

Akutan: Airport Construction**FY2007 Request: \$2,000,000****Reference No: AMD 42046****AP/AL:** Allocation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Akutan**Contact:** John Torgerson**House District:** Bristol Bay/Aleutians (HD 37)**Contact Phone:** (907)269-0727**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2011**Appropriation:** Airport Improvement Program**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This is a new FY07 Capital Budget Request. There is a separate request in the Governor's Transportation Initiative appropriation in the FY07 Capital Budget. Construct a community class airport on Akun Island, hovercraft terminals on Akutan and Akun Islands, a 24' wide gravel access road connecting the airport to the terminal on Akun Island and (if necessary) a 24' wide gravel access road connecting the community to the terminal on the north side of the harbor, and provide a hovercraft. Hovercraft to be operated and maintained by the City of Akutan/AEB. This project contributes to the Department's Mission by reducing injuries, fatalities and property damage and by improving the mobility of people and goods.

| Funding: | <u>FY2007</u> | <u>FY2008</u> | <u>FY2009</u> | <u>FY2010</u> | <u>FY2011</u> | <u>FY2012</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Fed Rcpts | \$2,000,000 | | | | | | \$2,000,000 |
| Total: | \$2,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,000,000 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway | <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going |
| 5% = Minimum State Match % Required | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill | |

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

| | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Staff</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Project Development: | 0 | 0 |
| Ongoing Operating: | 140,000 | 0 |
| One-Time Startup: | 0 | |
| Totals: | 140,000 | 0 |

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

None.

Project Description/Justification:

Akutan, population 771 (2004 State Demographer estimate), is located in the Aleutian Islands, 766 miles southwest of Anchorage and 35 miles east of Unalaska. There is no land-based airport in the community. A Grumman Goose, an amphibious plane built in the early 1940s, serves Akutan out of Unalaska. Akutan receives seasonal service from the Alaska Marine Highway System, but personal or company (Trident) boats must often be used to transport people between Unalaska and Akutan. A land-based airport is needed for several reasons. Because of the Goose's age (more than 50 years old), the aircraft is often out of service for repairs. Parts for the plane are scarce and there is concern that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may rescind the aircraft's certification to carry passengers in the near future. No suitable amphibious aircraft are available to take the Goose's place. Current service is dependent upon both Visual Flight Rules (VFR) flying conditions and relatively smooth sea conditions, which are not routinely available in the Aleutians. Direct flights from Akutan to Anchorage for medical evacuations are also not possible.

Operating and maintenance costs will be approximately \$140,000 per year, starting in FY2010.