

Steese Expressway / Johansen Expressway Interchange

Project No. Z607320000/0002337

Project Fact Sheet

Last Updated: October 3, 2023



The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration, is proposing an interchange at the Steese Expressway and the Johansen Expressway intersection located in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Purpose & Need

The Steese and Johansen Expressways are principal arterials in Fairbanks and the intersection is ranked in the top 10 for entering vehicle volume in Fairbanks. The Steese/Johansen intersection is a critical node for commercial traffic heading to the North Slope from Canada, Valdez, and Anchorage. The area surrounding the intersection has experienced substantial commercial and residential development since the early 2000s. Traffic volumes within the project area are among the highest in the City of Fairbanks.

The purpose of the Steese-Johansen project is to enhance motorized and non-motorized mobility and user safety at the Steese/Johansen intersection and within the influence area of the intersection. Engineering analysis and public scoping identified four primary operational and safety concerns:



**Pedestrian and bicycle
safety**



**Pedestrian
delay**



**Proximity of Farmers
Loop Road**



**Vehicle
delay**

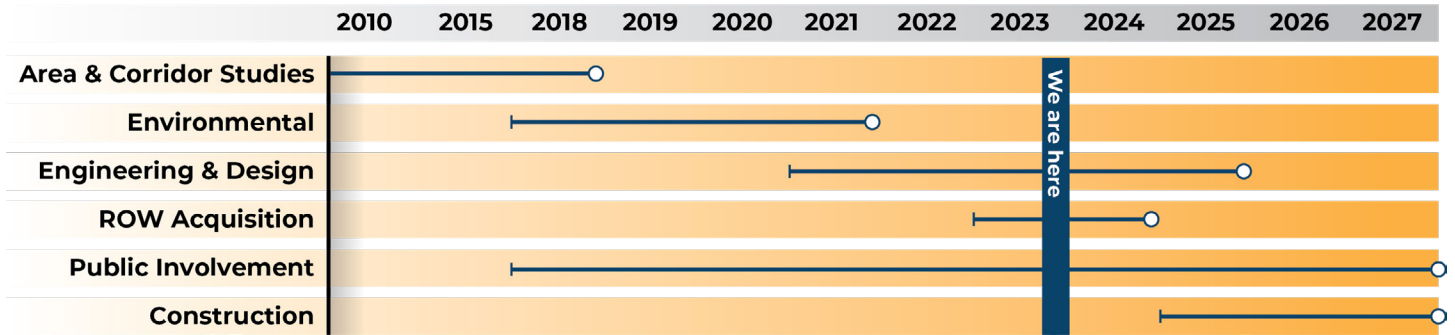
Project Background

The Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) with a temporary detour connection is the Preferred Build Alternative for construction. The pathway connection will be constructed between the Northside Boulevard and Farmers Loop Road Extension to provide enhanced bike connectivity between the Johansen and Farmers Loop separated paths. The project will close City Lights Boulevard north of the Lazelle Road intersection, terminating it in a cul-de-sac near the Birch Hill Cemetery entrance. A noise analysis identified the potential need for a noise wall along the east side of the Steese Expressway between Trainer Gate and the Johansen Expressway. The adjacent intersections of Farmers Loop Road/Steese Expressway and Old Steese/Johansen Expressway will receive minor optimizations to align with the new traffic pattern. For more information, visit the [Preferred Build Alternative Page](#) on the [project website](#).

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Schedule

The preferred alternative was selected, completing the environmental document in 2021. The team kicked off the right-of-way phase in 2023, contacting impacted owners and working on appraisals (see schedule below). We are continuing to progress design and are working with a Contractor to develop a construction phasing plan. Construction is not anticipated to start before 2025 and will likely take 3 seasons.



How Can I Get Information?

Future public involvement opportunities and event materials will be posted on the [project website](#) when available. Summaries of completed public involvement activities can be found on the [Documents](#) page.

If you have questions, please contact the project manager, Jennifer Wright.

Project Contacts

Jennifer Wright, P.E.
DOT&PF
2301 Peger Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316
Phone: (907) 451-8949
Email: jennifer.wright@alaska.gov

For individuals requiring TTY communications, please contact Alaska Relay at 7-1-1 or 1-800-770-8973.