



## Engineering and Public Works Department

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DATE: April 21, 2025

TO: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, 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 an update on the Juneau Douglas North Crossing (JDNC) project, which continues forward progress.

### JDNC Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and its consultant, DOWL, released the Final Level 2 Screening results in February 2025 to technical and stakeholder groups. The results were updated to reflect wetland impacts and estimated cost, leading to the removal of the Mendenhall Peninsula alternative due to excessive cost (see below).

<b>Level 2 Screening Results: Estimated Costs</b>							
	No Build	Mendenhall Peninsula	Sunny Point West	Sunny Point East	Vanderbilt	Twin Lakes	Salmon Creek
Construction	\$0	\$1.1B	\$490M	\$530M	\$340M	\$360M	\$390M
Annual Maint.	\$0	\$365K	\$150K	\$175K	\$90K	\$65K	\$70K

Since the last update, DOT&PF has been unable to obtain relevant information on the Salmon Creek alignment through direct communication with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). As a result, DOT&PF submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to better assess the risks associated with the Salmon Creek Dam and potential dam failure. The Salmon Creek alternative remains under consideration and will be evaluated further during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

A Joint Advisory Committee Meeting was held on March 4, 2025, to present the Level 2 Screening findings and gather stakeholder feedback. The updated scoring criteria has been uploaded to the JDNC project website (<https://www.jdnorthcrossing.com/>), and DOWL will summarize Advisory Committee comments in the Draft Final PEL document.

### Looking Ahead

Below is an estimated timeline of activities until PEL project close out:

- April 2025 – Statewide Environmental Office (SEO) review and comment period (5 weeks).
- May 8, 2025 – Deadline to release Final Draft PEL document to public.
- May 15, 2025 (5p-7p) – Final Public Open House and public comment period begins. The draft final PEL document will undergo a 30-day review process, with a public open house held one week into the review period. The public will then have three additional weeks to submit comments before the document is finalized.
- June 7, 2025 – Tentative date the public comment period closes.
- June 2025 – PEL study is finalized, incorporating public feedback. The Final PEL Study document is anticipated to be completed by mid-to-late June 2025.

Additionally, negotiations continue on the CBJ Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DOT&PF. Due to significant administrative changes and resource constraints within the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), there has been a noticeable slowdown in operations. At this time, it remains unclear when or if our grant agreement for \$16.464M will be processed. We continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide updates as more information becomes available.