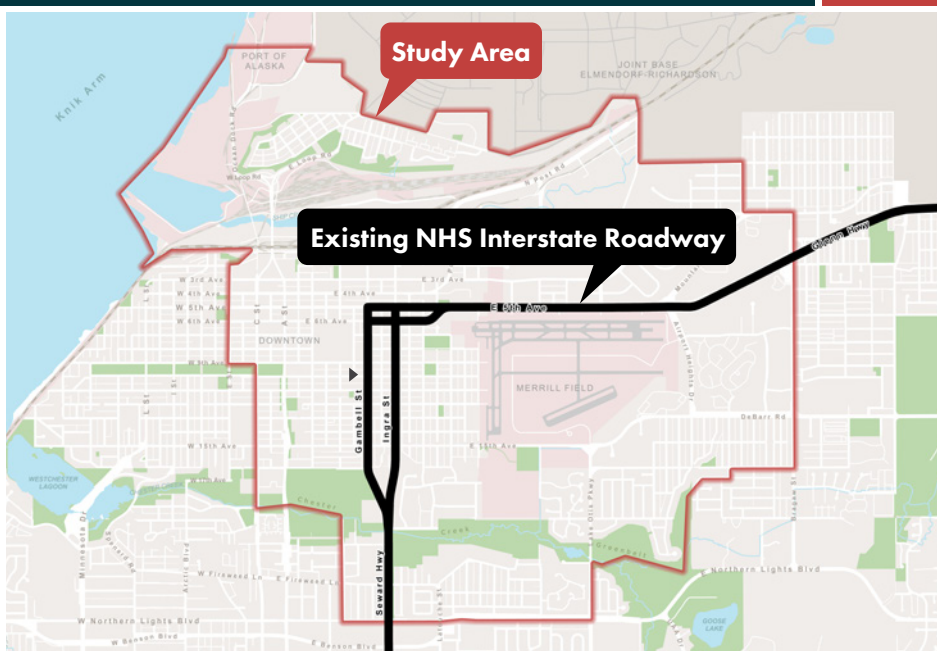


The dream of reconnecting neighborhoods split by the Gambell/Ingra couplet while also improving access, safety, and mobility in North Anchorage has been around since the 1980s. In 2021, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) launched the current **Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study** as a collaborative way to find solutions based on community, environmental, and economic goals.

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This is a map of the general project area. A detailed map is available on the website.

1 Where Are We Now?

So far, the community has been helpful in identifying the problems to be solved, devising the study's formal "**purpose and need**," and **suggesting evaluation criteria**. Next, you'll help refine and screen alternatives.

We are still gathering information, and in February we will share preliminary alternatives with you based on your previous **input and the results of our research**. Visit sewardglennconnection.com to view the full project schedule. We look forward to your comments!



2

Meet the New DOT&PF Project Manager

Galen Jones started with the Seward-Glenn Connection project in April 2023, but his connection to the area goes way back.

He was born at the former Alaska Native Medical Center hospital at 3rd and Ingra. He grew up in Anchorage, and one of his favorite memories is taking the People Mover bus down Ingra with his dad to go to the Imaginarium Science Discovery Center, where his mom was the Education Director. The family also spent a lot of time at the Horn Doctor music store at 10th and Ingra.



“My dad played saxophone and knew the owner through the local music scene,” Galen noted. “Wandering around the store and looking at all the instruments probably instilled my passion for music and inspired me to play the guitar.”

After graduating from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, Galen joined DOT&PF to work on highway design and construction projects. He also studied architecture and urban planning, so he understands the connection between engineering, the built environment, and healthy communities. Owning a small manufacturing and retail business in town also gives him a unique perspective when it comes to business impacts and the conditions in which businesses can thrive.

According to Galen, the most rewarding thing about working on highway design projects is how they can improve the quality of life for the people who live in those communities. He is also a firm believer in involving stakeholders in the decisions that affect them.

“

My philosophy when working with communities is to listen and understand their interests. Those interests may be vastly different depending on who you talk to, but it’s my job to make sure everyone’s voices are heard and facilitate the right balance.

– Galen Jones

”

As DOT&PF project manager, Galen is actively engaged with the Fairview Community Council and NeighborWorks Alaska, which together have been awarded a Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation to address issues caused by the Gambell/Ingra couplet going through the heart of Fairview. He notes that a lot of good ideas come out of these conversations, and working together helps reduce duplication of efforts.

Galen is excited to talk with people; please stop by to say hello at the next public open house or email your ideas to info@sewardglennconnection.com.



3 Public Open House & Interactive Workshop #3 Summary

Thanks to everyone who came to the Seward-Glenn Connection open house and interactive workshop in May.

It included a self-guided poster-tour, an interactive technology station, and a series of small group sessions where participants could draw on maps of the project area while brainstorming ways to balance the sometimes-conflicting transportation needs.

We **heard your feedback** on how to **re-connect our neighborhoods** and make transportation options safer, easier, and more accessible for everyone. One of the key takeaways was the community's desire that we gather more information on how people are walking and biking through the corridor so we can improve safety. See the story below on the pedestrian study for an update.



Safety: key reflections from public meeting 3

"Please make it safer for bikes and cars."

"Bike routes and pedestrian walkways need to be larger for safety."

"Add a buffer between sidewalks and travel lanes to increase snow storage and improve pedestrian safety."

4 Pedestrian Study



A total of 37 cameras

were used to count pedestrians and vehicles at key points in the study area.

Perspective from one of 37 cameras used in study.

Knowing that intersections are one of the most concerning places for walkers and bikers,

last September the project team began a study to understand how people walk and bike in the Gambell-Ingra corridor. Using cameras set up at 37 intersections along Ingra Street, Gambell Street, Hyder Street, and 5th and 6th avenues, the team counted the number of pedestrians and vehicles at key intersections and mid-block crossing points to get a sense of typical weekday and weekend use.

This information will help the project team and community understand the most problematic areas for pedestrians and what safety improvements should be considered in the PEL's alternatives.

5 Want to Stay Involved?

Next Public Meeting

Wednesday
February 7, 2024
4:30pm – 6:30pm
Fairview Rec Center
1121 E. 10th Avenue
The Fairview Rec Center is
on bus route 11.

Mark your calendar for our next public meeting!

We'll be sharing the project alternatives based on what we learned from you, and we want to know what you think! Visit the project website for more details and to join our emailing list!

This planning document may be adopted in a subsequent environmental review process in accordance with 23 USC 168 Integration of Planning and Environmental Review.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated November 3, 2017, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

6 We Want to Hear From You!

DOT&PF and Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) are identifying and evaluating ways to improve safety, livability, freight mobility, local access, and National Highway System connectivity between the Seward and Glenn highways.

Questions or Comments?



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