



WEST MAT-SU ACCESS PROJECT

PROJECT FACTS

Project Scope

The ultimate objective of this project is to provide road access to the Fish Creek area of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on the western side of the Little Susitna River.

The project includes the following elements: A location and feasibility study, an environmental study, preliminary design, cost estimate and permitting for both a road and bridge over the Little Susitna River and final design of both the road and bridge.

Presently, there are two possibilities for location of a bridge over the Little Susitna River in the western portion of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. One location that will be studied is the extension of Susitna Parkway in the Big Lake area. Another location is near the existing Little Susitna River access at the end of Aryshire Road. Other locations may be studied also.

After the location and feasibility studies are completed and an environmental document is prepared and approved, the preliminary design and permitting process will begin. It is expected that FHWA and ADOT/PF will be involved in the approval process of the preliminary design. Once the preliminary design is approved and the necessary permits for construction of the facilities are identified, final design will be initiated. The goal will be to have construction bid-ready documents for both the road and the bridge complete. Funds for construction of the road and bridge will be requested in the second phase of this project.

Benefits

A road and bridge over the Little Susitna River will provide access to 45,000 acres of State and Matanuska-Susitna Borough land within the Fish Creek Management area on the western side of the Little Susitna River. The area consists of rich farmlands, timber harvest areas and recreational opportunities.

Status

- A Request for Proposals was prepared for the Little Susitna River Access Road and Bridge design project. Proposals were received on April 27, 2004 from six qualified firms.
- Lounsbury and Associates was selected to provide the professional services including preliminary engineering, environmental analysis, permitting, and design development. Contract award was approved on June 15, 2004 for \$2.1 million.
- The contract has been separated into two phases. The initial phase will provide preliminary engineering and environmental services needed for approval of the project's environmental document. Phase II will provide design through Plans, Specifications, and Estimate for the preferred alternative identified during Phase I.
- The project Notice-to-Proceed was issued on September 1, 2004 to Lounsbury and Associates. Work will begin immediately on the environmental activities and permitting.

Project Costs

The \$2.3 million budget is funded by the Federal Highway Administration and passed through the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Phase I Budget: \$1.3 million