



AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS PROJECT

PRESS RELEASE

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Amid Chorus of Support Ambler Access Project Advancing Relationships with Northwest Alaskan Tribes and Communities in 2022

Over the last several months, a growing coalition of key Alaskan stakeholders has expressed support for the Ambler Access Project (AAP).

In a November 2021 **letter** to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Northwest Arctic Borough Mayor, Dickie Moto, and Assembly President, Nathan Hadley, Jr., expressed their support for the AAP. Mayor Moto and Assembly President Hadley praised the project's previously completed environmental review process, saying the process was "thorough and thoughtful" and included "multiple levels of local input and consultation." The Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly also passed a **resolution** supporting the project. The resolution stated that "continued responsible resource extraction is essential to the future of the Northwest Arctic Borough and its provision of public services to the region's residents."

In a separate November **letter** to the DOI, the Alaska Chamber, Alaska Miners Association, Alaska Support Industry Alliance, Council of Alaska Producers, and Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. also expressed their support for the AAP.

In December, all three members of Alaska's Congressional delegation submitted a **letter** to the DOI expressing their support for the project. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young jointly signed the letter, which expressed that the project "stands as the linchpin for thousands of jobs for Alaska, and often Alaska Native, residents, as well as other opportunities for rural communities, such as broadband infrastructure...".

Meanwhile, the project's leadership is continuing to build relationships with tribes and communities along the project corridor. These efforts are accomplished with a goal of listening to and learning from tribal and community members' concerns about the project.

The project's first Subsistence Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held on January 11, 2022. Input from the SAC, relying on the tribes' traditional knowledge, will be an integral part of the project's development as permitting and design work continues. The committee was established by the Subsistence Advisory Committee Working Group which included five Alaska Native Elders and two representatives from the two Alaska Native landowner regions along the approved route. Committee members and a few invited guests attended the first meeting. Future SAC meetings will be open for members of the public to observe.

An additional working group focused on workforce development is being formed based on feedback received from the Subsistence Advisory Committee Working Group. Because the AAP is expected to create thousands of new jobs resulting in over \$5 billion in wages paid during the lifetime of the project, it is essential that those in rural Alaskan communities have the education and training needed to access these new career opportunities. Once established, the new working group will help the project's leadership identify career pathways and needs for training and development resources.



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Project representatives held a job fair in Hughes on January 24, 2022, and will hold job fairs in Allakaket and Alatna on January 28, 2022. Among the many opportunities currently available, community members are being hired as Tribal Liaisons who accompany field teams during surveys of cultural, sacred, and historic sites. These Tribal Liaisons provide their expertise and convey community concerns directly to the project team.

As the project completes its final Feasibility and Permitting Phase and design work is initiated, members of the public can expect more public meetings and opportunities to learn and be heard.

Visit ambleraccess.org for more information about the project.