



# Interior Alaska Transportation Plan

## Transportation Plan Kick-off



In October 2006, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) kicked off the Interior Alaska Transportation Plan (IATP). This plan will join five other statewide regional multi-modal transportation plans designed to address movement between communities in the region and from the region to points beyond. It does not address individual community projects.

DOT&PF contracted with ASCG Incorporated of Alaska (ASCG) to develop the IATP. As part of the plan they will complete an inventory of transportation modes, review potential resource development, prepare forecasts based on existing conditions and future trends, analyze the transportation network and develop recommendations that guide future investments in vital regional transportation projects.

During the development of the plan there will be three rounds of meetings in communities throughout the region. Planners will also set up a web site and conduct interview with user groups and local residents.



*Interior Alaska Transportation Plan Study Area*

### IATP ISSUES

Planners will examine potential impacts to the transportation system in Interior Alaska including the following:

#### **Gas Pipeline Impacts.**

Funding strategies and project implementation must be scheduled to keep pace with gas pipeline development. Secondary impacts of the gas pipeline on rail and air transportation systems will also be examined in the plan.

#### **Potential Mineral Development.**

The Pogo Mine is located about 20 miles northwest of Delta. Mineral exploration is underway in the Tangle Lakes and Delta River areas. These and other mineral developments may impact the adjacent highways and must be taken into consideration.

#### **Military Training.**

Changes in military forces throughout the interior may trigger the need for transportation improvements. The military is constructing training facilities in the interior and plans to increase the number of training in exercise, such as Red Flag (formerly Cope Thunder) and Northern Edge.

#### **Railroad Expansion.**

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) is developing an Environmental Impact Statement for the construction and operation of a new rail line between Eielson AFB and the Delta Junction/Fort Greely area. The project would involve the construction and operation of approximately 80 miles of new main line track and could include a 15-mile rail spur to the military Blair

#### **Lakes Training Area.**

**Tourism Potential.** While highway tourism has remained constant the last five years, the state is now marketing to recreational vehicle and independent highway tourists, which may result in an increase in traffic along the Dalton Highways and other interior routes. Tourism in Wrangell St. Elias may also grow as access is improved in that area.

#### **Aviation System.**

In addition to impacts that military training exercises have on aviation, pipeline development may cause changes that effect air transportation, also. The plan will study inter-modal connections—linkages of ground and air transportation systems for passengers and cargo.

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The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is evaluating long-range transportation needs in Interior Alaska. This evaluation will guide the department in meeting community, regional and statewide transportation needs well into the future.

## Get Involved

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## Schedule



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