

Captains Bay Road Improvement Corridor

UNALASKA, ALASKA

CAPTAINS BAY ROAD

Captains Bay Road (CBR) is a 3.6-mile long corridor and a key intermodal connection to the International Port of Dutch Harbor, the nation’s busiest commercial fishing port. More than 1 billion pounds of processed seafood leave the port for domestic and international markets, of which 500 million pounds are transported annually on CBR. Captains Bay Road is a gravel road built by the military during WWII, and not designed for today’s truck traffic estimated at 1,000 vehicle trips per day. CBR runs between the waters of Captains Bay and steep rock bluffs. The road has sharp, blind turns and periodic rock falls add significant safety and maintenance issues. In March 2023 several large boulders, weighing 36 tons, fell into the roadway. CBR is frequently in poor condition from heavy truck traffic and the significant precipitation events common in the Aleutian Islands.

NEW INVESTMENT

Trident Seafoods is investing \$400 million to build a new seafood processing plant at the end of CBR. It will open in 2025 and requires extension of water, sewer and electric utilities, most of which terminate 2.6 miles from the new plant. The new plant will add about 200 vehicle trips per day to the already heavily used road.

THE PROJECT

The CBR Project has three phases: (1) Utilities, (2) Safety Improvements and (3) Paving. Phase 1 design work has already commenced for water, sewer and electric extensions. Phase 2 Safety Improvements will scale back adjacent rock faces and straighten the roadway. Phase 3 paves the 3.6-mile road.



Figure 1: Three boulders totaling 36 tons fell on CBR in March 2023

COSTS

The total project cost is estimated to be \$68.5 million, and Phase 1 is \$27 million. The Denali Commission awarded the City of Unalaska \$390,000 to assist with Phase 1. Unalaska requested funding from the Alaska State Legislature and Senator Murkowski via Congressionally Directed Funding. The City is looking for additional funding sources to complete Phase 1, and applied for STIP (CTP) and USDOT’s RAISE grant programs to help fund Phase 3. The City is collaborating with Trident Seafoods for project financial assistance. Table 1 illustrates project costs by phase, infrastructure type and year.

Table 1: Project Costs by Phase, Infrastructure Type and Fiscal Year

Phase	Water	Sewer	Electric	Safety Improvements	Paving	TOTAL	Year
(millions of dollars)							
1	\$8.3	\$10.2	\$8.5			\$27.0	2023
2				\$4.5		\$4.5	2024
3					\$37.0	\$37.0	2025
TOTAL	\$8.3	\$10.2	\$8.5	\$4.5	\$37.0	\$68.5	



CAPTAINS BAY ROAD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

