

AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS PROJECT



Top: The Workforce Development Working Group met at AIDEA's Anchorage office on December 9, 2021, to discuss jobs and training for AAP. Lower Photos (L-R): Community meeting in Shungnak; Cultural Liaison with project team out of Bornite; Residents explore opportunities at the Allakaket Job Fair.

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to learn more about the project or share your feedback with the project team.



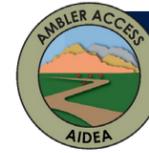
Visit the Community Engagement page to see a schedule of upcoming public meetings.

ambleraccess.org



Contact Charlene Ostbloom, AAP Communications Manager, with thoughts or questions.

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AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS PROJECT

Unlocking Opportunity for Alaska's Underserved Communities

Securing Alaska's future | Preserving the Alaskan way of life

RURAL ALASKANS' PATH TO OPPORTUNITY

The Ambler Access Project (AAP) represents a collaborative effort to create progress for tribes and communities across north-central and northwestern Alaska.

The project will generate new, well-paying jobs for rural Alaskan families, helping to preserve a way of life that is increasingly threatened by rising costs of living and high unemployment. Jobs created by the AAP will give rural Alaskans greater access to the tools they need to subsist off the land and will also create economic incentives that will help reduce outmigration. Jobs contribute more than just economic benefits, often improving the workers' self esteem and mental well being.

The project will also result in direct payments and increased revenues for tribes and local governments, resulting in increased investment in telecommunication, education, and healthcare infrastructure in historically under-served communities.



"...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."

-Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Resolution in Support of the AAP

WHAT IS THE AMBLER ACCESS PROJECT?

The Ambler Access Project (AAP) is a proposed 211-mile, controlled industrial access road that would provide access to the Ambler Mining District in northwestern Alaska. The area currently lacks the transportation infrastructure necessary for the development, construction, and operations of potential mines in the district. The Ambler Mining District is a large prospective copper-zinc mineral with extensive deposits of critical minerals and other elements making this a secure, reliable US supply-chain resource essential for our nation's tech-focused economy, green energy products, and military effectiveness.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) into law. Commonly referred to as "The Great Compromise," ANILCA sought to balance the state's natural resource-based economy with environmental protection and preserve Alaskans' unique ways of life. ANILCA established 10 new federal parks, preserves, and monuments throughout Alaska while guaranteeing certain rights of access for subsistence, hunting, fishing, recreation, and other economic and social purposes. Access to and from the Ambler Mining District for resource development is guaranteed in Section 201(4) of ANILCA.

LOOK INSIDE

to learn more about the AAP, including:



How collaboration with Tribes and communities is shaping the AAP



How the AAP will improve lives and create opportunities in rural communities



How planners are protecting subsistence resources across the project area

COLLABORATING FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Nellie Griest of Shungnak and Henry Horner of Kobuk serve on the SAC.

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) and the federal agencies involved in the AAP have engaged in extensive efforts to connect with communities in the vicinity of the project. To date, there have been over 100 public meetings with more than 60 in-person meetings in rural Alaska as a part of the AAP.

The public has been highly engaged throughout the life of the project. In response to the draft EIS alone, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received over 29,000 written comments.

To further build relationships with important stakeholders, AIDEA has created a Subsistence Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is comprised of residents of Alatna, Allakaket, Ambler, Hughes, Huslia, Kiana, Kobuk, Noorvik, and Shungnak. Each member practices subsistence and is knowledgeable about the land, animals and culture around their respective communities. 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. The first SAC meeting was held on January 11, 2022.

"...the local communities and organizations closest to the Ambler Road project almost uniformly support the project. They have made clear how critical this project is to the social and economic health and well-being of their communities, participated in development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Joint Record of Decision, and worked hard to advise the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on how to move forward in the most responsible way possible."

-Alan Weitzner, Executive Director, AIDEA

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALASKANS



Residents of Hughes, Alaska attend Job Fair to explore upcoming opportunities in the 2022 AAP Field Season. January 25, 2022

According to a report by the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, the road will create thousands of new jobs resulting in over \$5 billion in wages paid during the lifetime of the project. Additionally, the project will result in an estimated \$193 million in direct payments to local governments. Developing the mines within the Ambler Mining District is expected to provide employment opportunities for more than 3,000 total jobs during construction and an estimated 1,800 total jobs supporting Alaskan families during operation of the road and associated mines.



