



# Frequently Asked Questions

## FAQs

### Alaska's Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan

Guiding Transportation Development for Alaska's Future

#### Mission

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

##### To do this we:

- Provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods
- Provide statewide access and connectivity
- Provide access for exploration and development of Alaska's resources

#### Q1. What is a Statwide LRTP?

- » **Answer:** *The Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan is the official state plan. It aligns with the policy direction for the state and provides future direction on how to meet the needs of all modes of transportation—highways, aviation, transit, rail, marine, bicycle, and pedestrian transportation. This is a long-range plan that looks at both near-term (10 year) and future (20 year) transportation needs, policy, funding opportunities, and prioritized projects. The State is required to update the plan every five years.*
- » *The LRTP is not a list of projects; rather, it helps the state to develop regional transportation plans, identify capital programs, and develop budgets that align with the State's overarching goals and priorities.*
- » *The statewide plan outlines strategies and actions that link to area, regional, and modal plans.*

#### Q2. Why do we need an LRTP?

- » **Answer:** *The LRTP is the official state transportation plan and is required to meet both state and federal mandates. It also helps us balance needs and plan for the future.*
- » *Looking ahead, we know that Alaska is changing. Our urban populations are growing and aging. Our rural communities off the road system are reliant on air, and sometimes marine, transportation. Unfortunately, our available funding resources are shrinking. The LRTP helps us identify future transportation challenges and opportunities. The plan provides guidance, performance-based management strategies, and integrates all transportation modes to best meet our changing needs. Ultimately, it helps us prioritize our future actions and spend the transportation funds we do have wisely and cost-effectively.*

#### Q3. What modes are included in the plan?

- » **Answer:** *The plan will look at infrastructure, operations, trends and needs for state roads, rail, public transit, ferries and other maritime systems, airports and aviation, and non-motorized modes of transportation.*

#### Q4. What else is included in the plan?

- » *The plan builds on prior planning processes and looks at forward looking trends to identify future needs. It establishes agreed-upon investment priorities as well as a strategy for funding those priorities. It also looks at performance measures and benchmarks to track the state's progress.*

#### Q5. How does it relate to regional and local transportation plans?

- » **Answer:** *The LRTP is the overarching strategic document. It provides the State's vision, policies, objectives, and performance measures for the entire state and guides prioritization of future project investments statewide. Regional and modal*



# Frequently Asked Questions

continued...

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### Get Involved

We hope you will share your ideas for the future of transportation in Alaska as we develop this comprehensive, statewide plan. Please visit our website at:

[www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate)

to sign up for our mailing list. Stay tuned for more details on future events and opportunities to provide feedback.

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transportation plans provide a more focused look at system needs and identify individual projects that address regional issues. Additionally, local governments and tribal councils develop their own plans that may include facilities owned by the State. Anchorage and Fairbanks have Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs--AMATS and FMATS, respectively) that oversee transportation planning efforts for their urban areas.

#### Q6. Where do we get money for transportation projects?

- » **Answer:** The State of Alaska does not currently have a dedicated funding source for transportation infrastructure projects. Currently, DOT&PF receives funds from a variety of sources:
  - Federal Highway Administration Program
  - Federal Transit Administration Program
  - Federal Aviation Administration Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP)
  - State general fund

#### Q7. How is the public involved?

- » **Answer:** The public is the ultimate user of Alaska's transportation system. We use the roads, we fly to communities, we take our vehicles on the ferry system, and we walk, bike, and take mass transit to our jobs. We want to hear how YOU use transportation! What needs are not being met? What is working well and shouldn't change? How should we prioritize competing needs?
  - » DOT&PF is working with a Transportation Stakeholder Group and a Freight Advisory Committee—collaborative, interdisciplinary sounding boards—to obtain feedback and recommendations.
  - » DOT&PF will also be seeking **your** input on potential system-wide needs for all modes of transportation. Public open houses were held in spring 2014 and on-line open houses will be held later this fall. To sign up for our e-mail list, visit [www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate).

#### Q8. What kind of comments would be useful?

- » **Answer:** The planning process depends upon open communication with stakeholders, agencies, Alaska residents, and transportation users. We want to hear from you!
  - » What are the most important transportation issues confronting the state today?
  - » What aspects of our transportation system work well?
  - » What needs improvement now--or in the future?
  - » How can the LRTP help your community?

Visit the project website at [www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate](http://www.dot.alaska.gov/lrtpplanupdate).