

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

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Governor Walker Directs Progress on Shelter Cove Road Project

I am very pleased to announce that the Alaska Department of Transportation, at the direction of Governor Walker, has put the Shelter Cove Road project out to bid today March 15, 2016.

This new roughly seven mile road will link the existing road system in Ketchikan to the United States Forest Service road system around George and Carroll Inlets. The project will begin near Harriet Hunt Lake, go around the northern tip of George Inlet and link to the existing road system that terminates at Shelter Cove in Carroll Inlet.

Ketchikan residents as well as visitors will be able to pursue economic, recreational, and subsistence opportunities on state, federal, and private lands. The access created by the road will also benefit potential timber sales and the jobs that come with the sales. Given our huge deficits and downturn in the oil and gas industry, the State needs to focus on other ways to create jobs and economic development so Alaskan families can survive.

Funding for constructing the project comes from two General Obligation Bond propositions that received statewide voter approval in the general elections of [2008](#) and [2012](#), during my time as chairman. The inclusion of \$10 million for the project in the 2008 bond package was led by former Representative Kyle Johansen. In 2012, as the co-chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I included \$19 million for the project in that year's bond package. This funding provided the amount necessary to construct the project.

Another recent development helping push this project along is the passage by Congress of the [Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act](#), which clarified the state's right to nineteen easements across federal land in the Tongass. Including an easement for the last mile of the Shelter Cove Road. I worked directly with our congressional delegation to include that provision.

I appreciate the efforts by the supporters of this project, Governor Walker's direction to get the project moving, and the work of the Alaska Department of Transportation. It's always good news when a project moves ahead. I look forward to making the drive out to Carroll Inlet.

To view maps of the project, click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Chief of Staff Randy Ruaro at (907) 465-3873.

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