Hughes has been in support of Ambler Road since we started meeting in 2010. Our Elder at that time wanted jobs for our Tribal members so people will not move to the cities, to try to stop outmigration. We've been struggling to keep our school open for years. The student count needs to be ten kids. If we go under ten kids, our school will close. Parents with children will move. We need year-round jobs for our Tribal members. I know the Ambler Road and Ambler Mining District will provide that for years to come.

Thank you

~ Wilmer Beetus, 1st Chief of the Village of Hughes, Population 90

IMPACTFUL CONSULTATION

Input from stakeholders and community members has shaped the project so far and will continue to do so as a design is developed. Here are some examples of how relationships with the community are guiding project decisions:



Bridges and Culverts: Planners heard community concerns about passage of spawning fish. To create optimum conditions for uninterrupted fish passage, the number of planned bridges was increased from 19 to 48. Additionally, several planned small culverts were replaced with larger ones to make fish passage easier.



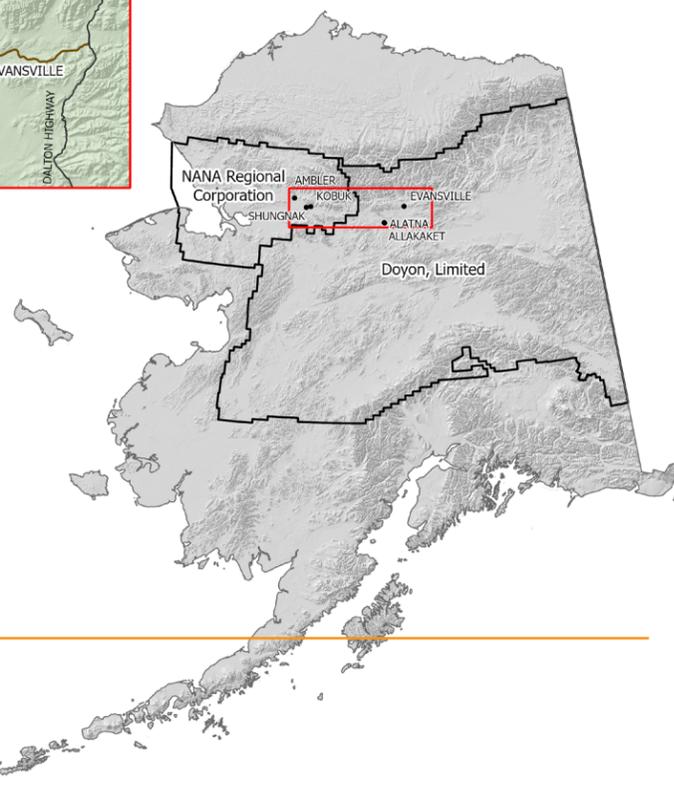
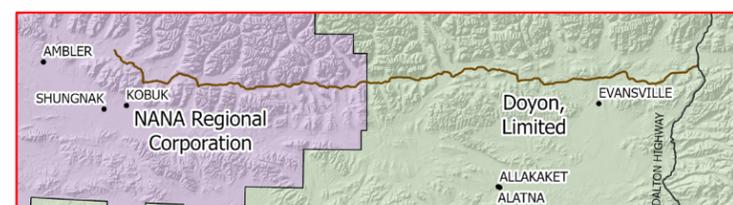
Wildlife Crossings: Animal access ramps will be a key part of the road design. They'll be sited with input from the SAC, relying on the tribes' traditional knowledge to best place the crossings. Such crossings on other Alaska roadways have proven effective for continued caribou migration.



Cultural Surveys: 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. At the end of the 2021 field season, work had been completed at 39 of 59 cultural resources study areas.



Workforce Development: A new working group to address workforce development was formed based on feedback received from the Subsistence Advisory Committee. Because the AAP is expected to create thousands of new jobs, it is essential that those in rural Alaskan communities have the education and training needed to access these new career opportunities. The new working group will help the project's leadership identify career pathways and needs for training and development resources.



PROJECT AREA MAP