



Engineering and Public Works Department  
155 Heritage Way  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Telephone: 586-0800 Facsimile: 586-4565

DATE: September 5, 2024  
TO: Wade Bryson, Chair  
Public Works and Facilities Committee  
THROUGH: Denise Koch, Engineering and Public Works Director  
FROM: Bridget LaPenter, P.E., Chief General Engineering  
SUBJECT: Juneau Douglas North Crossing (JDNC) Project Update

Below is a much-overdue update on the Juneau Douglas North Crossing (JDNC) project.

#### Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

An MOA is needed between CBJ and the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT&PF) to outline responsibilities and conditions associated with the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant (\$16.454M) and Congressional Directed spending (\$7M). A draft MOA has been reviewed by CBJ Engineering, Law, and the Manager's Office and was returned earlier this year to DOT&PF with CBJ notes and comments.

DOT&PF has experienced some staffing changes and their legal department indicated that the MOA may need to be restructured. Since that time, DOT&PF has not made any progress on the agreement. DOT&PF legal is now prioritizing the restructuring of this agreement.

Once all parties agree to the content of the document, the MOA is expected to be presented to the PWFC and Assembly for review.

#### North Douglas Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

DOT&PF and their consultant, DOWL, released the Draft Level 2 Screening results in February of 2024 to technical and stakeholder groups. Since that time, DOWL has received many comments, questions, and concerns on the screening criteria, scoring, and results. DOWL has been working to respond to these comments, questions, and concerns for the last 6 months.

In addition, new information regarding the Salmon Creek alternative was brought to the attention of DOT&PF in late April 2024 who in turn shared the information with DOWL and CBJ. AEL&P then shared the Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) inundation modeling data with DOWL showing that in the event of a dam breach, high-velocity flooding would occur throughout the Salmon Creek drainage including significant impacts to the Salmon Creek alternative's connections at Egan and Glacier Highways.

The Salmon Creek dam is considered critical infrastructure by the Division of Homeland Security. Therefore, DOT&PF is currently in the process of acquiring the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission (FERC) permission to view secure data and analysis to verify content and better assess the risk of dam failure and thereby the risk of placing new critical infrastructure in the potential Salmon Creek dam flooding corridor. No decision has been made whether to remove this alignment from the PEL.

### North Douglas Sub Area Study

A final draft of the North Douglas Sub Area Study (the Study) has been presented to the department. While this document does not provide a comprehensive view of development opportunities and challenges along North Douglas Highway and West Douglas Island, the study did provide a more up to date housing analysis that has been utilized by multiple departments.

### Looking Ahead

Comments, questions, and concerns from the PEL Draft Level 2 screening will be addressed, and a Draft Final PEL document will be distributed to technical and advisory committees and the public for review. Once the groups have reviewed the document, DOT&PF will host a public meeting with CBJ to address any additional questions and receive comments on the study's findings.

Following the approval of the MOA with DOT&PF, and after the PEL process is concluded, DOT&PF and CBJ will begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review for the remaining alignments. Our ability to move forward depends on narrowing the focus to a smaller number of alignments. Once those alignments are selected, CBJ will request a transportation corridor through the Mendenhall State Game Refuge from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, if required.