



Senate Transportation Committee

With a new governor and our Washington delegation in place, the Senate Transportation Committee is poised to make some major contributions in the quality, safety and efficiency of transportation in Alaska. Steps were taken this year to make our streets and highways safer, while reviewing projects to improve and grow our transportation infrastructure in Alaska.

Legislation Passed by Senate Transportation Committee

Senate Bill 31: Railroad Utility Corridor

Authorizes the Alaska Railroad Corp. to delineate a transportation and utility corridor from its terminus at Eielson AFB to the Alaska-Canada border.

Senate Bill 40: Construction of Highways

Reserve the competitive bid process for projects costing more than \$250,000, while continuing to allow the use of force accounts to fund smaller, local projects at the discretion of the (most often) Department of Transportation (DOT-PF).

Senate Bill 53: Revoke Driver's License for Fatal Accidents

Senate Bill 53 sponsored by Sen. Scott Ogan (R-Rural Mat-Su/Chugiak) would allow courts to revoke the driving privileges of any driver who violates the traffic laws, and the violation contributes to an automobile accident that results in a death.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 54: Overtime Pay for Airline Employees

Exempts flight crew members of certain air carriers from overtime pay requirements.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 71: Transportation Enhancement Project

Decreases the amounts allocated for the TRAAK program and other enhancement projects to free up millions of dollars to be available for roadway construction and improvement projects.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 98: Liability: Plane and Boat Passengers

Clarifies in statute that people who accept an invitation to participate in a non-commercial recreational activity in a watercraft or aircraft also accept the inherent risks of such activity.

Passed Senate and House

Senate Bill 125: State Contracts

Relates to protests of state contract awards, to claims on state contracts, to the arbitration of certain state construction contract claims, and to hearings and appeals under the State Procurement Code.

Senate Bill 153: Long-Term Leases of Alaska Railroad

Allows the Alaska Railroad to extend the developer's current 55-year lease without termination clause, in order to allow the senior housing developer to seek HUD 202 funding.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1: Support Roads/Hot Springs Loop Road

Encourages new economic development generated by new road construction.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 81: Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspections

Streamlines existing motor vehicle emission statutes to improve compliance and enforcement, provides consistency between the departments that oversee emission programs and registration of vehicles, prevents extraneous testing requirements, closes the possibility for emissions inspections to expire before registration renewal, and protects consumers that are shopping for used vehicles.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 124: Commercial Motor Vehicles Drivers/Employers

Although federal law and commercial driver training already state that certain commercial vehicles must approach with flashers and stop at all rail crossings, Alaska law currently does not require this. State law must be brought into compliance with Federal requirements in order to avoid the loss of between \$20,000,000 and \$40,000,000 in federal highway monies. HB124 will conform Alaska law to federal requirements. The bill would prohibit an employer of a commercial vehicle driver from knowingly allowing, authorizing, or encouraging the driver to violate any federal, state, or municipal code or regulation relating to railroad-highway crossings. It also would require the court to disqualify a commercial motor vehicle driver for certain periods of time upon conviction of a federal, state or municipal code or regulation relating to railroad-highway crossings.

Passed Senate and House

House Bill 250: State Contracts

Modifies the procurement code pertaining to construction claims.

Passed Senate and House

House Concurrent Resolution 2: Extend Alaska Railroad to Fort Greely

Supports extension of the Alaska Railroad from the vicinity of Eielson AFB approximately 70 miles, to the Fort Greely anti-ballistic missile launch facility near Delta Junction. This extension supports the expansion of Alaska's transportation corridors, the critical national defense mission of the missile launch facility, and improved homeland security.

Passed Senate and House