



PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority Submits Permit Application for the West Susitna Access Project

Anchorage, Alaska – July 2025 – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is pleased to announce the submission of a Department of the Army (DA) Individual Permit application for the West Susitna Access Project. This project aims to enhance connectivity within Alaska's Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) by constructing a 78.5-mile access road.

The West Susitna Access Project will begin approximately 1.4 miles west of Alexander Creek and extend to the Whiskey Bravo airstrip and mineral exploration camp. The route will traverse the northern side of the Skwentna River before crossing to the southern side, ending at the airstrip. This road will provide year-round public access to currently remote State public lands and private lands within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB), and areas planned for resource development.

"AIDEA's West Susitna Road holds significant value for Alaskans, especially local residents seeking better access to hunting, fishing, recreation, and potential opportunities in mining, processing, and manufacturing," **Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy stated**. "My administration and AIDEA are continually exploring ways to boost our economy and create well-paying jobs for families. This project presents a fantastic opportunity for Alaska to expand and generate revenue. I am dedicated to this initiative and to unlocking resources that will benefit all Alaskans."

The primary purpose of this project is to provide safe, reliable, and year-round road access to remote areas, significantly improving public use for fishing, hunting, boating, recreation, and settlement. Additionally, the road will enhance commercial use of designated critical mineral development areas, promoting job growth and sustainable economic benefits for the State and MSB. The need for this access road has been identified in various State area plans, highlighting the importance of improving transportation to the region.

Representative Kevin McCabe, said, "The West Susitna Access is an exciting opportunity not only to unlock some of Alaska's extraordinary resource potential, but to provide all Alaskans new access to the recreation and outdoor opportunities found in the West Su."

“Responsible resource development is critical for Alaska, the United States and our allies. Especially mining for defense and technology applications such as gold, copper, and antimony. It provides thousands of jobs, tax revenue for our state, and endless recreational and economic opportunities. Alaska is far more important than most people realize, and much of that potential is right here in the heart of the Mat-Su. The West Susitna access road is required to unlock that potential,” **said Senator Mike Shower.**

Edna DeVries, the Matanuska-Susitna Mayor, said, “The West Susitna Access Project represents more than just a road, it’s a strategic investment in our region’s future. This step by AIDEA to advance permitting shows real momentum toward opening long-overdue access for families, businesses, and future generations. Reliable road access means a stronger local economy and more opportunities for recreation and responsible development. I’m pleased to see this project progressing and look forward to the lasting benefits this will bring for the Mat-Su.”

“We are thrilled that this project is moving forward in the approval process. It has been a long time coming, and we are eager to see the positive impact it will have on our community and surrounding areas” **stated Cindi Hermans, President of Friends of West Susitna and Owner of the Skwentna Roadhouse and Skwentna Services.**

Rod Arno, Alaska Outdoor Council’s Public Policy Director, said, “The Alaska Outdoor Council remains in strong support of the state creating more overland access to public lands/waters for all Alaskans. By far the majority of Alaskan state residents live in Cook Inlet drainage. A good number of these non-Alaskan Natives folks came, and stayed, in Alaska for its unlimited outdoor activities. As it did across the western U.S. state’s industrial roads became the overland access route to the outdoor activities available there today. Alaskans enjoy the access that old resource development roads provide statewide.

As the Alaska Outdoor Council has done since statehood regarding nonrenewable resource development it will monitor progress on AIDEA’s Individual Permit to build a 79-mile industrial road and work with ADF&G, DNR, and DEC to assure public renewable resources remain strong.”

Funding for the development and operation of the road is anticipated to be provided via public-private partnerships, similar to AIDEA’s Delong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) for the Red Dog Mine. This model has resulted in significant socioeconomic and public benefits through long-term, stable economic opportunities. The West Susitna Access Project is expected to stimulate economic development by providing access to valuable resources and enhancing public lands and resources value for economic development purposes. Alaska’s state lands are held in title for the benefit of all Alaskans, with a constitutional mandate “to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

About AIDEA: Established by the Alaska State Legislature in 1967, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is an independently governed public corporation dedicated to promoting the economic welfare of Alaskans. AIDEA's mission

isto provide financing and investment opportunities that drive economic development, create jobs, and enhance the quality of life for residents across the state.

AIDEA's flexible financing solutions are designed to support a wide range of industries, including energy, mining, and tourism, among others. Over the years, AIDEA has invested over \$3 billion in various projects, ranging from infrastructure development to business expansion initiatives by providing them with the necessary capital to grow and thrive. These investments have been instrumental in fostering economic growth and stability in Alaska.

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