

ASTAR TRIANGLE COMMUNITY ROAD PEL STUDY

Community Meeting

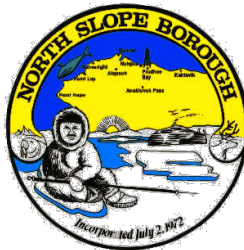
Atqasuk, AK

April 11, 2024

ASTAR



TRIANGLE COMMUNITY ROAD PEL STUDY



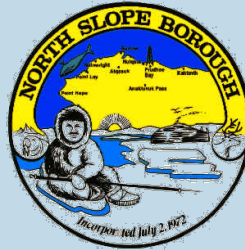
The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

- Invocation
- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Background – ASTAR Program
- PEL Process
- Project Schedule
- Project Area and Existing Conditions
- Purpose and Need Statement
- Next Steps



TRIANGLE COMMUNITY ROAD PEL STUDY PROJECT TEAM



State of Alaska

Jeff Bruno, ADNR
Program Manager

Brett Nelson, DOT&PF
Planning Chief

North Slope Borough Port Authority

Hina Kiloni
Director

Carolyn Thompson
Program Manager

Contractors

Kristen Hansen
Project Manager

Renee Whitesell
PEL Study Lead

Theresa Dutchuk
PEL Environmental Lead

Inuuteq Stotts
Stakeholder Outreach Lead

ARCTIC STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION AND RESOURCES (ASTAR)



ARCTIC STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION AND RESOURCES (ASTAR)

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.



CUMULATIVE BENEFITS



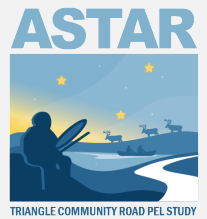
**Collaboration between ASTAR and
North Slope communities and
stakeholders**



**Identify infrastructure projects and
services that offer the greatest
cumulative benefits for the region**



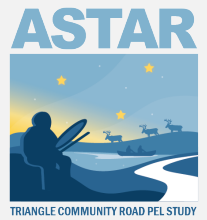
CUMULATIVE BENEFITS



ASTAR benefit criteria (selected by the NSB and North Slope communities)

- Supports community connectivity
- Preserves or enhances subsistence traditions
- Lowers costs of goods and services
- Improves health and safety conditions
- Improves access to education opportunities
- Enhances workforce development

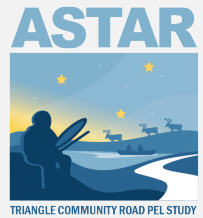
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



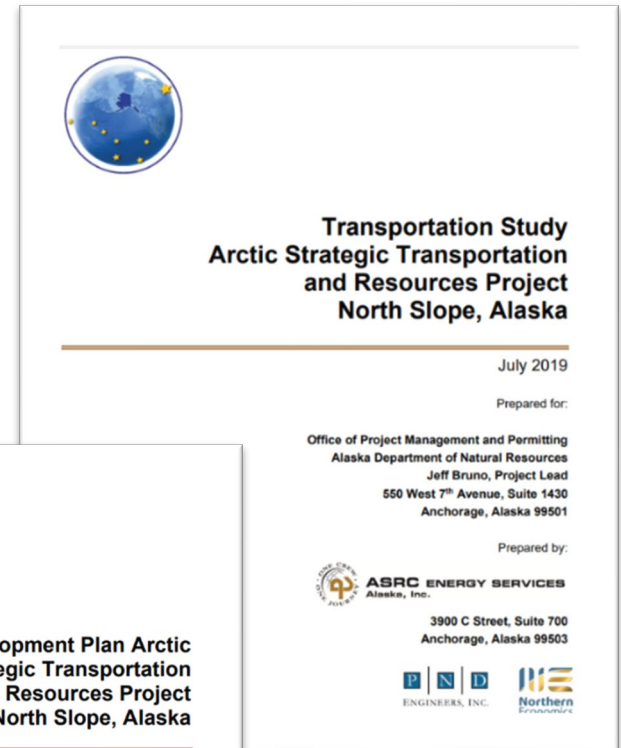
- 7 years of community meetings/workshops
- Presentations to the NSB assembly and planning commission
- Frequent meetings with NSB port authority
- Many other presentations to community and regional leadership groups



ASTAR REPORTS



- Transportation Study
- Workforce Development Study
- All season Community Route Analysis
 - Utqiaġvik, Atqasuk, Wainwright
 - Atqasuk to Willow
 - Colville River Crossing

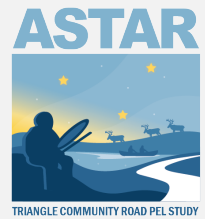


ASTAR FIELD STUDIES CONDUCTED

- Gravel surveys
 - Eastern NPR-A, Atqasuk, Utqiaġvik, Wainwright, Point Lay
- ASTAR Coastal Hazard Mapping (erosion and flooding)
 - Wainwright, Utqiaġvik, Point Lay
- NPR-A lake studies
- Stream gauging
- Riprap survey (Cape Lisburne)
- Weather station installation
- Flew LiDAR (Atqasuk and Utqiaġvik)



ASTAR UPCOMING PROPOSED WORK



- Gravel survey
 - Anaktuvuk Pass
- Route analysis for all-season road and evacuation roads for Point Lay and Point Hope
- Coastal Hazard and erosion mapping
 - Kaktovik, Point Hope
- Winter Geotech program for potential road alternatives
- Work with communities to identify grant and other funding opportunities to advance community-supported projects



