



Engineering and Public Works Department

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DATE: June 2, 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 – Information Only

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), in collaboration with its consultant DOWL, released the Draft Final Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study to the public on May 7, 2025. A public open house was subsequently held on May 15, 2025, at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center, drawing over 150 attendees. The event provided an opportunity for the public to review key elements of the study. Comment cards were made available, and more than 60 pages of feedback were collected.

The public comment period is currently open, with June 9, 2025, identified as the tentative closing date. Upon conclusion of the comment period, all feedback will be reviewed and incorporated into the Final PEL document.

JDNC National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process and Project Design

On May 13, 2025, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) and DOT&PF signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) outlining their respective roles and responsibilities related to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. As part of the grant transfer process, both CBJ and DOT&PF are required to submit formal letters acknowledging the transfer. CBJ has submitted its letter to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and DOT&PF is in the process of finalizing its grant acceptance letter, which will be sent to FHWA shortly.

Although recent administrative changes and resource constraints within FHWA raised concerns about timely access to awarded funds, recent communications with the Alaska FHWA office have been encouraging, and we remain optimistic about receiving the necessary support.

CBJ staff continue to proactively explore future funding strategies. On May 23, 2025, staff met with representatives from the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Foundation (PNWER) to discuss opportunities for enhanced regional collaboration and potential construction funding sources.

Looking Ahead: Key Upcoming Milestones

- June 9, 2025 – Close of the public comment period
- Early July 2025 – Final PEL Study anticipated for release, inclusive of public feedback
- Late Summer 2025 – Pending ratification of the RAISE grant agreement, DOT&PF will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for NEPA contractor services. CBJ will hold a 50% share in the final selection process.