

ARCTIC STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION AND RESOURCES (ASTAR) UPDATE



Mission: To identify, evaluate, and advance opportunities to enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities in North Slope communities through responsible infrastructure development.

Goal: Prioritize community needs and identify infrastructure opportunities that offer the most cumulative benefit and best enhance the quality of life for the region.

Summary: ASTAR is a collaborative effort initiated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the North Slope Borough. The planning area includes the entire North Slope region, including State lands, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The ASTAR team is working with communities and regional stakeholders to identify which infrastructure projects and project areas may offer the most cumulative benefit to the region. This will be done by prioritizing community and cultural connectivity, regional support, reduced cost of living, increased safety, and responsible infrastructure development. ASTAR will then facilitate acquiring pertinent field data (gravel surveys, light detection and ranging (LiDAR), lake surveys, etc.) in these areas that will inform North Slope communities and stakeholders as they analyze future infrastructure and development opportunities.

Managed by: Office of Project Management & Permitting (OPMP)

Funding (original appropriation) \$ thousands:

- Authorized \$7,305.5
- Spent \$1,100.0
- Obligated \$5,800.0
- Balance \$ 403.5

ASTAR Spending Forecast thru FY2019/2020 (remaining obligated funds) \$ thousands:

- \$750.0 for contract with Resource Data Inc. (RDI)
- \$1,900.0 for contract with ASRC Energy Services (AES)
- \$700.0 for agency participation (including OPMP)
- \$1,000.0 for Coastal Plain Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- \$1,000.0 for field data collection (gravel surveys, LiDAR, lake surveys)
- \$150.0 hardware and software (mainly geographical information system (GIS) Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) products)

ARCTIC STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION AND RESOURCES (ASTAR) UPDATE



ASTAR Spending Forecast FY2020 (\$2,500.0 capital request) \$ thousands:

- \$750.0 Coastal Plain Sand and Gravel survey
- \$600.0 Coastal Plain Hydrology
- \$450.0 Coastal Hazards
- \$700.0 Petroleum Geology

Milestones and Deliverables to Date

- Create project library and database of proposed community/regional projects
 - Over 250 community projects currently identified through community/stakeholder outreach and literature reviews
- Several rounds of community/stakeholder engagement completed
 - Conducted surveys to help prioritize community and regional needs and values
- Developed terrain unit mapping and identified geohazards for NPR-A and Prudhoe Bay 75% completed
- Assist federal agencies with NPR-A, Interactive Activity Plan (IAP) and Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program
 - ASTAR data and analysis will help identify where these federal planning efforts potentially conflict with future infrastructure needs and will help ensure that both planning processes consider future community/regional infrastructure needs and plan accordingly
- Begin permitting efforts for upcoming field season to collect relevant field data in NPR-A and ANWR

Upcoming Milestones and Deliverables

- Two more rounds of community outreach (next round planned for May-June 2019)
- Complete Freight Transportation Study, Passenger Transportation Study, Workforce Development Plan
- Complete terrain unit mapping and identify geohazards (complete remaining 25%)
- Finish Cumulative Benefit Analysis tool(s), data model & methodology, and other tools necessary to identify priority areas using GIS (geographical information system) analytics
- Identify priority areas/zones/corridors within the ASTAR boundary that offer the most community cumulative benefit and best enhance the quality of life for the region
- Collect relevant field data for areas that have been identified to have the most cumulative benefit potential (i.e. gravel surveys, LiDAR, lake surveys)
- Finalize ASTAR planning document(s)