

# *Alaska Municipal League*

*Infrastructure Development Symposium*

*Department of Transportation & Public Facilities*

*Alaska Trails and Local Access Systems*

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*April 9, 2026*



KEEP ALASKA MOVING

# *What you will learn*

- What Alaska Trails and Local Access Systems (ATLAS) can fund in your community
- How your organization can apply
- What makes a strong project
- Where to get help

## **ALASKA TRAILS AND LOCAL ACCESS SYSTEMS**

**A VITAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK FOR ALASKANS**

# ATLAS: Expanding Transportation Beyond Roads

- A statewide transportation system built on trails and seasonal routes
- Serves communities not connected to the road system
- Supports access to healthcare, subsistence, and economic activity
- Delivered in partnership with local governments and tribes

## Core Programs:

- Multi-Use Trails
- Ice Roads & Seasonal Routes
- Winter Trail Marking
- Snow Trails



*Multi-use trails for recreation and access.*

# Why ATLAS Matters

- Improves access to healthcare, schools and services
- Reduces travel costs for residents
- Supports subsistence and local economies
- Improves safety and emergency response



# Where ATLAS projects are happening today



# ATLAS Program Overview

## MULTI-USE TRAILS



Year-round Trail Infrastructure and improvements

## ICE ROADS + SEASONAL ROUTES



Ice Road construction connecting communities

## WINTER TRAILS



Safety infrastructure for navigation and emergency response

## SNOW TRAILS



Groomed winter trails maintained by local partners

# Multi-Use Trails: Recreational Trails Program (RTP)



- Federal reimbursement grant program
- Local, State, Tribal Organizations, and Non-Profits are eligible applicants
- Funds construction, maintenance, and safety improvements
- Supports both motorized and non-motorized uses
- Recently transferred to DOT&PF (Administrative Order 361)
- High demand statewide; competitive funding process

# Ice Roads & Seasonal Routes

- Seasonal ice roads connecting remote communities
- Eligible applicants are tribes, local governments, non-profits
- Funding covers labor, equipment, and trail markers
- ~750 miles of ice roads anticipated (2025/2026)
- Provides lower-cost alternative to air travel



*Kuskokwim Ice Road sponsored by Napaimute. March 2025*

# Winter Trail Markings



Trail marker near Ekwok, March 2024

- Installs high-visibility markers along winter routes
- Improves navigation and traveler safety
- Supports search and rescue operations
- Partnership model: DOT&PF (design/permitting) and local installation
- Eligible applicants include Tribes, regional corporations, local governments, non-profits

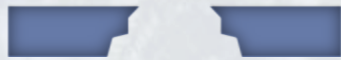
# Snowmachine Trails (Snow Trails)

- Groomed winter trails maintained by local nonprofits
- ~1,650 miles of trails supported annually
- Funded through registration fees and state support
- Multi-use: snowmachines, skiers, dog teams, recreation
- Demand currently exceeds available funding



*Grooming operations March 2025*

# Common Challenges and How We Can Help



## Funding Gaps

Demand exceeds available funding across all ATLAS programs



## Federal Match Requirements

Match requirements can limit participation for rural communities



## Equipment & Capacity

Limited equipment and workforce for ice road construction



## Program Growth & Staffing

Expansion requires additional capacity to support delivery and oversight

# How to Apply



- Keep an eye on our website
- Application opportunities are announced through the online public notice process
- Gather required materials
  - Supply proof of public notice (Multi-Use Trails)
  - Prep a project description
  - Prepare a detailed budget
  - Identify match resources

# What Success Looks Like

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- Community driven projects
- Connected communities across Alaska
- Strong partnerships
- Reliable access to essential services
- Improved safety for travelers and responders
- Cost-effective expansion of the transportation system

# Thank You.

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