

West Susitna Access Project

January 2023



PROJECT OVERVIEW

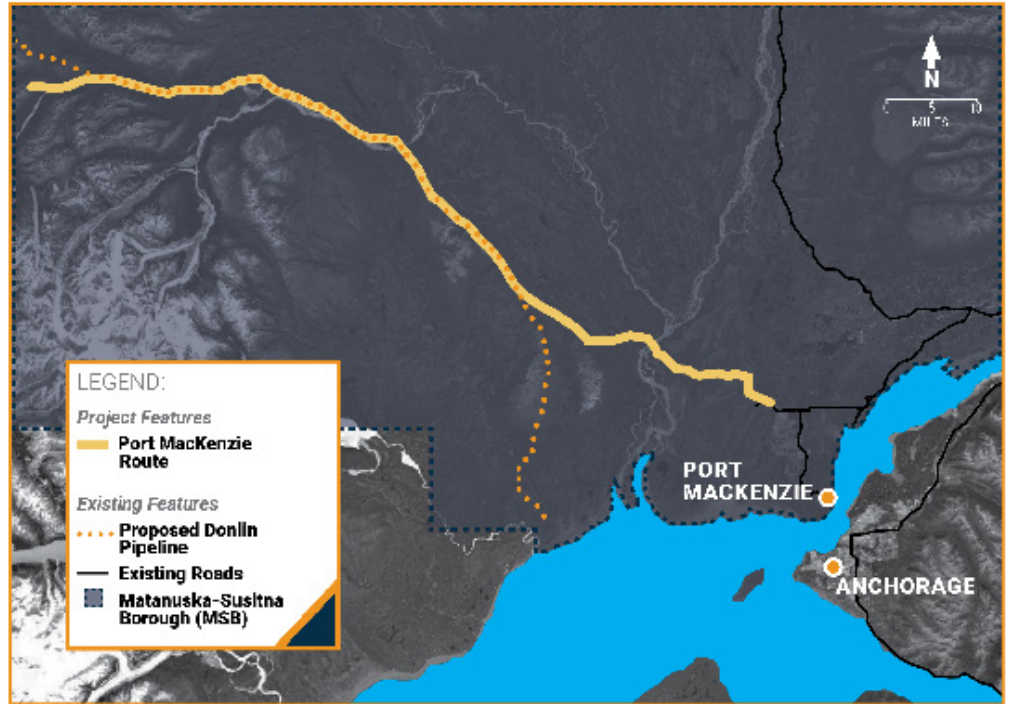
The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), in coordination with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) and industry partners, is in the preliminary engineering and early permitting stage of planning for a multi-use public access road leading to resource development opportunities that will expand state and local economies and lead to job creation.

Project Need

This economic development project will provide access to many natural resources and increase diversification of Port MacKenzie for import and export opportunities.

Proposed Location

The West Susitna Access Road is approximately 100 miles long, starting near the west end of Ayrshire Road in the MSB and heading northwest to the vicinity of the confluence of the Talachulitna and Skwentna Rivers. The route will cross the Skwentna River and continue generally alongside the north side of the Skwentna River. Near the Happy River crossing, the route would continue west to a point of tie-in with existing mineral exploration infrastructure.



Schedule



Public Involvement Opportunities



Project Benefits



MINERAL RESOURCES

Copper, gold, silver, and platinum potential. More than 3,000 active mining claims within the basin.



MANAGED RECREATIONAL ACCESS

Many opportunities including snowmachining, fishing, hunting, boating, recreational mining, and use of cabins.



FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS

Ability to provide first aid, fire response, and other emergency access in the area.



ENERGY RESOURCES

Active energy exploration in areas west of the Susitna River, including in Upper Cook Inlet where active oil and gas producing fields exist in the study area.



FORESTRY/ TIMBER HARVEST

More than 700,000 acres available for harvest; enhances fire suppression.



AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

More than 65,000 acres of land identified for potential agricultural uses.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Opportunities for clean energy projects, including geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, wind, carbon capture and sequestration, and biomass resources.

Potential Jobs and Wages of Local Mines

Project	Operating Jobs	Operating Wages (\$millions)	Total Jobs Impact Range	Total Wage Impact Range (\$millions)
Estelle	200-400	\$24-\$47	380-960	\$38-\$90
Whistler	500	\$59	950-1,200	\$95-\$115
Island Mountain	360	\$42	680-860	\$65-\$80
Raintree West	230	\$27	450-550	\$40-\$55
Canyon Creek	300	\$35	500-1,000	\$50-\$70

Source: University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute of Social and Economic Research; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and McKinley Research Group estimates.

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