



ASTAR

TRIANGLE COMMUNITY ROAD PEL STUDY

Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR)

Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) is a partnership between the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), and the North Slope Borough (NSB).



Mission and Purpose

Identify, evaluate, and advance opportunities to enhance the quality of life and economic opportunities in NSB communities through infrastructure development.



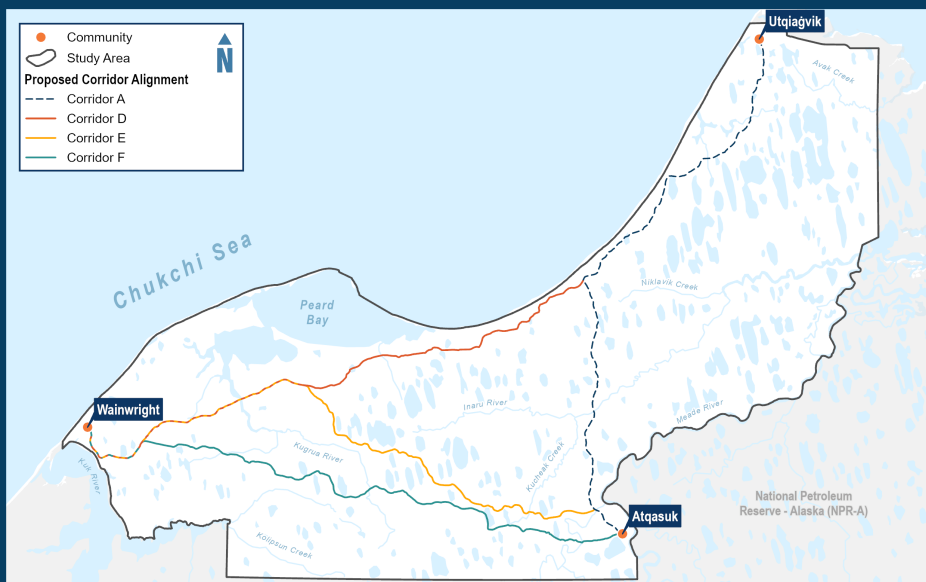
Goal

Prioritize community needs and identify infrastructure opportunities that offer the most cumulative benefit and best enhance the quality of life for the region.

Summer 2025

The Triangle Community Road Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study is advancing to consider transportation connections between Atqasuk, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright, while working with stakeholders and the communities to receive feedback on whether a roadway connection is desired.

We invite you to share feedback on the PEL study elements, the process, how a road between Atqasuk, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright could benefit or impact you, or anything else you think would be helpful for the study team to know. The draft PEL study is expected to be available for community review in early January 2026.



Draft Alternatives

The study team refined the alternatives explored in the ASTAR ATQ to UTQ Study and ASTAR Triangle Road Study, which can be found on the North Slope Borough's website. The communities and leadership have weighed in these routes to further refine them closer to potential construction material sites and away from sensitive areas.

Alternative Screening Process

The study team developed criteria to consider the extent to which an alternative route meets the purpose and need of the project (or the benefits of constructing surface transportation routes to these communities) and a high-level consideration of the potential impacts of an alternative route on a range of environmental resources. The draft evaluation criteria can be viewed on the project website.

Purpose and Need

The ASTAR team initiated a PEL study to identify ways to improve the transportation connection between Atqasuk, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright through responsible infrastructure. A Purpose and Need statement has been developed with substantial feedback from the communities, including guidance from City and tribal leadership, community members, and Elders.

Purpose

The purpose of the PEL study is to evaluate an all-season roadway connection between the three communities. The PEL study team will also work with stakeholders and the community to understand whether an all-season road connection between the communities is desired and should move forward to a NEPA and design phase.

An all-season gravel road connection between the three communities would meet the following objectives:

- Lower the cost of energy, basic goods, utilities and other services
- Improve health and wellness through improved access to health services
- Create opportunities to strengthen cultural exchange, share traditional knowledge, enhance community and family connectivity, and improve emotional well-being
- Provide an evacuation route to higher elevation areas, allowing efficient transportation away from the coast, in case of severe storm surges and/or coastal flooding.
- Reduce fossil fuel use through reduction of reliance on air travel and advancing the opportunity for energy alternatives to diesel fuel

Need

The communities of Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, and Wainwright are only accessible by air year-round or snowmachines/rolligons during winter as no permanent road exists between these communities, or to the Alaska road system. The lack of an all-season surface transportation connection between the communities continues the following undesirable conditions:

- Lack of year-round, reliable, and cost-efficient transport of goods and services
- Unrealized economic growth
- Uneconomical and unreliable access to family and friends between communities
- Difficult and costly access to subsistence resources
- Prolonged response times for medical emergencies
- Lack of evacuation route to allow efficient transportation of residents away from coastal communities that are threatened by increasingly substantial coastal storm surges and flooding.
- Limited / uneconomical access by Wainwright and Atqasuk residents to educational opportunities, training, and workforce development available in Utqiagvik



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To learn more about the PEL study, scan the QR code or visit the website at:

www.TriangleCommunityRoad.com

