



SAFER SEWARD HIGHWAY PROJECT FACT SHEET



Version: October 2023

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is looking to make long-term highway improvements on the Seward Highway between Rabbit Creek Road (MP 118 near Potter Marsh) and Bird Flats (MP 98) to improve safety and eliminate the need for a special Safety Corridor designation.

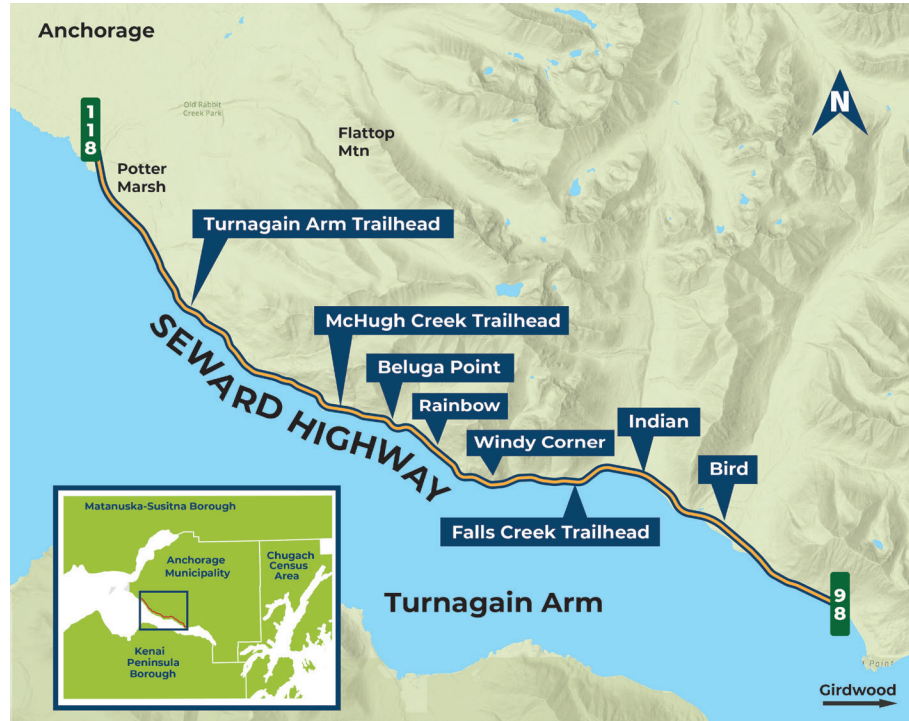
Though a beautiful scenic byway, this is the oldest Safety Corridor in the state. This designation means that it has a higher rate of severe and fatal crashes and that improvements made have not been enough to lower the rate.

We've identified some contributing factors and are in the process of identifying solutions. And we're thinking big picture - a comprehensive solution that will last.

Today, we're in the beginning stages of an updated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental assessment (EA). We've proposed a "purpose and need" statement, which is the basis for everything moving forward. We're looking at options - alternative solutions - to meet the purpose and need of the project. We're also looking at the area around the corridor to see what might happen to the natural and built environment if any of the alternatives were to be built.

We need your help!

Once we have alternative solutions, we'll ask you what you think. Are we on target? Are we missing anything? Did we forget something? You'll help us fix this problem!



PROJECT NEED 1 Reduce High Crash Rate and Severity



Possible Improvements

- Improved roadway signage
- Improved scenic and recreational pull-offs
- Increased line of sight
- Divided highway

Measurable Result

Reduction in severe and fatal crashes.
Removal of the Safety Corridor designation.

PROJECT NEED 2 Update Substandard Design



Possible Improvements

- Curve flattening
- Wider shoulders
- Rock and ice fall mitigation
- Additional/new guardrails

Measurable Result

Curves, shoulders, guardrail, and clear zones that meet current design standards.

PROJECT NEED 3 Increase Mobility and Reliability



Possible Improvements

- Separated multi-use pathway
- Additional passing lanes/space
- Adding turning lanes
- Adding deceleration and acceleration lanes
- Adding space for emergency response

Measurable Result

Decrease in time spent following (platooning of traffic) and traffic delays.

Project Schedule

Safer Seward Highway continued...

Anticipated Project Benefits:

In addition to improving safety and traffic operations, the project proposes to:



Improve mobility and reliability for all users including motorized and non-motorized users.

Add a multi-use separated pathway to connect Anchorage to the Bird to Gird path.



Provide safe and improved access to viewing and recreational areas.



Provide emergency access to Turnagain Arm, allowing direct access for first responders.

Get Involved:

DOT&PF will work with stakeholders, relay accurate and timely information about the project, and consider stakeholders' comments and concerns. You can participate in the Safer Seward Highway Project in several ways:

Sign up for our email contact list – receive meeting notices, project announcements, and other up-to-date information in your email inbox.

Attend a public meeting – attend a meeting to learn more about the project and to have your voice heard.

Leave a comment for the project team – leave a comment using the online comment form on the project website or by downloading a PDF comment form and sending it via email to the project email.

Visit the Contact Us page for more options.

Contacts:

If you have any questions or require additional information, please leave a message for the project team:

info@safersewardhighway.com

(907)802-3656

Safer Seward Highway

c/o HDR

582 E 36 Ave Ste 500

Anchorage, AK 99503

Project Website:

www.safersewardhighway.com

