

PRESS RELEASE

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**ROAD SURFACING PROJECTS BEGIN THIS SUMMER**

Alaska DOT Announces Plans for Various Kodiak Improvements

(JUNEAU) – The Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced their plans for this construction season in Kodiak. In a memorandum to Senator Alan Austerman (R-Kodiak/Southeast Islands) DOT has established the following priorities for the “Gravel to Black” paving program. The roads included in this program are:

- ◆ Monashka Bay Road will be paved from milepost-1 to the end of the road at milepost-5. The road will be paved to a 26-foot width with 12-foot lanes and one-foot shoulders.
- ◆ Island Lake/Neva Lane including Balika Lane and Melnitsa Lane, a distance of one mile will be paved. Island Lake will be paved to a 40-foot width with two 12-foot driving lanes and eight-foot shoulders. Neva, Balika and Melnitsa Lane will be paved to a 26-foot width with 12-foot driving lanes and one-foot shoulders.
- ◆ Chiniak Highway - from the Russian River Bridge to the USCG Communications Center, will be paved, a distance of 5.2 miles. This project includes two 12-foot driving lanes and two-foot shoulders. In addition, a portion of the existing road will be repaved just prior to the end of the existing pavement in the vicinity of the Russian River Bridge.

The projects will be advertised this June, with construction then slated to begin this summer and continue next summer for those projects not yet completed. Under the “Gravel to Black” paving program, all improvements that would normally be associated with a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project will not be accomplished. “DOT has reassured me though that they will be performing an environmental field review of all culverts, and only those that either restrict fish passage or are needed for maintenance purposes will be replaced,” said Austerman. The stated intent under this program is to pave as many of our gravel roads as possible. Austerman further remarked, “Our residents have endured dust, potholes and dangerous driving conditions long enough. I’m pleased that DOT is responding to make our roadways safer.”

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