



Legislative Update From Representative Bryce Edgmon



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A Sampling of Infrastructure Projects Ramping Up and On-Going in District 37

Now that the governor has signed the legislature's FY11 Capital Budget, many of our communities can move forward on projects included in that funding. All of this work will in some way contribute to our mainstay fishing and fish-processing industries. Some of this development is long overdue, and a number of towns are looking forward to reaching milestones on projects that have been the focus of many years of effort. Here is a little about just a few around the district, along with updates on road and bridge work on-going in the Dillingham/Aleknagik area.

Chignik Bay Small Boat Harbor

Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, and Perryville have been among the most productive fishing communities on the Alaska Peninsula for generations, yet they've never had a harbor for their small-boat fleet. Funding secured this session will now allow them to make significant progress on a fifteen-slip harbor that was begun in 2007. Located in Chignik Bay, the facility will benefit fishers year-round—increasing safety and convenience for summer salmon seiners as well as longliners and pot fishers. With breakwaters and dredging completed, this year's funding will allow the community to move forward with construction of floats and driving pilings.



Rep. Edgmon joined other lawmakers in Anchorage on June 16th for the governor's signing of the state energy policy and energy omnibus bills that passed during this year's session. At left, fellow Energy Committee Co-Chair Charisse Millett (R-Anch.), and, center, Governor Parnell.

Unalaska Powerhouse Expansion

As the number-one fishing port by volume in the U.S., Unalaska has faced increasing power needs year after year for its bustling fishing, processing, and shipping industries. Believe it or not, the new powerhouse initiated in 2001 replaces one that has been in operation since World War II. This year's funding will cover installa-

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tion of the third of up to five generator engines that the new structure can accommodate. The addition of the C280 CAT engine will add another 4.4 megawatts of generating power to the more than 10 megawatts produced by a pair of Wartsila diesels. Expected to go online this fall, the new powerhouse will allow Unalaska to continue facilitating the astonishing growth of industries in the city.

Port of Bristol Bay

Located in Naknek, the Port of Bristol Bay is second only to Dutch Harbor in the volume of western Alaskan seafood that passes across its docks on the way to market. From 2001 to 2009 the number of seafood container vans shipped from the port increased from around 5500 a year to more than 11,000. The state's contribution of \$5 million to the millions already committed by the Bristol Bay Borough, BBEDC, and the Denali Commission, among others, will help to substantially streamline and increase shipping across the dock. Improvements include doubling its length along with sufficient dredging to allow 400-foot barges in to load up on Bristol Bay sockeye. New sheet-pile facing backed by earthen fill will make it possible to safely move containers that pack up to 50,000 pounds each. Using these larger containers will add significant efficiency to dockside transfer operations. These and other improvements to expand, strengthen, and reorganize this regional shipping hub will insure its vital economic value long into the future.

King Cove City Streets/North Harbor Rehab

This summer King Cove anticipates completing the paving of the city's network of about four miles of streets. Plans also include upgrading the Ram Creek crossing—replacing a set of aging culverts with a bridge. The final phase of a multi-year effort, the project will seal almost 75 percent of King Cove's roads under asphalt, greatly reducing dust and maintenance. The work also improves the road system's pedestrian safety, erosion control, and drainage.

Also this summer, King Cove will completely refurbish its North Harbor. New pilings, floats, gangways, electrical systems, and water systems will arrive in town in July. After removing the worn out structures, MKB Constructors will install the new infrastructure August through October. Among other funding sources for this undertaking, the state's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Fund was a significant contributor, as was the City of King Cove, which raised nearly \$2 million in cash, grants, and long-term debt.

Dillingham Wood River Road

Wood River Road residents have been waiting years for improvements to this major thoroughfare in Dillingham. Plans are to reconstruct the road from Kakanak Road to Yako Road. The work includes paving the approximately 3-mile stretch, making two 10-foot lanes with 2-foot shoulders. They will also add a separate 10-foot-wide bike and pedestrian pathway along the length of the road. Construction has begun this summer with clearing and utility relocation ongoing to prepare for the remaining work, scheduled for the summer of 2011. Putting to use federal stimulus funds to accelerate work such as this, DOT expects the Wood River Road upgrades to be completed by the end of the 2011 construction season.

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Aleknagik Wood River Bridge

Aleknagik residents have been seeking a Wood River Bridge for decades, and I am glad to see work finally underway on this project. The City of Aleknagik occupies both the north and south shores of Lake Aleknagik, and locals have been forced to cross the lake—sometimes in harsh conditions—to reach schools and to do other business all these years. This project will construct a road from the Dillingham-Aleknagik Road to Peter Krause Sr. Drive in Aleknagik. The roadway will be paved, with two 10-foot lanes and 5-foot shoulders. The two-lane bridge will be 440-foot long, with 3 spans providing a clearance of 40 feet above the river. The project includes approximately 2.5 miles of approach roadway on both the north and south shores of Aleknagik. Its design is about 70 percent complete and a re-evaluation of the environmental document is expected to be finished this summer. Recently, funds have been committed to jump start buying Right of Way (ROW) at the bridge site. DOT will begin buying remaining ROW's when the new environmental document is finalized. Acquisition of those ROW's is expected to take up to three years, and construction will be advertised about six months after that process. DOT estimates construction to commence in 2013. However, it could start earlier if the ROW process goes faster than anticipated.

Who's that knocking at my door?

U.S. Census workers have been in many communities around District 37 to make certain we're all counted in this latest update of Alaskan population statistics. The accuracy of these numbers plays a very important role in ensuring we get our fair share of federal funding for education, community health care, public transportation, housing, and other needs.

Census takers have been following up with a few simple questions about your home and who lives there. The confidentiality of this information is protected under federal law, and the workers themselves take an oath to protect your privacy.

All census takers carry official government badges marked with their name. You can also ask them for an additional form of I.D. to confirm their identity. Your census taker should give you a "notice of visit" card when he or she comes by. That card includes a number to call if you still feel the need to confirm that they are employed by the Census Bureau.

Most of the census follow-up should be finished by the middle of July, and all field work will be complete by mid-September. The new population stats will be organized and released to the Alaska state government by April 30th next year.

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