



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

CENTRAL REGION
Director's Office

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Cooper Landing Trails Committee
Attn David Story, Chair
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The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) strongly supports the **Cooper Landing Town Road Pathway** Project. DOT&PF currently maintains and operates the Sterling Highway and is constructing a new alignment that will bypass the community to fulfill the highway's functional classification as an interstate facility. Upon completion of the new alignment, the existing highway alignment will be reclassified and become the Cooper Landing Town Road. This roadway will remain the primary access to surrounding federal lands, which include abundant recreational opportunities, cultural and historical sites, subsistence areas, and natural resources. It will also continue to serve as the main connection to the community's amenities, including federal campgrounds and trailheads, local businesses, restaurants, museums, cultural areas, community sites, and residences.

The current Sterling Highway alignment lacks adequate shoulders and non-motorized facilities, with only a discontinuous "desire path" formed primarily by historical foot traffic. In many locations, pedestrians and cyclists must climb over guardrails and share vehicle lanes to continue along the corridor. A dedicated pathway will provide a safe and reliable non-motorized transportation alternative, enhancing access to federal lands and improving accessibility and equity for residents and visitors. This investment will also support public health, environmental stewardship, and community livability, while positioning Cooper Landing to advance long-range transportation goals.

DOT&PF is prepared to take a lead role or collaborate with State and Federal partners to ensure the success of this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Holland".

Sean Holland
Central Region Director

"Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure."