

# ASTAR Project Update

## House Resources Committee

**Presentation by Commissioner Andy Mack**  
**Alaska Department of Natural Resources**  
**April 11, 2018**



# ASTAR PROJECT

## - OVERVIEW -

In partnership with the North Slope Borough and in collaboration with area communities and other key stakeholders, **Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources project (ASTAR)** seeks to identify, evaluate, and advance community infrastructure and regional connectivity projects that offer the greatest benefits to the region.



# ASTAR PROJECT

## - PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES -

- Department of Natural Resources
  - Office of Project Management and Permitting
  - Division of Mining, Land and Water
  - Support Services Division
  - Division of State Parks and Outdoor Recreation
  - Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
  - Division of Oil and Gas
- Department of Health and Social Services
- Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



# ASTAR PROJECT

## - DESIRED OUTCOMES -

- Increased cultural connectivity
- Reduction in cost of living in area communities
- More efficient development of natural resources
- Increased economic activity providing job opportunities for the region
- Decreased rehabilitation costs for NPR-A legacy wells

Unlike previous infrastructure projects in the region, ASTAR's review will encompass **the entire North Slope region**, including the NPR-A, ANWR and other federal lands and waters.

Deliverables include a strategic plan with identified pre-advanced stage infrastructure projects, a cumulative benefits analysis tool, the identification of information gaps, and gap-filling studies such as the construction materials survey within a subset of the NPR-A, and the health baseline summary report.

# ASTAR PROJECT

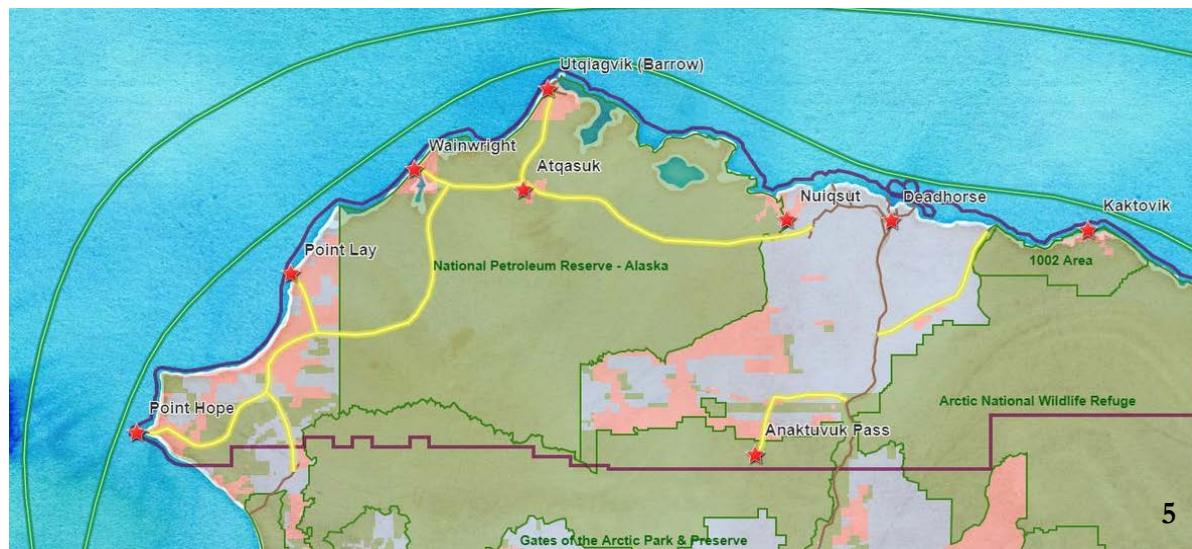
## - CUMULATIVE BENEFITS -

ASTAR seeks to **advance projects providing the greatest cumulative benefits** to North Slope people and communities, thereby greatly increasing the chances of project success.

- By identifying tangible cumulative benefits for specific infrastructure projects through the development and application of a detailed analysis tool, ASTAR will **inform state and local discussions with federal agencies regarding land management activities in the region**.

Pre-advanced stage projects will be assessed for:

- Funding sources
- Project sponsors
- Obstacles and challenges
- Permitting and data gaps



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## - PROOF OF CONCEPT -

- The ASTAR team continues to learn from the North Slope Borough-led Community Winter Access Trails project.
- The NSB received state and federal permits to connect Utqiagvik and Atqasuk to the state road system using improved snow trails. Permits for a route from Anaktuvuk Pass to the state road system are anticipated for the next winter season.
- Following inspections of the improved snow trails, piloted caravans limited to 10 - 15 approved vehicles with prepared travelers are currently underway.
- A commercial operator is also transporting bypass mail over the snow roads system.

This “**proof of concept**” project for ASTAR will provide:

- Valuable data collection through weekly reporting
- Borough experience with federal and state regulators
- A foundation for assessing and measuring the value and impact of delivering goods and services via a regional transportation network



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## - 2018 WORK HIGHLIGHTS -

### Contracts:

ASTAR is using Alaska-based contractors hired to provide:

- Project management support
- Data analyses and management and GIS analyses and integration
- Stakeholder outreach and coordination
- Economics and socioeconomic, including the **identification of potential sources of project funding and investment**

After competitive bidding and the required protest period, ASRC Energy Services Alaska, Inc. and Resource Data, Inc. were selected and contracts signed. Notices to proceed on a series of tasks have been issued.



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## - 2018 WORK HIGHLIGHTS -

### Construction Materials Survey:

One of the crucial pieces of planning for infrastructure is understanding materials sources in the region.

- Information on construction materials is scarce and, in general, construction materials are difficult to locate west of the Colville River.
- The survey is a state-led program including regional and local partnerships with entities having complementary data or interests. DNR's Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) will lead this effort.
- Work includes data compilation, limited field investigations in 2018–2019, and subsequent publication of all maps and reports.



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## - BUDGET -

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
DNR Personal Services	948,306	875,540	789,000
DNR Travel	199,140	26,000	15,000
RSAs - Multiple Departments	110,500	110,500	110,500
Contractual Services	1,273,750	1,950,000	834,000
Other Services	10,000	7,500	7,500
Computers and Supplies	14,000	11,000	8,000
<b>Fiscal Year Totals:</b>	<b>\$2,555,696</b>	<b>\$2,980,540</b>	<b>\$1,764,000</b>
<b>FY2017 – FY2020 Multi-Year Operating:</b>	<b>\$7,300,236</b>		