



MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Northern Region Right of Way

TO: AJ Wait
Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land & Water
DATE: May 20, 2020
TELEPHONE NO: 451-5434

FROM: Daniel Pistor
DOT&PF
Right of Way Agent
SUBJECT: Aurora Drive Noyes Slough
Bridge #209 Replacement
NFHWY00124

Application for Easement

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is applying for a permanent easement (E-1) as part of a project to replace the structurally deficient Aurora Drive Bridge. The existing bridge is in need of extensive repair and replacement has been determined as a better long-term option.

The existing two-span bridge will be replaced with a clear-span bridge. Since the proposed bridge has no pier it will greatly reduce the anticipated short-term and long-term maintenance requirements at the crossing. The existing bridge pier sometimes facilitates log jams which need to be cleared.

Additionally, safety improvements will include,

- Widening shoulders, which will provide more space between the sidewalks and the traffic lanes
- Widening sidewalks on the bridge, which will provide more space between pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicle traffic
- Upgrading guardrails and bridge rails to modern, crash-tested hardware
- Improving sight distance over the bridge and at intersections located immediately north and south of the bridge

The existing sidewalks on the bridge itself are too narrow to be maintained via mechanical means during the winter months and therefore are often not maintained at all in the winter. The proposed sidewalks will be wider than existing and therefore will be easier to maintain via mechanical means.

The current bridge is elevated approximately 11 to 12 feet above OHW elevation. The project may reduce this elevation by less than a foot, but not such that it would be lower than a nearby bridge at Danby Street.

Riprap revetments may be constructed along the toe of the sheet-pile walls as needed to protect the stream and crossing from future erosion.

All existing utilities in the corridor, which include 2 GHU water mains, will be located within the proposed easement area.

The Application for Easement and the Applicant Environment Risk Questionnaire are both enclosed with supporting documentation. If it would be more appropriate to submit any of these application materials directly to another group or individual please let me know.

The permanent easement requested is located within:

- FM, T1S, R1W, Section 4

The project is currently scheduled for the 2024 construction season, but DOT&PF requests that this application be processed as quickly as possible in order to allow flexibility in planning the upcoming project construction efforts. **If we are able to acquire all necessary right of way interests, including this one, by September 2020 we may be able to construct the project this winter.** Please let me know if you need any additional information to review this application or if there is anything that I can do to help expedite the process. If you foresee any problems or have any questions, please contact me at 451-5434 or by e-mail at daniel.pistor@alaska.gov.

Enclosed: DNR Application for Easement (E-1)
DNR Applicant Environmental Risk Questionnaire
Design Study Report (October, 2019)
Environmental Document (CE, November, 2019)
Parcel Plat
ROW Map
Legal Description