Haines - Haines Highway Reconstruction - Milepost 3.5 to 25.3 and Chilkat Bridge Replacement

FY2014 Request: $31,000,000
Reference No: 56883

AP/AL: Allocation
Category: Transportation
Location: Haines
Impact House District: Southeast Islands (HD 34)
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2020
Appropriation: Surface Transportation Program

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
Widen to a paved width of 36 feet and improve the roadside environment between the airport and the previous upgrade (MP 25.3). Replace the Chilkat River Bridge (#0742). Straighten curves to meet a 55 mph design speed, including the bridge approach at Wells. Provide a long-term solution to debris flow problems near MP 19 and 23. Enhancements are planned along the Chilkat River and at the Mount Ripinsky trailhead.

Operating & Maintenance Costs:
Project Development: 0 0
Ongoing Operating: 0 0
One-Time Startup: 0
Totals: 0 0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P145 L28 SB160 $1,000,000
Sec1 Ch43 SLA2010 P48 L5 SB230 $1,000,000

Project Description/Justification:
The project will increase safety of the roadway by flattening curves, widening the road to provide adequate shoulders and providing a long-term solution to debris flow areas that cause occasional road closures. The bridge is 50-years old and functionally deficient (does not meet seismic or load bearing standards and is narrow). Bridge replacement will also provide greater capacity.

The Haines Highway provides the shortest link between tidewater and numerous Yukon mineral prospects with several major mines nearing production and approximately 200 miles of the proposed gas line route and links the Haines, Alaska marine port with the interior of Alaska and the Yukon. Reconstruction of this highway has recently increased in importance with the accelerated development of several large Yukon mines that may use the Haines Highway and the Port of Haines for shipment of ore concentrate.