

# Alaska DOT&PF – 2026 AO 360 Regulatory Reform Plan

(updated March 15, 2026)



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regulatory reform under AO 360 is targeting 17 AAC 42 (Alaska International Airport System, AIAS) and 17 AAC 45 (Rural Airports) which alone constitutes over half of all DOT&PF regulations and associated requirements. This is the logical and primary area of regulatory reform for DOT&PF to meet the 15% target in 2026 and 25% cumulative target in 2027. Additional areas prioritized, as color coded below, include substantive areas of significant public interest such as the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), permitting such as utilities and driveways, and the Alaska Marine Highway System. Regulations surrounding Commercial Vehicle Compliance are also an area of industry interest however agency analysis concludes that fewer reductions and reforms are likely to be found in this area of regulation given a combination of strict federal requirements and the relative frequency of updates already implemented routinely in this area of regulation. Nonetheless, DOT&PF will review these regulations under the lens and with the full intent of AO 360, as well as gather additional stakeholder engagement input, on continued regulation reviews and permit reform efforts over the course of 2026 and into 2027.

## DOT&PF Regulatory Baseline Requirements

The areas of regulatory reform targeted in 2026 and 2027 received rigorous review by functional teams to establish a documented baseline by which to measure reductions and meet required goals in AO 360. Below are both the total word/character count (volume of content) as well as regulatory requirement counts as a baseline to ensure reforms reduce overall content and regulatory barriers.

| Chapter   | Subject / Area                                | Word / Character Count | % of overall Word / Character | Regulatory Baseline Requirements | % of Overall Baseline |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 17 AAC 05 | Statewide Transportation Plan & STIP          | W: 8,176 / C: 52,828   | 4.22%                         | 310                              | 6.94%                 |
| 17 AAC 08 | Memorial Signs                                | W: 1,215 / C: 7,296    | .58%                          | 29                               | .65%                  |
| 17 AAC 10 | Encroachments, Driveway, and Approach Permits | W: 6,328 / C: 38,643   | 3.09%                         | 218                              | 4.88%                 |
| 17 AAC 15 | Utilities                                     | W: 11,418 / C: 74,609  | 5.97%                         | 363                              | 8.12%                 |
| 17 AAC 20 | Outdoor Advertising, Lane Closures            | W: 3,704 / C: 22,810   | 1.82%                         | 135                              | 3.02%                 |
| 17 AAC 25 | Operations, Wheeled Veh.                      | W: 12,268 / C: 73,892  | 5.91%                         | 149                              | 3.33%                 |
| 17 AAC 28 | Buses                                         | W: 1,319 / C: 7,891    | .63%                          | 79                               | .07%                  |
| 17 AAC 35 | Toll Highways – Industrial Use Highways       | W: 3,007 / C: 18,229   | 1.46%                         | 74                               | 1.77%                 |

|               |                                        |                                                 |             |              |             |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 17 AAC 38     | Whittier Tunnel                        | W: 2,353 / C: 14,075                            | 1.13%       | 43           | .96%        |
| 17 AAC 42     | AIAS (ANC & FAI)                       | W: 54,671 / C: 333,453                          | 26.66%      | 1,259        | 28.17%      |
| 17 AAC 45     | Rural Aviation                         | W: 64,685 / C: 398,807                          | 31.89%      | 959          | 21.46%      |
| 17 AAC 50     | Buildings - Accessibility              | W: 156 / C: 1,078                               | .09%        | 1            | .02%        |
| 17 AAC 55     | Local control of Public Works Projects | W: 2,078 / C: 13,462                            | 1.08%       | 22           | 1.49%       |
| 17 AAC 60     | Sign – Tourism, Logo, and Rec/Cultural | W: 5,248 / C: 32,083                            | 2.57%       | 218          | 4.88%       |
| 17 AAC 70     | AMHS                                   | W: 6,792 / C: 42,626                            | 3.41%       | 92           | 2.06%       |
| 17 AAC 80     | Water and Harbors                      | W: 1,296 / C: 7,937                             | .63%        | 32           | .72%        |
| 17 AAC 81     | Relocation Asst Services               | W: 459 / C: 2,975                               | .24%        | 13           | .29%        |
| 17 AAC 85     | Appeals                                | W: 1,558 / C: 9,331                             | .75%        | 44           | .98%        |
| 17 AAC 90     | Measurement Standards                  | W: 5,489 / C: 33,979                            | 2.72%       | 90           | 2.01%       |
| 17 AAC 95     | KABATA                                 | W: 5,704 / C: 37,072                            | 2.96%       | 179          | 4.00%       |
| 17 AAC 97     | Naturally Occurring Asbestos           | W: 3,708 / C: 24,861                            | 1.99%       | 125          | 2.80%       |
| 17 AAC 99     | Misc Provisions                        | W: 419 / C: 2,643                               | .21%        | 36           | .81%        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                                        | <b>Words: 202,051<br/>Characters: 1,250,580</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>4,470</b> | <b>100%</b> |

