



Engineering and Public Works Department
155 South Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone: 586-0800 Facsimile: 463-2606

Date: November 6, 2023
To: Chair Bryson and Public Works and Facilities Committee
Through: Denise Koch,
Director, Engineering and Public Works
From: Bridget LaPenter, P.E.
Chief General Engineering
Subject: Juneau Douglas North Crossing Project Update

Progress has continued on the Juneau Douglas North Crossing (JDNC) project. This is a summary of recent activities and a look ahead for your information and use.

North Douglas Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (hereafter DOT&PF) is conducting the PEL study. The goal of this study is to identify a purpose and need for a possible transportation corridor connecting mainland Juneau to the North end of Douglas Island and evaluate preliminary crossing location alternatives. DOT&PF concluded much of the necessary fieldwork supplementing the PEL in mid-October and is processing the data collected into a technical report which will be used to fulfill a portion of the future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) fieldwork requirements. Depending on available resources, DOT&PF may be able to complete additional hydrological and geophysical fieldwork this calendar year.

The overall PEL project schedule expanded slightly to incorporate this fieldwork. It is expected that a draft of the PEL will be completed in early 2024, at which time it will be made available for public review and comment.

North Douglas Sub Area Study

The intent of the North Douglas Sub Area Study (hereafter the Study) is to document impacts to and inform potential development along North Douglas Highway and West Douglas Island. CBJ has engaged DOWL to assist in developing this Study. In turn, DOWL has engaged subconsultant Agnew::Beck to assist in their analysis. As part of this work, a proforma housing analysis has been conducted and a housing needs assessment has been updated utilizing past Juneau housing needs studies as background with up-to-date data. In addition, DOWL and Agnew::Beck are evaluating the potential for development on North and West Douglas and comparing that potential with mainland development opportunities. A final report summarizing the work of both DOWL and Agnew::Beck is expected by the end of December 2023.

Forward Glance

The CBJ was awarded the US Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for 2023 in the amount of \$16.454M which is intended to take



Engineering and Public Works Department
155 South Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Telephone: 586-0800 Facsimile: 463-2606

the North Douglas Crossing project through final design. The CBJ intends to assign DOT&PF this funding because the finished bridge must ultimately be adopted by DOT&PF and must meet their specifications. DOT&PF has provided a draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) to the CBJ, which is currently being reviewed by the CBJ Laws Department. The RAISE grant requires an \$866K match which will be furnished by CBJ per Serial No. 3019(b) A Resolution in Support of a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing.

As a reminder, the CBJ-DOT joint Juneau North Douglas Crossing Project was awarded \$7M in FY2023 Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) to fund the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Unfortunately, neither CBJ nor DOT were aware of a required 9.03% match to these funds. The agencies are proposing to split the cost evenly, requiring a roughly \$315K commitment from CBJ. The language agreeing to the evenly split match and commitment to pay is written in the above-mentioned MOA. Once the legal review is complete, an appropriation ordinance for the needed match will be presented to the PWFC alongside the MOA. The MOA and ordinance are expected to be presented to the PWFC at the December 18, 2023, PWFC meeting.