



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities**

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
John MacKinnon, Commissioner

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To Our Construction Partners:

The COVID-19 pandemic and Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration is impacting every aspect of life in Alaska. Equally devastating as the pandemic may be the resulting impact on our economy. At Alaska DOT&PF we won't be a part of that economic impact. The construction industry is Alaska's third largest, employing almost 16,000 workers. Alaska's transportation infrastructure is the pulse of the economy and it is imperative that it be maintained and improved.

We intend to advertise our 2020 construction program and work expeditiously towards getting those construction projects underway. For contractors that have active projects, work can start as soon as weather permits.

People will get the illness and we will be faced with personnel shortages, both our own and yours. We are working on procedures for contingencies that will allow us to keep working. There will be similar shortages in other state agencies whose actions and approvals are required for work to proceed. We are coordinating with those agencies to develop procedures that will expedite approvals or allow their abeyance so work is not unnecessarily held up.

You will face similar issues. I ask that you prepare your own contingencies for dealing with possible workforce issues. In doing so, there may be opportunities where we can share resources, especially on rural projects.

Construction jobsites are not densely populated work areas. Regardless, we need to continue to practice personal hygiene and social distancing measures to minimize the spread of the virus. This is even more critical for work in rural communities where we have been asked that we postpone projects. Postponing projects isn't an option, but putting health screening protocols in place for all our workers traveling to remote communities can provide some assurance.

It is my commitment to you that we will work cooperatively as partners in construction to get the work done. The present situation is unprecedented in Alaska, necessitating close cooperation and collaboration between communities, DOT&PF, our Contractors, and Labor to ensure the health and safety of the public and everyone working on our projects.

I want all parties to be flexible and collaborative during this crisis. We're Alaskans. We've shown our character and mettle with an incredible earthquake response 16 months ago. This is one more challenge we will overcome together.

Sincerely,

  
John MacKinnon  
Commissioner

*"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."*