



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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February 12, 2017

The Honorable Representative Foster  
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee  
State Capitol Bldg., Room 410  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Foster,

In response to questions posed by House Finance Sub Committee members on February 9, 2017, the following information is provided:

➤ ***Will the designated nature of the fuel tax collections restrict how the department uses those funds compared to how it uses UGF?***

The activities in budget components that would receive funding from the Alaska Transportation Maintenance Fund center on airport, highway, Alaska Marine Highway System, and water and harbor infrastructure operations and/or maintenance, which supports the department's mission and meets the intent of the proposed fund. The Department of Transportation & Public Facilities does not anticipate any restrictions resulting from the fund source swap. In fact, the funding could allow greater flexibility in that lapsed funds would return to the Alaska Transportation Maintenance Fund and be available for future needs, such as funding for response to a major weather event. In addition, the Fund provides an incentive to continue finding efficiencies and exercising frugality as the funds will not be "lost" at the end of a budget year.

➤ ***How does the department currently fund major weather events? Will the motor fuel tax change how it responds?***

Currently the primary funding source for major weather events is the department's annual maintenance and operating budget. If the major weather events trigger an emergency declaration from the Governor the department will seek emergency funding under the appropriate funding avenue. The three primary sources for emergency funding for our department are Federal Highway Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency and State Emergency funding. As mentioned above, the Alaska Transportation Maintenance Fund provides a mechanism to allow funds that are saved during a light winter season, for example, to be available during a major weather event. At present, funding for spring and summer maintenance activities may be forfeited if the State experiences a severe winter season and/or major weather event that results in unanticipated expenditures. The Fund provides more flexibility for the department to perform its Preserve and Operate core services while also responding to major weather events.

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*

- **Provide the list of agreements in response to legislative intent language related to general road maintenance and repair and traffic signal management.**

See the attachment titled: DOT&PF Status of Rd Maint Traffic Signal & Illumination Agreements.

- **What roadway in Alaska has the highest level of ADT (average daily traffic)?**

The Glenn Highway has the highest ADT in Alaska as of 2015 with approximately 65,000 vehicles per day from Arctic Valley Road to Muldoon Road.

- **How much do snow removal activities cost?**

For FY2017 the department projects to spend approximately \$74M on snow and ice removal activities. This represents approximately 70% of the department's core service "Operate" and approximately 13% of the department's total operating budget.

- **Can you break down snow removal activity costs by priority routes?**

At this time the department is unable to efficiently break down costs by activity by route. The department is currently in the process of upgrading its Maintenance Management System (MMS), this upgrade will allow this type of information to be captured. The upgrade to the department's MMS system is anticipated to be completed by the end of calendar year 2017.

- **How much funding has the department received related to disaster/emergency declarations over the last five years?**

Please note: costs below are shown in hundreds.

Date	Event	Cost	Fund Source(s)
5/8/11-5/13/11	Alaska Ice Jam and Flooding-Crooked Creek	\$166,163	Federal Emergency Management Agency
11/7/2011	Nome Storms	\$12,793,373.00	Federal Highway Emergency
11/13/11-11/18/11	Alaska Severe Winter Storms and Flooding-Goodnews Bay	\$689,002	Federal Emergency Management Agency
9/4/2012	Southcentral and Interior Alaska Storms	\$1,655,784.00	Federal Highway Emergency
9/4/2012	Southcentral and Interior Alaska Storms *	\$4,208,225	Federal Highway Emergency-\$2,636,275 Federal Emergency Management Agency-\$1,468,779 Dept Military and Veterans Affairs/Dept of Homeland Security-\$37,145 State General Funds-\$66,025
5/17/2013	Northern Region Ice Jam Flooding	\$8,342,843.00	State General Funds-\$1,234,703/Federal Emergency Management Agency-\$6,739,466/Federal Highway Emergency-\$368,674
10/27/2013	Alaska Flooding - Kenai Peninsula Flood 2013 *	\$184,643	Dept Military and Veterans Affairs/Dept of Homeland Security
11/5/2013	Western Coastal Storms: Nome-Council Road MP 15-33	\$2,761,372.00	Federal Highway Emergency
11/5/13-11/14/13	Alaska Severe Storms and Flooding-Scammon Bay Floods	\$315,000	Federal Emergency Management Agency
3/13/2015 - 5/15/2015	Dalton Highway Sag River Aufels and Flooding	\$11,913,643.00	State General Funds-\$454,227/Federal Highway Emergency-\$11,459,416
8/23/2016	Mat. River Emergency Erosion and Flooding 2016 (State Declared Emergency)	\$1,675,182	Dept Military and Veterans Affairs

\* Projects located in Central Region that have been transferred to Southcoast Region.

February 12, 2017

Representative Foster

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 465-8974.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Holland', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Amanda Holland, Director  
Administrative Services

cc: House Finance Subcommittee Members  
Marc Luiken, Commissioner  
Steve Hatter, Deputy Commissioner  
John Binder, Deputy Commissioner  
Mike Neussl, Deputy Commissioner  
Mike Lesmann, Legislative Liaison

Attachment