

## **Draft Alternatives Evaluation Criteria**

## **Purpose and Need (Benefits-Based Criteria)**

The benefits-based criteria consider the extent to which a route alternative meets the purpose and need of the project.

Purpose and Need	To What Degree Does the Route
Lowers Costs of Energy, Utilities, Goods and Services	Lower the cost of energy, basic goods, utilities, and other services. Accommodate semi-trucks and lower the cost of large freight.
Supports Community Connectivity	Increase emotional wellbeing and community connectivity through year- round reliable and economical roadway access between the communities. Create or enhance the capability to join together in various activities.
Improves Public Safety Conditions	Improve public health through direct access to medical facilities and services, Search and Rescue personnel, and law enforcement. Increase sustainability of necessary utilities. Create evacuation route to quickly move residents inland and to higher elevations, in case of natural disasters (e.g. coastal storm surges, flooding, etc.)
Infrastructure Resiliency	Provide a resilient year-round surface transportation alternative.
Promotes Reduction of Fossil Fuel Use	Provide a pathway for greener utilities in communities, such as natural gas. Reduce the need for air travel. Reduces need for air travel; provides opportunity for natural gas distribution and reduces need for diesel generators
Provides Year-Round and Convenient Transport of Goods and Services	Provide year-round reliable, economical and durable surface transportation for vehicles between the communities.
Improves Economic Growth	Provide economic stimulus to the communities by providing opportunities for new businesses, commercial activities, and trade. Reduce the cost of goods and services, supporting opportunities for greater economic wellbeing for community members.
Preserves or Enhances Subsistence Conditions	Improve safety and lower the cost of local community access to subsistence resources while protecting those resources from outside pressure



Improves Access to Education Opportunities	Create year-round and cost-efficient access to education facilities, training centers, and cultural centers/activities
Enhances Workforce Development	Provide temporary and long-term jobs, provide access to skills training, workplace experience, etc.

## **Environmental Constraints-Based Criteria**

The environmental constraints-based criteria consider at a high level the potential impact of an alternative route on a range of environmental resources.

Constraint	To What Degree Does the Route
Land Status	Consider land ownership, leases, rights-of-way, federally designated Special Areas, etc.
Hydrology	Minimize river and stream crossings, locate crossings with stable bank conditions, consider BLM Best Management Practices, setbacks, etc.
Geology/ Geotechnical	Minimize haul routes for material sources, avoid geohazards, where possible route over favorable (less icy) in situ soils
Existing and Proposed Infrastructure	Take advantage of existing infrastructure where possible, consider synergies between proposed road and other existing or proposed infrastructure
Roadway Engineering Considerations	Consider topography, bridges, culverts, design criteria, material needs and haul distances, in order to minimize construction and maintenance & operations costs
Vehicle Bridges	Minimize the number and length of bridges and culverts
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Avoid impacts to historic properties or paleontological resources
Subsistence Patterns	Avoid impacts to mapped subsistence use areas and avoid or minimize encroachment on Native allotments, camps, or cabins
Wetlands	Avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands that would require compensatory mitigation



Constraint	To What Degree Does the Route
Threatened and Endangered Species	Avoid critical habitat for eiders, Polar Bears, and Yellow-billed Loons and reduce incidental takes
Terrestrial Mammals	Avoid or minimize impacts to habitat and migration corridors of terrestrial mammals. Consider wildlife vehicle collisions.
Fish and Fish Habitat	Consider anadromous streams and crossing modes
Avian Resources and Habitat	Avoid eider and Yellow-billed Loon nesting locations and waterfowl nesting concentration areas
Environmental Compliance and Permitting	Minimize environmental and compliance permitting challenges; avoid BLM designated Special Areas, etc.
Construction Cost Estimate	Minimize overall construction cost to the extent practicable