

West Dowling Road Phase II Fact Sheet

DOT&PF project #51030

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is in the early design stage of the West Dowling Road Phase II project. The project aims to decrease congestion and improve east-west mobility in the area between C Street and Minnesota Drive.

The project will upgrade and extend West Dowling Road in two phases. Phase I includes the portion from Old Seward Highway to C Street. Phase II will extend West Dowling from C Street to Minnesota Drive.

Purpose:

The extension will provide east-west traffic flow, reduce traffic on Tudor road, and help develop a more connected roadway pattern as identified in the Anchorage Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP identifies the West Dowling Road Extension as a top-priority project for shaping Anchorage's future.

Background:

West Dowling Road Phase II is a portion of a larger project that has been considered for many years. Work began on an Environmental Assessment (EA) in 2002. The EA, completed in 2007, recommended the Rovenna alternative for construction. The project area was divided into Phase I and Phase II in 2008. Dowl HKM was selected to complete Phase I and HDR Alaska was chosen to complete Phase II.



Environmental Review Process:

The EA evaluated potential impacts of project alternatives on the physical, biological, and human resources in the area between Old Seward Highway and Minnesota Drive. Five alternatives were initially considered, as well as a No Action Alternative. Four of the build alternatives were eliminated from the study for several reasons, including inability to address the project's needs, significant community impacts, and /or significant environmental impacts.



Components of Phase II:

West Dowling Road Phase II calls for a four-lane roadway consisting of two lanes in each direction with a raised-center median. Additional improvements include a new intersection at Raspberry Road and 68th Avenue, a connection with Arctic Boulevard, a new bridge over Arctic Boulevard at the Alaska Railroad Corporation tracks, street lighting, drainage, and pedestrian amenities including a 6-foot sidewalk and a 12-foot separated pathway.

Environmental Issues Identified:

Upon completion of the EA, several environmental concerns were studied as part of the process and will be considered during the design phase, including:

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Wetlands and water bodies
- Floodplain
- Fish and fish habitat
- Wildlife
- Land use and ownership
- Noise
- Community impacts

Schedule:

The design phase for the West Dowling Road Phase II project will continue through 2010, when the Design Study Report will be completed and permits obtained. Final design will be finished in 2011, and the project is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 2012.

Opportunities for Involvement:

DOT&PF will keep the public informed about the project and, when possible, provide opportunities for input on important issues such as construction staging and scheduling. Public meetings will occur at major stages in the project's development. The project Web site (www.dowlingroad.com) will have up-to-date information about activities and milestones for Phase II.

Please sign up for the project mailing list to receive updates via mail or e-mail. Contact Julie Jessen at 644-2075 or Julie.Jessen@hdrinc.com for more information.

Leave Your Comments:

Comments are welcome at any time, but to be considered in the design study report, please submit them by July 31, 2009 via the following methods:

- Through the project Web site (www.dowlingroad.com)
- Through e-mail (Julie.Jessen@hdrinc.com)
- By Fax (644-2022)
- By mail (Julie Jessen, HDR Alaska, Inc., 2525 C Street, Suite 305, Anchorage, Alaska 99503)