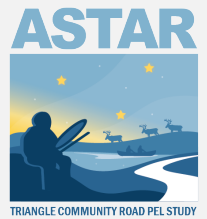
TRIANGLE COMMUNITY ROAD PEL STUDY



TRIANGLE COMMUNITY ROAD STUDY AREA



STUDY AREA BACKGROUND



Desktop Analysis of Study Area (2018 – 2020)

- Land Ownership
- Geology
- Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Resources
- Subsistence Patterns
- Wetlands
- Fish and Wildlife

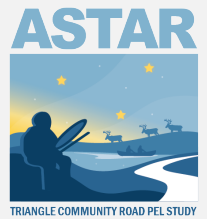
STUDY AREA BACKGROUND



Desktop Analysis of Study Area (2018 – 2020)

- **River / Stream Hydrology and Potential Crossing Locations**
 - Major factor in potential road alignments
 - Little historical survey data or streamflow records for streams and rivers
 - Streambank stability assessment for crossing locations needed
- **Gravel resources**
 - Limited gravel
 - Further geotechnical surveys needed

WHAT IS THE PEL PROCESS?

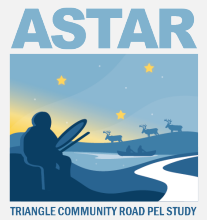


A collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that:

1. Considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning process
2. Uses the information collected during planning to inform and streamline the future environmental review process
3. Provides an opportunity to conduct a study with federal money that doesn't have to be re-imbursed if no projects move forward



PEL PROCESS



PEL Goals:

- Provide North Slope decision makers with the information needed to decide whether this project should move forward
- Stakeholder and community outreach to determine overall goals and objectives, and potential alignment alternatives.



PEL PROCESS

Stakeholders and Agencies:

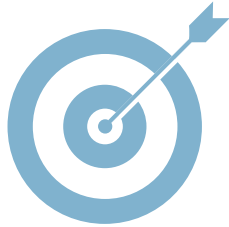
- Federally funded (FHWA)
- Led by DOT&PF, DNR, and NSB (ASTAR Team)
- Stakeholders:
 - Community Residents and Leadership
 - State and Federal Permitting Agencies



PURPOSE & NEED



PURPOSE AND NEED



PURPOSE

Why the project is being proposed and the positive outcomes intended



NEED

The key problems to be addressed and explanation of underlying causes of those problems

EMERGING THEMES FOR PURPOSE & NEED



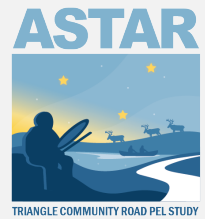
- ✓ **Connection:** Access and connection between communities
- ✓ **Economic Prosperity:** Lower cost of goods, services, utilities, improve access to jobs
- ✓ **Protection of Subsistence Traditions**
- ✓ **Medical Access:** Improve access to medical facilities, emergency response
- ✓ **Education Access:** Improve access to and between education facilities



ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



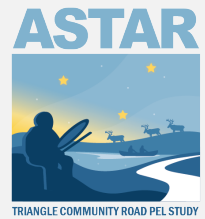
ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



- ✓ **Initial Screening Criteria and Range of Alternatives**
 - What routes will best meet the identified needs?
 - Review the routes for a range of environmental, physical, social, cost constraints
- ✓ **PEL Study Screening Will Help Evaluate Alternatives and Narrow in on Recommendations**



PEL STUDY PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE



SPRING 2024



Project Initiation, Problems to be Solved, Purpose & Need: Emerging Themes

Baseline Analysis, Data Collection, Purpose & Need: Emerging Themes

SUMMER / FALL 2024



Evaluation Criteria, Develop & Screen Alternatives

Identify Alternatives and Develop Screening Criteria

WINTER / SPRING 2024 / 2025



Evaluate, Refine, & Select Alternatives

Screening, Recommended Alternatives, Draft PEL Study

SUMMER 2025 - WINTER 2025 / 2026



Finalize Documentation

Public Comment Period (30 days) and Finalize PEL Study

Public Meeting No. 1



Advisory Committee Meeting No. 1

Public Meeting No. 2



Advisory Committee Meeting No. 2



Advisory Committee Meeting No. 3

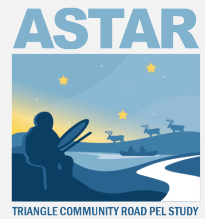


Advisory Committee Meeting No. 4

Public Meeting No. 3



WHAT'S NEXT AFTER PEL STUDY DECISIONS



PEL Study

Complete in Winter 2025/26

Build Decision by North Slope Leaders

If YES, then...

Funding Secured

Funding to be secured to
advance through next steps

Engineering Design

Approx. 2 Years (TBD)

Construction

Likely phased over several years

Preliminary Engineering and NEPA

2026-2028 (Approx. 2 Years)

ROW Acquisition

2 Years or more (TBD)

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



SCAN ME!

Scan this code with your smartphone
camera to take a short survey.

Survey will close at 5:00 PM on 4/29/24

THANK YOU - QUYANAQ

- **Kristen Hansen, DOWL**
Project Manager
- **Renee Whitesell, DOWL**
PEL Study Lead
- **Theresa Dutchuk, DOWL**
Environmental Lead
- **Inuuteq Stotts, ACES**
Stakeholder Outreach Lead
- **Hina Kiloni, NSBPA**
Director
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- **Jeff Bruno, ADNR**
Program Manager



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