WHY IS AIDEA INVOLVED?

AIDEA's mission is to increase job opportunities for Alaskans and to encourage economic growth. AIDEA does this by working with private industry to develop infrastructure needed to support economic development and expansion of the industrial businesses. AIDEA has experience with industrial road projects and partnered with industry on the Red Dog Mine Road.



How Would this Project Benefit the **REGION?**

The proposed road project would provide construction, maintenance and operations jobs for local residents over the life of the road. Depending on the final road design and construction cost, the project could result in up to 300 jobs per year over the 2-4 year construction period. After road construction, there would be longterm jobs provided in road maintenance and operations, including providing security services on the road.

The proposed road is also expected to increase the level of mineral exploration and development in the Ambler Mining District. Mining companies have been spending tens of millions of dollars on exploration in the region over recent years employing 100-200 people on various projects, including up to 50% local residents. If a mine were to be developed and start operating, employment would likely be in the 400-500 range. Local hire would likely stay in the range of 50% of employees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maryellen Tuttell AIDEA Project Manager 907-771-3907 / ambleraccess@dowlhkm.com

AMBLER MINING DISTRICT INDUSTRIAL ACCESS ROAD







AIDEA is evaluating the potential to construct an industrial access road to the Ambler Mining District in northwest Alaska. AIDEA is the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, a state corporation that promotes economic development in Alaska.

The Ambler Mining District is an area with rich mineral resources, including copper, zinc, lead and gold. The area has been identified as a high-value resource area for many decades and exploration has occurred in several areas. There are several known large prospects, including Arctic, Bornite, Sun, and Smucker. In recent years there has been exploration activity at Arctic, Bornite and Sun. A major issue limiting further exploration and development of these mining prospects is surface transportation to the area to help in continued exploration and development, mine construction, and transport of mineral products during mine operations.

> The Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road would support further exploration, development, construction, and operation at several mining prospects in the Ambler Mining District.

AMBLER **MINING DISTRICT**

INDUSTRIAL ACCESS ROAD

The State initiated studies of a possible road to the Ambler Mining District in 2009. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) conducted reconnaissance investigations looking at a number of possible road and railroad routes heading both east and west from the mining district. The preliminary studies evaluated the routes based on environmental and engineering criteria, including availability of suitable material sites for construction materials, presence of endangered species, fish and wildlife habitats, river crossings, federal conservation land restrictions, and other issues. The reconnaissance studies identified a potential corridor from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District crossing through the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve.

In 2013, the project was transferred to AIDEA, the developer of the Delong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) used by the Red Dog Mine. AIDEA has experience working with the private sector to finance infrastructure improvements that support economic development.

Access Road

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

- AIDEA is proposing to complete an Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate a potential road from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District in northwest Alaska.
- The road would likely start as a one-lane road with one-way traffic and could be improved to a two-lane road.
- This type of road often has security to control access and is designed for commercial and industrial traffic.
- The road would provide access to the Ambler Mining District, which includes State-owned lands with high mineral resource values.
- AIDEA would work with the private sector to finance, design, construct and operate the access road. The costs for road development and maintenance would be paid by tolls from road users.
- The road is not proposed to directly connect to any communities, and it does not enter any city limits. Communities could decide to build roads to reach this access road, and could contract with commercial businesses to deliver fuel and/ or heavy materials on it.





WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR APPROVAL?

Ambler Mining

Access Road

AIDEA has been tasked with evaluating this project and will submit a permit application to the federal agencies to begin the National Environmental Policy Act and the ANILCA Title XI review process. At the end of this process, the federal agencies issue a decision as to whether they will issue permits for the project.

Once the federal agencies have issued a decision, AIDEA will still need to evaluate whether the project is still financially feasible and a good investment for the state. AIDEA's board must determine whether to move forward with the project. Before financing and developing an access road, AIDEA will need a resolution of support from the Regional Resource Advisory Council for the eastern portion of the proposed route and from the Northwest Arctic Borough.

If AIDEA's board decides to move forward with the project, AIDEA will seek private sector investors that are interested in constructing and operating the road and collecting tolls from road users. AIDEA will develop a contractual relationship with the private investors to create a Public-Private Partnership (P3). The P3 contract will spell out the process for constructing, operating, maintaining and eventually decommissioning and reclaiming the road - and what each P3 partner's responsibilities are.

STEPS IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Reconnaissance Studies
- AIDEA Board Approves Proceeding to Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Financing Analysis
- AIDEA Board Decision to Proceed
- Final Design/Permitting
- Construction
- Operation
- Reclamation

