

Akutan: Airport Construction

FY2009 Request: \$31,000,000
Reference No: 42046

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Transportation

Location: Akutan

Contact: Frank Richards

House District: Bristol Bay/Aleutians (HD 37)

Contact Phone: (907)465-3900

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013

Appropriation: Airport Improvement Program

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Construction of a new airport on Akutan Island. The project will include runway, taxiway, apron, and access road. Other work may include a lighting system, snow removal equipment storage building, and various other support features. 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:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$31,000,000						\$31,000,000
Total:	\$31,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,000,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
5% = 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:	140,000	0
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	0	
Totals:	140,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

FY2007 - \$2,000,000 federal and \$1,000,000 GF.

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 Grumman 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.