



## PRESS RELEASE

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## AIDEA Board Approves 2022 Field Season Plan and Budget for Ambler Access Project

(Anchorage) – Thursday, January 27, 2022, the Board for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) passed Resolution G22-03 regarding the 2022 field season plan and budget for the Ambler Access Project (AAP).

“The upcoming field season will build on last year’s field studies, permitting, and data collection as well as incorporate robust project controls to inform project schedule and cost and develop project execution strategies like CMGC (construction manager/general contractor),” said **AIDEA Board Chair Dana Pruhs**. “The goal is to stay on schedule and on budget for a final investment decision in 2024.” The AIDEA Board approved \$15.4 million to advance pre-development work for the 2022 field season, which will be matched by Ambler Metals under the terms of the Ambler Access Development Agreement.

While Alaska is rich with natural and mineral resources, access is a common barrier to development. AAP is a proposed 211-mile, east-west running controlled industrial access road to reach the Ambler Mining District in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The district is a large prospective copper-zinc mineral belt with extensive deposits of critical minerals and other elements essential for our nation’s tech-focused economy and military effectiveness. AAP was modeled after a similar AIDEA-funded industrial access road project located in the Northwest Arctic Borough –the DeLong Mountain Transportation System– in support of Red Dog Mine.

“The Red Dog Mine has now provided three generations of good paying jobs for families across western Alaska,” said **AIDEA Executive Director Alan Weitzner**. “Access to the Ambler Mining District has the potential to create four or more Red Dog-level mines.” The district is estimated to create more than 3,900 total jobs (direct, indirect, and induced) and over \$300 million in annual wages once the mines are operational adding significant new revenues for both local and state governments.

Nearly 50 local jobs, from tribal liaisons and bear guards to surveyors and environmental scientists, have been identified for the 2022 field season. These positions are in addition to the more than 42 Alaska prime and subcontractor companies that will continue with logistics, geotechnical, design, and other field season tasks. To ensure reasonable and equitable contracting opportunities were available, the AAP procurement team incorporated a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program to encourage minority Alaskan owned companies to bid. Currently, MBE entities represent 30 percent of existing AAP contracts.

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. Since 1967, AIDEA has been responsible for directing more than \$3.5 billion in economic development in Alaska and has declared \$446 million in dividends to Alaska since 1997.

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