

Alaska Trucking Association House Transportation Committee Briefing

Critical Transportation Corridors in Alaska



Introduction

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Suppling Alaskan's Needs



Role of Trucking in Daily Life

Trucking delivers nearly all consumer goods, making it vital to daily convenience and economic stability.



Alaska's Unique Transportation Needs

Limited alternatives and geography make trucking essential for supplying remote areas in Alaska.

Corridor Importance

Why Key Corridors Matter to Alaska



Dalton Highway Importance

Dalton Highway supports North Slope oil operations critical to state revenue and national energy security.

Parks Highway Connectivity

Parks Highway links Alaska's largest population centers and facilitates movement of goods, commuters, and tourists.

ALCAN Highway Role

ALCAN is Alaska's only continuous land connection to Canada and the Lower 48, essential for supply chains.

Economic and Community Impact

These corridors are essential for daily life, commerce, emergency services, and statewide economic health.

Dalton Highway

Trucking Conditions & Strategic Significance

Critical Industrial Route

Dalton Highway is the sole surface access to North Slope oil fields and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

Challenging Arctic Conditions

Drivers face severe Arctic weather, permafrost failures, hazardous terrain, and long service gaps causing closures.

Operational and Staffing Challenges

Remote maintenance crews struggle with recruitment due to harsh conditions, housing limits, and wage competition.

Need for Adequate Funding

Full DOT funding is vital to staff crews, respond to storms, and maintain highway reliability and safety.





Dalton specific issues

- July 2025 Washout of mile 315
- DOT response
- Impact to road and productivity
- Long term planning

Parks Highway

Freight, Commuter, and Safety Challenges

High Traffic and Safety Risks

Heavy traffic and narrow shoulders on Parks Highway increase safety risks for commercial and commuter drivers.

Truck Parking Challenges

Insufficient truck parking and poorly maintained pull-outs force unsafe roadside stops during mandatory rest periods.

Weather-Related Disruptions

Seasonal weather closures at key passes disrupt essential freight deliveries like fuel and groceries.

Need for Infrastructure Investment

Targeted investments in safety redesign, maintenance, winter operations, and truck parking are critical for corridor reliability.



Alaska Highway (ALCAN)

Primary Land Supply Route & Challenges



Alaska Highway Importance

The Alaska Highway is the essential land route for commercial freight linking Alaska to Canada and the Lower 48 states.

Winter Weather Challenges

Extreme winter weather and frost heaves from permafrost degradation create hazardous driving conditions and slow freight movement.

Safety and Compliance Issues

Lack of winter-safe truck pull-outs complicates federally mandated rest compliance, affecting driver safety and operational efficiency.

Strategic Infrastructure Investment

Investment in road stabilization, resurfacing, and winter maintenance lowers freight costs and enhances corridor reliability.

Operational Funding & Maintenance Needs

A photograph of a snowplow clearing a road in a snowy mountain landscape. The snowplow is yellow and black, with its headlights on, driving away from the viewer on a snow-covered road. The background features large, snow-covered mountains under a clear blue sky.

DOT Operational Budget Importance

Operational Budget Role

Operational funds are essential for day-to-day maintenance like snow removal and equipment upkeep, ensuring open transportation corridors.

Funding Challenges

Lack of federal funding for routine operations makes state support critical to avoid staff shortages and delayed maintenance.

Economic and Safety Impact

Stable operational funding boosts freight reliability, reduces costs, and enhances public safety by preventing reactive maintenance.

Economic & Community Impact

Trucking's Role in Alaska's Economy

Job and Wage Impact

Alaska's trucking industry supports over twelve thousand jobs with high average wages exceeding \$69,000 annually.

Small Locally Owned Companies

Most of Alaska's 5,880 trucking companies are small and locally owned, serving community needs effectively.

Essential Goods Transport

Trucks transport vital supplies like food, fuel, medicine, and materials, crucial for many isolated communities.

Infrastructure Investment Importance

Investing in transportation infrastructure supports economic stability and community resilience in Alaska.



ATA Recommended Actions

High-Value Improvements for Corridor Reliability



Funding for Maintenance Workforce

Fully funding DOT operational budgets stabilizes the maintenance workforce ensuring consistent corridor upkeep.

Expanded Truck Parking

Expanding commercial truck parking and pull-outs improves safety and convenience along key corridors like Parks Highway.

Permafrost and Frost Heave Fixes

Investing in permafrost stabilization and addressing frost heave protects road integrity in Alaska's harsh climate.

Emergency Communication Enhancements

Improving emergency communication and response capabilities enhances safety on remote routes for freight carriers.

Closing Message

Reliability, Safety, and Legislative Partnership



Highway Reliability Importance

Reliable highways ensure steady freight movement and support statewide economic resilience and safe travel.

Impact of Corridor Failures

When transportation corridors fail, delays, equipment damage, and safety risks increase, affecting consumers through higher prices.

Strategic Investment Benefits

Investing in DOT operations, corridor stabilization, winter maintenance, and truck parking leads to long-term safety and supply chain continuity.

Legislative Collaboration

The Alaska Trucking Association seeks to collaborate with legislators to strengthen transportation and ensure dependable access for all communities.

Thank you for your time and support!!

