



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 28, 2023
TO: Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
FROM: City and Borough of Juneau
SUBJECT: 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) is appreciative of the work ADOT&PF does to develop and maintain critical transportation infrastructure. This STIP includes many needed area projects. There are three areas CBJ would like to highlight:

Alaska Marine Highway

The 2024-2027 STIP includes investment in Alaska Marine Highway infrastructure. The marine highway system is critical to the economy, health, and safety of the entire region. The City and Borough of Juneau supports ongoing investment in maintaining a vibrant marine highway system.

Yandukin and Eagan Intersection

Improvements to the Yandukin/Eagan Intersection are notably absent on the 2024-2027 STIP despite a recent tragic fatality and recommendations from a planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL) from 2021 to signalize the intersection. It will take time to work through additional public process, design, and funding for this project. CBJ recommends including long-term improvements now in the STIP.

Juneau Douglas North Crossing

The State and CBJ are engaged in a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing (JDNC). Funding has been identified to bring the project through design. As part of the PEL, the state prepared an additional \$1.5 million for initial environmental field analysis. Environmental field work will improve outcomes by eliminating early alternatives with inordinate environmental impacts. Limiting future environmental analysis and design to viable alternatives reduces overall project costs.

PEL funds previously in the STIP have been expended, obligated, or allocated.

The additional \$1.5 million for initial environmental field analysis must be in the STIP to be spent and the inclusion in FFY23 will not be considered 'in the STIP'.

CBJ staff and elected officials regularly receive public comments indicating a misunderstanding of project status. Specifying fund use will aid the public in monitoring the project, and the FHWA in providing oversight.

For accuracy and transparency, CBJ recommends:

- \$1.5 million shown under 31597 for environmental analysis for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) project. Funding is currently shown in FFY23, but will be unavailable to the project upon approval of the 24-27 STIP. It must be moved to FFY24.
- Clarify spending under 34146:
 - Congressionally delegated funding in 2024 may be spent on planning, environmental analysis, and up to 60% design. Currently, the STIP shows all of the funding for planning. The remaining \$5.5M that is not being used for the PEL Study should be shown for Design.
 - The RAISE grant will bring the project to final design. Spending may include 30% to final design.