



PRESS RELEASE

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Economic Study Says West Susitna Access Road Could Lead to Millions of Dollars and Thousands of Jobs for the Mat-Su Community and State of Alaska

McKinley Research Group, formerly McDowell Group, in an unbiased, third-party economic analysis has determined the West Susitna Access Project will provide significant opportunity and lead to significant public benefit.

March 21, 2023 (Anchorage, Alaska) – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is pleased to announce the release of an unbiased, third-party economic analysis for the West Susitna Access Project (WSA) conducted by the McKinley Research Group (access the study [here](#)). The results of the economic study conclude the WSA project would provide significant benefits to the local community and the State of Alaska including recreation, subsistence opportunities, and enable access to a mining epicenter for strategic minerals that are critical for alternative energy and homeland security.

Brandon Brefczynski, Deputy Director for AIDEA and Project Manager for the WSA Project, said, “AIDEA is committed to pursuing projects that will lead to jobs and economic opportunities for Alaskans. It is exciting to receive quality data that the West Su Access Project could potentially provide thousands of construction and permanent jobs and millions of dollars for the State of Alaska. AIDEA would like to thank the Office of the Governor for commissioning this economic study.”

Governor Mike Dunleavy said, “The West Susitna Road is important for local residents and gaining fair access to hunting, fishing, and potential jobs. My Administration is constantly looking at ways to grow our economy and this project is a great opportunity for not only south-central Alaska but the entire state. I am committed to this project and unlocking resources that benefit all Alaskans.”

AIDEA will be hosting two community meetings in March to present the findings of the economic study and to update the public on the project. The first meeting will be held Thursday, March 23 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Sqwetna Roadhouse on 100 Happiness Lane. The second meeting will be Friday, March 31 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Evangelo’s Restaurant at 2530 E. Parks Highway in Wasilla, Alaska. The public is encouraged to attend.

The West Susitna Access Road will be open to the public and is beginning the permitting process.

While Alaska is rich with natural and mineral resources, access is a common barrier to development and economic opportunities for local residents. 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. 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. The project anticipates construction starting in 2025, pending permitting approvals and financial investment decisions.

About AIDEA:

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

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