

STATUS: Active

DOT&PF Notice of Project Update and Floodplain Encroachment: Ketchikan Tongass Avenue Improvements

Project # Z680910000 / Federal # 902042

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing an update to the Tongass Avenue Improvements project. The project was previously announced in October 2018. The project maintains the same objective of resurfacing pavement and making improvements along Tongass Avenue between Hoadley Creek (MP 0.2) and the Tongass Avenue Viaduct (MP 1.2798) Ketchikan, Alaska.

The project update includes minor changes to accommodate comments and concerns raised by the public during a public meeting held in October 2018. Project activities now include:

- Reconfigure Tongass Ave. into 3 lanes from Hoadley Creek to 1st Ave (south of Whitecliff) with uniform 11-foot wide lanes in each direction and a 12-foot wide two way left turn lane in the middle.
- Add bike lanes in each direction from Hoadley Creek to Nadeau Street intersection.
- Make bicycle improvements from Nadeau Street to the end of the project, which may include sharrows (shared lanes).
- Convert the double left turn lane from Jefferson St. to Tongass Ave. into a single left turn lane.
- Construct Tongass into uniform 2 lanes with on-street parking from 1st Ave to Tongass Ave. Viaduct abutment (end of project).
- Install median pedestrian refuge islands and bulb-outs as needed.
- Eliminate or remove pedestrian crossings.
- Remove the right turn only lane to the hospital.
- Reconstruct and or remove sidewalks, curb ramps, bus stops and driveways to make compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Relocate or reconstruct utilities and power poles to make sidewalks ADA compliant.
- Replace storm drain pipe and inlets as needed.

Additionally, roadway improvements along Tongass Avenue may encroach into the base floodplain (Flood Maps 0200030001B and 0200030002B). Encroachments are projected to be minor and changes to the base flood elevation are not anticipated. Similarly, longitudinal or significant encroachments are not anticipated.

Ongoing outreach with the City of Ketchikan, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, and local emergency services providers will continue.

Construction is projected to begin in summer 2021.

Project website: http://www.dot.state.ak.us/sereg/projects/ktn_tongass_avenue/index.shtml

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

Development of this proposed project would follow a process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on project location and scope of work, the environmental document is anticipated to be a categorical exclusion (CE). Possible affected resources include cultural or historic properties.

The proposed project would comply with all applicable authorities including:

- EO-11593 (Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment)
- EO-11988 (Floodplain Management)
- EO-11990 (Protection of Wetlands)
- EO-12898 (Environmental Justice)
- EO-13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)
- EO-13112 (Invasive Species)
- EO-13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments)
- Bald and Gold Eagle Protection Act
- Clean Air and Clean Water Acts
- Endangered Species Act
- Lands and Water Conservation Fund Act 6(f)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act
- National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106

- U.S. Department of Transportation – Section 4(f)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

DOT&PF is soliciting comments and information on the proposed project updates and the project’s floodplain impacts, in accordance with E.O. 11988.

Please submit your written comments to:

Virgil St. Aime, Environmental Impact Analyst
 DOT&PF, Southcoast Region
 P.O. Box 112506
 Juneau, AK 99811-2506
 Phone: (907) 465-1826
 Fax: (907) 465-4414
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To ensure that all possible factors are considered, please provide comments via email, fax, or mailing address by July 10, 2020.

It is the policy of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) that no person shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied benefits of, any and all programs or activities we provide based on race, religion, color, gender, age, marital status, ability, or national origin, regardless of the funding source including Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and State of Alaska funds. DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you or someone you represent requires special accommodations in order to respond to this public notice, please call or email the project coordinator listed above, or call Alaska Relay at 711, or call (800) 770-8973 for TTY, (800) 770-8255 for voice, (800) 770-3919 for ASCII, (866) 355-6198 for STS.

Ask the communications assistant to call the project coordinator listed above so arrangements can be made to assist you.

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Attachments, History, Details

Attachments

None

Revision History

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