## DOT&PF Proposed Regulatory Reform

As described in the executive summary, the agency is initially concentrating on 17 AAC 42 and 45, pertaining to the Alaska International Airport System (AIAS) and the Rural Aviation System respectively. The overlap and duplication of these two sections was intended to differentiate the systems and provide specificity to that difference. Instead, a combined section of Airports can contain uniform and consistent areas of regulation regardless of airport location or size while preserving other chapters that outline provisions specific to the different system practices, unique requirements, and scale differences. Below is a color-coded timeline of regulation reform targeted:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Priority 1 Reg Reforms</b><br><b>17 AAC 42 and 45</b><br>Q4 2025 start review,<br>Q3 2026 final regs<br>-----<br><b>Initial Total Target Regs Reformed:</b><br>Word Count: 58.55%<br>Baseline: 49.63% | <b>Priority 2 Reg Reforms</b><br><b>17 AAC 05, 08, 10, 15, 20, &amp; 60</b><br>Q2 2026 start review,<br>Q4 2026 final regs<br>-----<br><b>Additional Total Target Regs Reformed:</b><br>Word Count: 18.25%<br>Baseline: 28.49% | <b>Priority 3 Reg Reforms</b><br><b>17 AAC 25, 70, &amp; 90</b><br>Q3 2026 review,<br>Q4 2027 final regs<br>-----<br><b>Additional Total Target Regs Reformed:</b><br>Word Count: 12.04%<br>Requirements: 10.22% | <b>Between Q4 2025 and Q4 2027, DOT&amp;PF is targeting a review, refinement, and reform of a minimum combined total of between 85 to 88% of all DOT&amp;PF regulations to meet the 25% cumulative reduction targets required in AO 360.</b> |
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## Materials Incorporated by Reference

DOT&PF has reviewed numerous materials incorporated by reference and determined these materials are largely “process documents” intended to provide clarity and guidance to (1) the agency staff for conducting a program and onboarding new staff and (2) for public stakeholders who interface with the department. These materials are drafted according to federal requirements, often over which the agency does not have direct authorship or control to modify. For reference in this report, listed below are examples of documents incorporated by reference to be manually reviewed with the regulatory baseline lens and established verified baseline counts:

- Alaska Traffic Manual - [https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/assets/pdf/atm/current/2016atms\\_inc.pdf](https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/assets/pdf/atm/current/2016atms_inc.pdf)
- Alaska Sign Design Specifications - [https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/assets/pdf/asds/asds\\_all\\_2015.pdf](https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/assets/pdf/asds/asds_all_2015.pdf)
- Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) Handbook - [https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/assets/pdf/hsip/2025\\_hsip\\_handbook.pdf](https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcstraffic/assets/pdf/hsip/2025_hsip_handbook.pdf)
- Institute of Traffic Engineers' *Trip Generation Manual*, 9th edition- <https://trid.trb.org/view/1222542>
- *Highway Capacity Manual*, 5th edition (2010) - <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/pedestrian-bicyclist/safety-tools/volume-215-1-15-10-highway-capacity-manual-hcm-5th-edition>
- *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* - <https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/index.htm>

## DOT&PF Stakeholder Engagement

DOT&PF accepted open comments through an RFI process posted to the Alaska Online Public Notice period and emailed stakeholders. Comments received have been logged and are being utilized as part of the AO 360 agency review process on regulations. Additionally, through stakeholder engagement sessions, agency staff made themselves available to accept comments. While comments during zoom stakeholder engagement sessions were limited, agency representatives heard that comments were few during these meetings because individuals wanted to see changes from the agency before they could provide input. These comments often came with reassurances that folks would remain engaged on regulation reform and that future regulation packages with changes were “of great interest” and that “agencies would see more engagement when the public can see changes” during zoom verbal comments.

| Chapter              | Subject Matter                      | Stakeholder Engagement and Notice                                                                                                                                                                             | (# of Individuals Contacted)<br>Stakeholder List / Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 AAC<br>05.120-150 | Statewide<br>Transportation<br>Plan | Published on OPN: <a href="#">12/17/2025</a><br>Conducted via Zoom: January 14, 2026<br>Deadline for written comments: January 30, 2026<br>Input: verbal and written offered<br>Method: OPN posting and email | Outreach including: (388) AK 2036 Statewide Long-Range Plan; (913) Interior Area Plan; (750) NW Area Plan; (581) PWS Area Plan; (826) SE Area Plan; (3,239) SW Alaska Area Transportation Plan; (750) YK Delta Area Plan; (577) Alaska Statewide Long-Range Plan; and (1,376) STIP list |

|                               |                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 AAC 05.155-999             | STIP (and remaining provisions)                        | TBD: around June 2026<br>(after STIP 2026-2029 adoption)                                                                                                                                                 | <u>Outreach including:</u> Alaska Muni League (AML); Alaska Region Dev. Orgs (ARDORs); Chambers of Commerce; Federal Highways (FHWA); MPOs (AMATS, FAST Planning, and MVP0; RPOs (e.g. Cooper Valley Dev. Assoc.), Tribes (DOT&PF tribal team)                                                             |
| 17 AAC 08                     | Memorial Signs                                         | Scheduled for March 26, 2026                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>Outreach including:</u> Current memorial sign families, DPS / Law Enforcement, Alaska Muni League (local gov't safety engineers), and Alaska MADD                                                                                                                                                       |
| 17 AAC 10                     | Encroachments, Driveway, and Approach Permits          | Scheduled for March 24, 2026                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>Outreach including:</u> Associated General Contractors (AGC); American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC); Alaska Region Dev. Orgs (ARDORs); Fire and EMS for access issues; Alaska Muni League (local gov't planners and platting; Federal Highways (FHWA); and Tribes (DOT&PF tribal team)       |
| 17 AAC 15                     | Utilities                                              | Scheduled for March 25, 2026                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>Outreach including:</u> Associated General Contractors (AGC); American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC); Alaska Muni League (AML); Utility partners including Electric, Gas, Telecoms, broadband, water, and wastewater; and Tribes (DOT&PF tribal team)                                         |
| 17 AAC 20                     | Outdoor Advertising, Lane Closures                     | Scheduled for March 26, 2026                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>Outreach including:</u> Alaska Muni League (AML), Alaska Realtors, NFIB – Small Business, Associated General Contractors (AGC)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 17 AAC 25                     | Operations, Wheeled Veh.                               | Scheduled for April 17, 2026                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>Ourreach including:</u> Muni League (AML); Alaska Truckers Association (ATA); Freight Carriers, Oil and Gas developers and services; Federal Highways (FHWA); Federal Motor Carrier (FMCSA); Tow trucks, Commercial insurance; and Commercial Driver's License (CDL) schools                            |
| 17 AAC 42.500-990             | AIAS Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) | Published on OPN: <a href="#">11/24/2025</a><br>Conducted Dec 11, 2025<br>Deadline for written comments: January 9, 2026<br>Input: verbal and written offered<br>Method: OPN posting and email           | <u>Outreach including:</u> (7,979) DOT&PF Media List; (4,462) Airport News; (5,922) Ted Stevens International Plan; (800) ANC Leasing; (388) AK 2036 Statewide Long-Range Plan; (1,074) Alaska Aviation System; Aviation Advisory Board; and AIAS social media, websites, in-terminal postings and offices |
| 17 AAC 42.600 – 17 AAC 42.699 | AIAS Fairbanks International Airport (FAI)             | Published on OPN: <a href="#">11/24/2025</a><br>Conducted via Zoom: Dec 10, 2025<br>Deadline for written comments: January 9, 2026<br>Input: verbal and written offered<br>Method: OPN posting and email | <u>Outreach including:</u> (7,979) DOT&PF Media List; (4,462) Airport News; (5,922) Ted Stevens International Plan; (800) ANC Leasing; (388) AK 2036 Statewide Long-Range Plan; (1,074) Alaska Aviation System; Aviation Advisory Board; and AIAS social media, websites, in-terminal postings and offices |

