

# Milepost 53-56

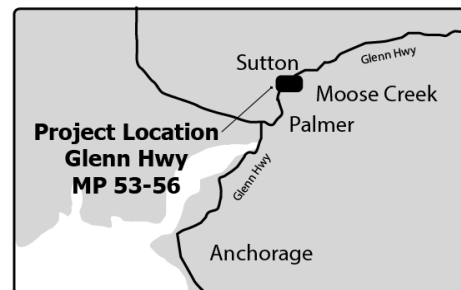
## Reconstruction Project MOOSE CREEK CANYON

### E-Newsletter

## Glenn Highway MP 53-56 Reconstruction, Moose Creek Canyon

Project No. 58013/OA1-5(25)

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), plans to re-align and straighten this three-mile section of the Glenn Highway, MP 53-56, and construct a new bridge over Moose Creek. This project will increase roadway safety and accommodate anticipated traffic for the next 20 years.



### Project Outreach Update

Over the past months, the DOT&PF project team has held or participated in several community events in an effort to share information about the Moose Creek project and to gather your feedback.

- September 9, 2014 - Public Open House, Sutton Library
- [September 10-October 10, 2014 - Online Open House on project website](#)
- October 22, 2014 - Participated in the Mat-Su Borough Transportation Fair
- [November 19, 2014 - Presented to the Sutton Community Council](#)
- December 10, 2014 - Presented to the Chickaloon Community Council
- [December 17, 2014 - Presented to the Mat-Su Borough Transportation Advisory Board](#)

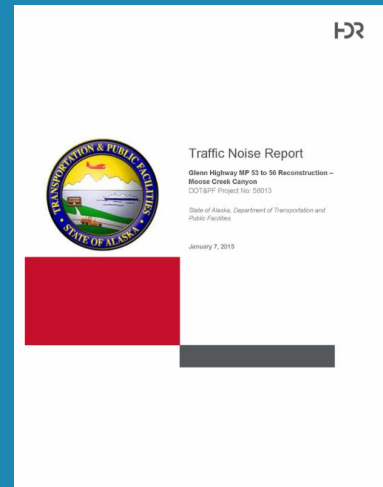
In addition, we have met with Tribal and other area stakeholders to discuss the project and its design.

# What have we heard?

We at DOT&PF appreciate all of the comments and feedback we have received about the project design and area. Most people we spoke to support the project and look forward to the safety improvements it will provide.

We have also heard some concerns and questions that you have. Here are our comments on some of the topics that have come up.

**Noise** - Some of you expressed a concern about changes to highway noise in the area. Due to the relocation of portions of the roadway, highway noise will increase in areas closer to the proposed alignment, and will decrease in areas where the roadway moves further away. DOT&PF conducted a Noise Analysis, now available on our project website. The analysis shows that none of the areas modeled are predicted to meet or exceed the Alaska DOT&PF standards for abatement actions (construction measures that would be necessary if noise levels were too high).



**Traffic Noise Report** - [click here to read](#)

**Pedestrian/Cyclist Pathway** - Some stakeholders want to know how pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be accommodated with the project, and some have specifically asked for a separate pedestrian pathway. The new highway design includes 8-foot wide shoulders that will continue over the new bridge, accommodating non-motorized travelers. While a separate pathway is not included in the scope, budget or environmental process for this project, DOT&PF is considering how it can help pathway proponents advance the pathway as a separate project.

**Traffic Speed** - We heard from some of you that are concerned a straighter roadway will lead to more speeding vehicles. This project, once constructed, will have a speed limit of 55mph - the same limit as most other sections of the Glenn Highway between Palmer and Sutton. While the post-construction speed limit will be higher than the current 35mph advisory speed signs, the new road will be designed to safely accommodate a speed of 55mph. Safety will ultimately be enhanced with a new bridge section that includes wider shoulders, the removal of existing curves and sight distance improvements at adjoining intersections.

**Old Road** - Some of you have wondered what will happen to the existing Glenn Highway MP 53-56 once the new roadway is constructed. The existing sections of highway on either side of Moose Creek will remain open, but will end in a cul-de-sac on either side of the existing bridge. Access to private properties and to the existing campground in Moose Creek Valley will be maintained. The bridge, constructed in 1958, may be removed, though DOT&PF is considering leaving it in place for non-motorized use. If the bridge is left in place, removable bollards will be installed at either end to allow access to the bridge for maintenance.

## Project Area Extension

DOT&PF is considering moving the project start location (currently MP53) to the west approximately 1/2 mile to Soapstone Road. The reason for this change is to accommodate the relocation of the existing WIM (*Weigh in Motion*) vehicle scale and traffic count sensor. The action would result in minimal impacts to the project area footprint, and the additional section of highway that would be included in the project area would be repaved.

## Wetlands Document Available Online

As a part of a project's environmental process, impacts to the project area, including its wetlands, are considered. A wetlands *Jurisdictional Report and Functional Assessment* was recently finalized by the project team and is available for review in our [project library](#).

## What's Next

The project team continues to advance the project design towards 75% completion, anticipated in Spring 2015. Once the design reaches 75%, DOT&PF can determine the project's Right-of-Way needs and begin the acquisition process with affected property owners. The Right-of-Way acquisition process will take up to three years.

Project construction is currently anticipated to begin in 2018, and is estimated to take two years to complete.

The project team is still seeking and considering comments on the project. Visit the website [comments page](#) to learn about the different ways you can drop us a line.

**Visit our project website:**

**[www.glennhighwayatmoosecreek.com](http://www.glennhighwayatmoosecreek.com)**

[SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST](#)

*If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sean Baski, P.E., Project Manager, at 907-269-0547 or Matt Dietrick, Environmental Impact Analyst, at 907-269-0531.*

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*The ADOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this project should contact Allison Biastock at 907-644-2167 to make necessary arrangements. Individuals with a hearing impairment can contact Relay Alaska at 711 for assistance.*

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