



PRESS RELEASE

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AIDEA Board Unanimously Approves \$25 Million to Advance the West Susitna Access Project

Geotechnical drilling program is the critical next step toward final design of the proposed access road

Anchorage, Alaska — Yesterday, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) voted unanimously, 7-0, to adopt [Resolution No. G26-09](#), authorizing up to \$25 million to fund the geotechnical drilling program for the [West Susitna Access Project](#) and the permitting, hydrologic, engineering, and access work that directly supports it.

Geotechnical data is the gating input for final design of the proposed road. The information gathered through this program will drive bridge foundation design, material site development, culvert sizing, and refinement of the road alignment. Without it, the project cannot advance to a constructible design package.

"This is the work that turns a route on a map into a road that can actually be built," **said [AIDEA Deputy Executive Director Brandon Brefczynski](#)**. "The Board's unanimous action keeps the project on schedule for the upcoming field seasons and moves us another step closer to unlocking one of the most promising resource corridors in the state."

The drilling program was developed by AIDEA staff working with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Northern Region Materials Section, and the Authority's engineering and permitting consultants. The investigation covers proposed bridge crossings along the alignment — including major crossings of the Skwentna River, with seismic velocity geophysical surveys at each bridge site — as well as material sites that will supply gravel and fill for construction, trail overcrossings, and large culvert locations.

The program will take place during the 2026–2027 field seasons, with crews and drill rigs moved between remote sites by helicopter. The authorization also funds the hydrologic and hydraulic field investigations and the preparation of state and federal permit applications — including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game authorizations — required before drilling can begin.

“The Board’s action today reflects our confidence in this project and our commitment to doing it right,” **said [AIDEA Board Chair Bill Kendig](#)**. “West Susitna is exactly the kind of investment AIDEA was created to make — infrastructure that opens opportunity for Alaskans today and for generations to come.”

The West Susitna Access Project would open a corridor of significant economic opportunity on the west side of the Susitna River in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, providing access to multiple advanced mineral and energy prospects — including [Nova Minerals’ Estelle antimony and gold project](#), [U.S. GoldMining’s Whistler gold prospect](#), and [Terra Energy’s coal project](#) in the Susitna basin — the development of which would generate jobs, royalties, and revenues for the state and its residents. The road would also provide the public with year-round access to thousands of acres of state land for recreation, settlement, and other uses.

Funding for the proposed geotechnical drilling program comes from AIDEA’s Revolving Fund. The Board first approved the West Susitna Access Project as a development finance project in 2019, and today’s action builds on prior phases of predevelopment work.

About AIDEA

[The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority](#) is an independently governed public corporation of the State of Alaska established by the Legislature in 1967 to promote, develop, and advance economic growth and diversification in Alaska by providing various means of financing and investment.

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