|                               |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 AAC 42.005-599 and 700-990 | AIAS General Aviation (GA) and Lake Hood | Published on OPN: <a href="#">11/24/2025</a><br>Conducted Dec 8, 2025<br>Deadline for written comments: January 9, 2026<br>Input: verbal and written offered<br>Method: OPN posting and email                | <u>Outreach including:</u> (7,979) DOT&PF Media List; (4,462) Airport News; (5,922) Ted Stevens International Plan; (800) ANC Leasing; (388) AK 2036 Statewide Long-Range Plan; (1,074) Alaska Aviation System; Aviation Advisory Board; and AIAS social media, websites, in-terminal postings and offices                                                                                                    |
| 17 AAC 45                     | Rural Aviation                           | Published on OPN: <a href="#">11/26/2025</a><br>Conducted via Zoom: December 9, 2025<br>Deadline for written comments: January 9, 2026<br>Input: verbal and written offered<br>Method: OPN posting and email | <u>Outreach including:</u> (7,979) DOT&PF Media List; (4,462) Airport News; (5,922) Ted Stevens International Plan; (800) ANC Leasing; (388) AK 2036 Statewide Long-Range Plan; (1,074) Alaska Aviation System; and Aviation Advisory Board                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 17 AAC 60                     | Sign – Tourism, Logo, and Rec/Cultural   | Scheduled for March 26, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>Outreach including:</u> Alaska Muni League (AML); Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA); Chambers of Commerce; Service Organizations (Rotary, Lions, etc); and Alaska Historical Society                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 17 AAC 70                     | AMHS                                     | TBD: around June 2026                                                                                                                                                                                        | <u>Outreach including:</u> Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board (AMHOB); ARDORs of coastal communities · Alaska Muni League (port directors); USCG; AMHS Unions – IBU, MEBA, and MMP; Federal Transit (FTA); Federal Highway (FHWA); Maritime Admin (MARAD – terminals); EPA (emissions and wastewater); AMHS distribution list, Tribes (DOT&PF tribal team); and Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) |
| 17 AAC 90                     | Measurement Standards                    | Scheduled for April 17, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>Outreach including:</u> Chambers of Commerce; Alaska Commercial Fisherman (scales); Cannabis Industry (scales); and Gas station operators (scales)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Additionally, DOT&PF put out initial RFIs for regulatory review in advance of AO 360 in broad categories to gather general interest for efforts. Those notices were published on OPN in the following categories and their input was rolled into and combined with the follow-up stakeholder engagement directed by AO 360 implementation guidance:

- [17 AAC 8, 17 AAC 20, and 17 AAC 60 - Signs](#) (published Aug 19, 2025, deadline Oct 17, 2025)
- [17 AAC 10 - Permits](#) (published Aug 19, 2025, deadline Oct 17, 2025)
- [17 AAC 15 - Utilities](#) (published Aug 19, 2025, deadline Oct 17, 2025)
- [17 AAC 25 and 17 AAC 28 - Commercial Vehicles](#) (published Aug 19, 2025, deadline Oct 17, 2025)
- [17 AAC 50 and 17 AAC 55 - Public Facilities](#) (published Aug 19, 2025, deadline Oct 17, 2025)
- [17 AAC 70 - Alaska Marine Highway System](#) (published Aug 19, 2025, deadline Oct 17, 2025)

All stakeholder input received thus far is attached as Appendix A of this report, either through email or stakeholder engagement meetings, as part of AO 360 outreach.

## DOT&PF Permitting Reform

While DOT&PF is not called out in AO 360 for permit reform among the agencies listed, this is an opportunity for reform that DOT&PF will undertake in 2026 as part of the AO 360 review. Our Data Modernization and Innovation Office (DMIO) has already worked to develop and is in the middle of active rollover/deployment of an updated online permitting system, allowing for faster adoption of any permitting changes.

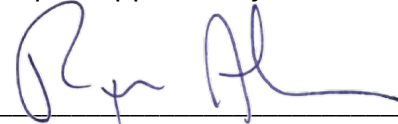
Specifically at DOT&PF, the following permits requirements in 17 AAC will be reviewed for reforms:

- 17 AAC 08 for Memorial Sign Permits (recognize fatalities on roadways through ePermits)
- 17 AAC 10.010 for Encroachment Permits (use of highway ROW through ePermits)
- 17 AAC 10.020-095 for Driveway & Approach Road Permits (construct, modify, or use road connections to state highways through ePermits). Includes Road Approach Related Utility Coordination (as part of driveway/approach permits) and Traffic Impact Analysis / Mitigation requirements which will also be reviewed.
- 17 AAC 15 for Utility Permits including Service Connection Permits and Railroad Permits (through ePermits)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact DOT&PF AO 360 Coordinator, Andy Mills, at [andy.mils@alaska.gov](mailto:andy.mils@alaska.gov)

Additional comments for agency consideration on regulatory reform always welcome at [dot.regs@alaska.gov](mailto:dot.regs@alaska.gov) for ongoing and future review cycles.

Report approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Anderson', is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Anderson, P.E.  
Alaska DOT&PF Commissioner