, and input from all field devices. Most of the upgrades would involve replacing backbone equipment:

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servers, networks and phone distribution equipment. If this budget item is not approved to cover this needed upgrade, it will result in a reduction in the service level overall for the Anton Larson Memorial Tunnel and is considered a safety issue for users. Communication for safe travel through the tunnel would be jeopardized.