

Seward Highway - Windy Corner Passing Lanes

FY2007 Request: \$12,000,000

Reference No: 41999

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Anchorage Areawide

Contact: John MacKinnon

House District: Anchorage Areawide (HD 17-32)

Contact Phone: (907)465-6973

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2011

Appropriation: Transportation Initiative

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The project will construct passing lanes, straighten, and realign the highway and the railroad. A portion of the former highway alignment will be reconfigured to a highway turnout, trailhead and interpretive site. 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>
Gen Fund	\$12,000,000						\$12,000,000
Total:	\$12,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000,000

<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:

None.

Project Description/Justification:

The Seward Highway was recently declared an "All American Road", the highest level of scenic byway designation, due to its spectacular scenery. Tourist traffic, intent on viewing scenery and wildlife, is exceptionally heavy in the summer, and is mixed with high volumes of through traffic, creating conflict between vehicles and wildlife viewers. Travelers stuck behind these and other slow moving vehicles become impatient and often take risks to pass in less than ideal situations. Additional passing lanes are needed to help accommodate passing vehicles and improve safety.

This project will address safety issues and provide tourist and recreational amenities on a tightly curved portion of the Seward Highway that has a high percentage of the total accidents between Anchorage and Bird Point along the Turnagain Arm. The Windy Corner section of the highway has a design speed of less than 55 MPH, poor sight distances and is a common area for sheep viewing.

Data and experience has shown that the addition of passing lanes would result in an immediate 40% reduction in the traffic crash rate along this stretch of highway.