

Initial Study Report Meeting

Study 15.7 Transportation Resources

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Study 15.7 Objectives

- Assess current transportation conditions in the study area and evaluate potential Project demands relative to current capacity limits and safety requirements for road, railroad, aviation, port, and river traffic.
- Assess the short-term (construction) and long-term (operational) direct and indirect impacts of the Project, as well as of the cumulative impacts of the Project. The transportation effects of the Project (With-Project) will be compared to a Without-Project scenario.

Study 15.7 Components

- Collect and Review Data (ISR Part A, Section 4.1; pg 2)
- Inventory Assets and Conduct Any Field Studies (ISR Part A, Section 4.2; pg 2)
- Document Existing Conditions (ISR Part A, Section 4.3; pg 3)
- Forecast Future Conditions (ISR Part A, Section 4.4; pg 4)

Study 15.7 Variances

- The ports of Seward and Whittier were added to the study area, as were the associated rail lines.
- Bridge data integration was limited to bridges whose current structural or functional condition is determined to have a potential adverse impact on Project-related travel.
- River travel data was not captured through agency and individual interviews in 2013, but will be completed during the next season.
- Forecasts were documented for existing transportation facilities but not for proposed Project facilities. Forecasts for existing highway facilities were documented from existing traffic demand models or developed using historic growth rates. Aviation forecasts were documented using published aviation data.
- Potential effects on transportation systems and river use from the Project will be evaluated in the next study season.

Study 15.7 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 15.7, Part A – Section 5)

- Roads – 14 assets inventoried
 - Ownership, length, use levels, level of service, functional classification, costs, safety
- Aviation – 11 assets inventoried
 - Ownership, use, facilities, design aircraft, cost, safety, distance from project
- Railroad – 9 assets inventoried
 - Facilities, passenger usage, freight usage
- Ports – 4 assets inventoried
 - Ownership, use types and levels, facilities, operating parameters (depth, ice), costs
- Easements – 32 assets inventoried
 - Includes RS 2477 and 17(b) easements
 - Length, location, allowable uses, access points

Study 15.7 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 15.7, Part A – Section 5)

Existing Conditions

- Roadways
 - Owned by Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), Municipality of Anchorage, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough
 - 160,600 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on approximately 720 centerline miles of roadway
 - Weight/travel restrictions on at least one Denali Highway bridge limits allowable heavy truck traffic
- Aviation
 - Owned by ADOT&PF, Municipality of Anchorage, City of Wasilla, City of Palmer, and City of Nenana
 - Estimated 2,000 Average Daily Operations (ADO) at 11 airports totaling approximately 126,000 feet of runway
- Rail
 - Estimated 23 average arrivals/departures per day via Alaska Railroad Corporation's approximately 485 miles of track
- Port
 - 770 annual vessel calls at 4 ports
- Easements
 - Approximately 450 miles of RS 2477 easements
 - Approximately 70 miles of 17(b) easements

Study 15.7 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 15.7, Part A – Section 5)

Future Conditions

- Roadways
 - Estimated 225,000 AADT by 2030
 - Approximately \$575 million in currently programmed projects
 - 9 projects identified in plans that may affect capacity and/or safety
- Aviation
 - Estimated 962,000 ADO by 2030
 - Approximately \$93 million in currently programmed projects*
 - 43 projects identified in plans that may affect capacity and/or safety
- Rail
 - Estimated 59 average arrivals/departures per day by 2030
 - Approximately \$455 million in currently programmed projects
 - 4 major projects identified in plans that may affect capacity and/or safety
- Port
 - Estimated 825 annual vessel calls by 2030
 - Approximately \$745 million in currently programmed projects**
 - 10 projects identified in plans that may affect capacity and/or safety
- Easements
 - No additional easements will be added
 - No significant projects affecting capacity and/or safety were identified

* Project estimates not provided for several TSAIA projects

** Port MacKenzie Rail Extension included in both rail and port

AEA Proposed Modifications to Study 15.7 in ISR (ISR Study 15.7, Part C – Section 7.1.2)

- Ports of Seward and Whittier added to study area along with associated rail lines.
- Bridge data integration limited to bridges with current structural or functional conditions determined to have potential impact on Project-related travel.
- Existing highway and aviation data will be used to forecast future conditions; aviation forecasts will be document using published aviation data; river use will be qualitatively evaluated through interviews with knowledgeable persons.
- Project effects on all transportation modes will be qualitatively evaluated (based on info available, professional judgment, interviews with knowledgeable individuals) instead of quantitatively.

Current Status and Steps to Complete Study 15.7

- Data has been collected, documented, and analyzed for roadway, aviation, rail, port, and surface easement modes of transportation. Current conditions and anticipated future baseline conditions without the Project have also been documented for these modes.
- Additional data is needed to qualitatively describe current and future characteristics and levels of river travel in the study area. Additional data is also needed to document potential effects of Project-related activity on roadway, aviation, rail, port, surface easement, and river modes of transportation in the study area.
- To complete Study 15.7, interviews regarding river travel will be conducted with knowledgeable persons and used to document current and future baseline river travel within the study area. Data from the Engineering Report will be used to determine Project-related effects on all modes of transportation within the study area, including both construction and operation of the Project.

Licensing Participants Proposed Modifications to Study 15.7?

- Agencies
- CIRWG members and Ahtna
- Public