

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER Ryan Anderson, P.E., Commissioner

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

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon Speaker of the House Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 208 Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Chuck Kopp House Majority Leader Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 204 Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Mia Costello House Minority Leader Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 404 Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Ashley Carrick Co-chair, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 406 Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Ted Eischeid Co-chair, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 412 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Delivered via e-mail

The Honorable Genevieve Mina Member, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 416 Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Louise Stutes Member, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 216 Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Kevin McCabe Member, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 13 Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Cathy Tilton Member, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 421 Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Elexie Moore Member, House Transportation Committee Alaska State Legislature Capitol Building, Room 430Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Speaker Edgmon, House Majority Leader Kopp, House Minority Leader Costello, Co-Chairs Carrick and Eischeid, and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your continued oversight and engagement with the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF). Because we all share a commitment to delivering safe and reliable transportation

Honorable House Members DOTP&F Response to July 22, 2025 House Transportation Committee July 28, 2025 Page 2 of 4

infrastructure for Alaskans, I write to correct the record in response to statements made during the July 22, 2025, House Transportation Committee hearing.

Committee Participation and Scheduling

DOT&PF values opportunities to engage with the Legislature and welcomes invitations to appear before the Transportation Committees. We work hard to accommodate requests for testimony and provide timely, accurate information.

However, the July 22 hearing was scheduled without prior coordination and occurred during a critical window for federal transportation deadlines and project development efforts. Specifically, July 22 involved final preparations for federal August Redistribution, a competitive process through which Alaska may receive additional obligation limitation—i.e., budgetary authority to obligate existing federal-aid highway contract authority—reallocated from states that are unable to use their assigned limitation. This redistributed limitation must be applied to Alaska's existing apportionments and fully obligated before the end of the federal fiscal year (FFY). This process has long been identified by the Legislature as a priority and requires intensive coordination with federal partners.

At the same time, I was representing Alaska at a scheduled convening of Western State transportation leaders to shape national priorities ahead of the next Surface Transportation Reauthorization. These efforts are vital to ensuring Alaska's long-term infrastructure funding and are carried out in close coordination with the Governor's Office and federal partners.

Because the committee specifically requested my presence and the staff most familiar with the redistribution were fully engaged, no other senior official could testify meaningfully.

STIP Amendment #2 and Construction Program Information

Contrary to comments made during the hearing, DOT&PF provided detailed written information in advance. Our letter, dated July 17 and transmitted the morning of July 18, four days prior to the hearing, included the following:

- A summary of the FFY 2025 construction program, projected to exceed \$1 billion in awards, the largest in DOT&PF history.
- Federal approval of STIP Amendment #2 (July 14), following extensive public involvement.
- The State's August Redistribution strategy.
- A breakdown of project types and match funding projections.
- Attachment #4 specifically addressing the June 26 request regarding match-related changes, made possible by the July 14 STIP approval.

In addition, an email, with attached press release, was sent on July 15 to all legislators informing them of the July 14 Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration approval of STIP Amendment #2. The email included links to the approved documents.

Honorable House Members DOTP&F Response to July 22, 2025 House Transportation Committee July 28, 2025 Page 3 of 4

This information was directly responsive to committee requests but was not acknowledged or entered into the record during the hearing. During the hearing, committee members stated that STIP Amendment #2 had not been approved, despite having received information regarding the July 14 federal approval.

Legislative Roles and Budget Decisions

DOT&PF's role before the House Transportation Committee is to provide clarification on the delivery of services. Our July 17 letter and its enclosures specifically addressed STIP delivery, construction awards, and mitigation plans related to match constraints. Any further questions or inquiries regarding veto decisions or reappropriations should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, as they are the appropriate authority to address those matters.

Moving Forward

DOT&PF remains committed to working with the Legislature to address match funding challenges and maximize Alaska's access to federal transportation dollars. To support productive dialogue going forward, I respectfully request that:

- Hearings be scheduled with coordination to avoid conflicts with important funding deadlines and opportunities;
- Advance materials the department provides be entered into the public record to ensure transparency; and
- Per committee members request, all House Transportation Committee members receive official correspondence via email from our legislative liaison.

We appreciate Alaska's citizen legislature and your service. Pending mutually agreeable scheduling, I am available to meet and discuss the 2024-2027 STIP, the upcoming 2026-2029 STIP, expected additional limitation through August Redistribution, the success of our FFY 2025 construction program, anticipated impacts to the FFY 2026 construction program from the removal of unrestricted general funds from the State match appropriation, along with other matters of interest to committee members. With appropriate coordination, we can fully participate in committee hearings without jeopardizing major time-sensitive funding opportunities or federal processes—such as August Redistribution— which this year stands to bring a historically high obligation authority award to Alaska.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to continued collaboration on infrastructure solutions for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ryan Anderson, P.E.

Commissioner

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Honorable House Members DOTP&F Response to July 22, 2025 House Transportation Committee July 28, 2025 Page 4 of 4

cc: Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor Andy Mills, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF