WestSu/ccess

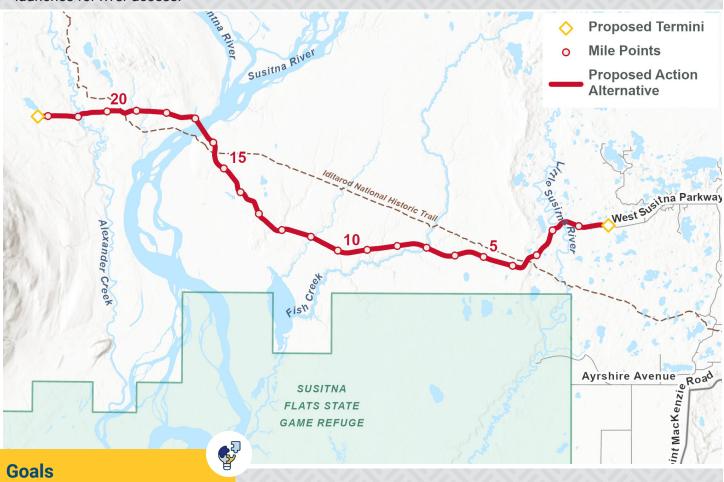


Project Fact Sheet

Overview



The West Susitna Access Road (WestSu Access) project is a proposed approximately 22-mile gravel road expanding outdoor recreation and economic opportunities for Southcentral Alaska. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) envisions delivering a new frontier road that unlocks public access to over 6 million acres of State lands west of the Susitna River. This road would extend from the existing highway system and include bridges across waterways such as the Susitna River, as well as boat launches for river access.



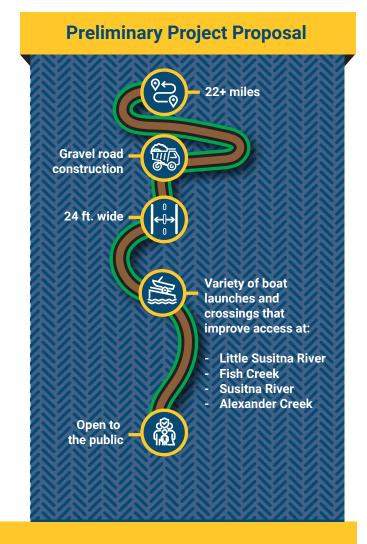
The project's goal is to unlock public access to over 6 million acres of State lands, with a focus on enhanced access for recreation and tourism, settlement, and economic development. The project may additionally foster economic growth in the energy, forestry, and mining sectors. This initiative aligns with Alaska's Constitution, which specifies that "it is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest."

Environmental, Cultural, and Public Outreach

The WestSu Access project team is launching a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. At a minimum, the process will include development and review of the project purpose and need, formalization of the proposed action, environmental and cultural resources fieldwork to determine potential impacts of the project, public outreach, and public input to help inform recommendations and design. To learn more about the NEPA process, see the website address at the bottom of this page.

Background

This project was originally studied by DOT&PF in 2013/2014 (see DOT&PF's West Susitna Surface Access Reconnaissance Report website for the complete study). In recent years, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) advanced a project in the area in consideration of developing an industrial road. The current DOT&PF WestSu Access project will benefit from the environmental studies and other work completed by DOT&PF and AIDEA; however, this WestSu Access project is independent of the AIDEA project and is focused on public access to State lands. To learn more about AIDEA's project, visit their website and check out the West Susitna Access infrastructure development page.



Contact & More Information

For questions, please email (<u>comments@westsuaccess.com</u>):

Shannon McCarthy, Communications Director, DOT&PF Sean Holland, Project Lead, DOT&PF



Email info@westsuaccess. com



Web westsuaccess.com



NEPA Process ceq.doe.gov/docs/getinvolved/citizens-guideto-nepa-2021.pdf