

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

PO Box 112500 Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500 Main: 907.465.3900 dot.alaska.gov

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman Chair, Senate Transportation Committee Alaska State Capitol, Room 427 Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Chair Bjorkman:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the question raised during the Senate Transportation Committee hearing on April 1, 2025.

Public Comment Period for the West Susitna Access Road Project

Senator Tobin inquired about the public comment period for the environmental assessment of the West Susitna Access Road Project. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has established a continuous platform for public engagement through the project's official website, where individuals can submit comments.

The next formal public comment period will commence upon the publication of the Environmental Assessment (EA) document. The timeline for publishing the EA is dependent on the determination of the **class of action**, a federal designation that defines the level of environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This classification—such as a Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, or Environmental Impact Statement—guides the scope, process, and schedule of the environmental review. DOT&PF aims to release the EA within the current quarter, pending this determination.

For ongoing updates and to participate in the public involvement process, stakeholders are encouraged to visit the project website at <u>https://westsuaccess.com</u> and subscribe to the mailing list.

Sincerely,

Ryan Anderson P.E. Commissioner

cc: Andy Mills, Legislative Liaison, Alaska DOT&PF Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office

"Keep Alaska Moving"