



PROJECT FACT SHEET // NOVEMBER 2021

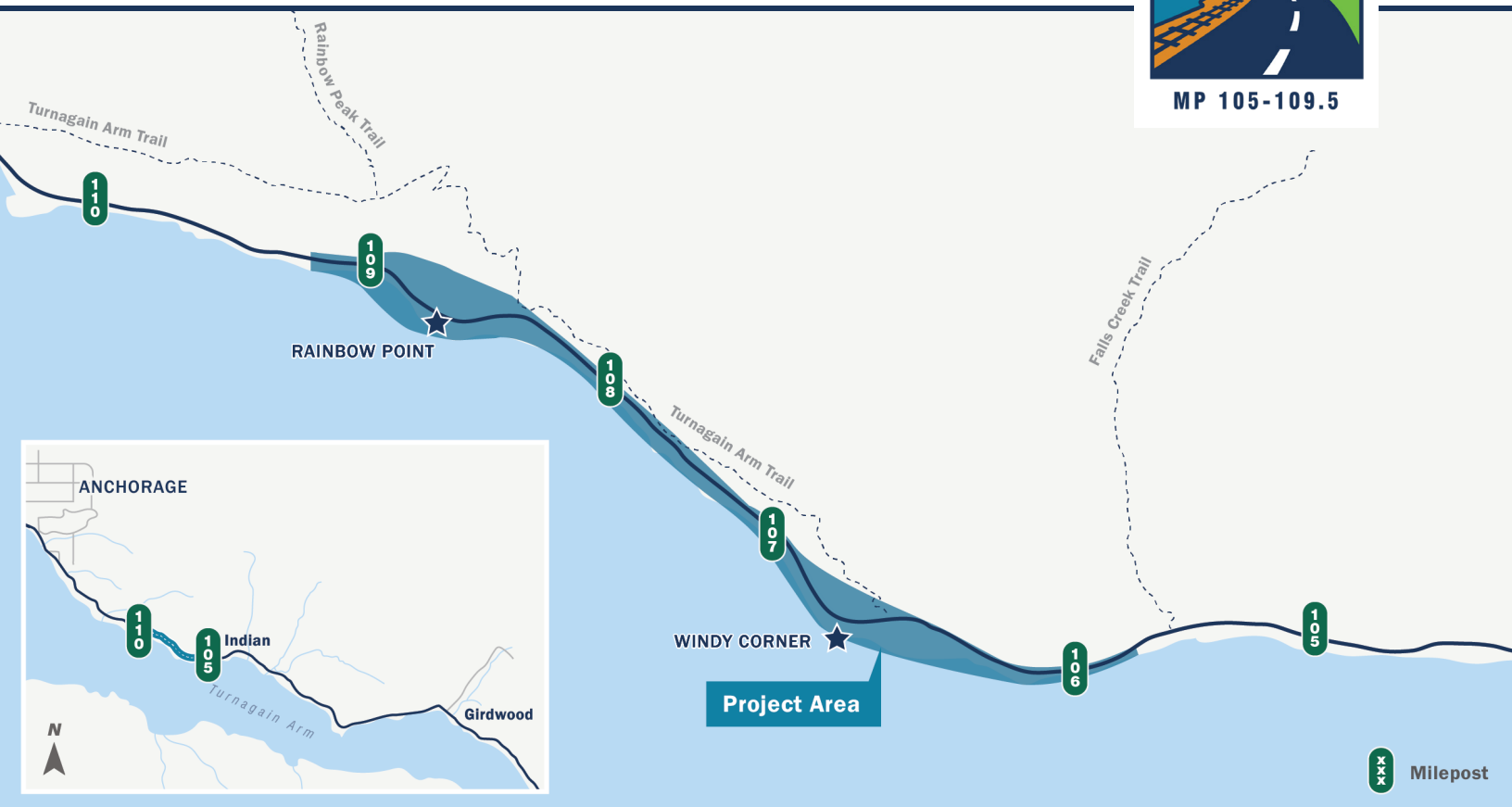
State Project No. Z566310000

Federal Project No. OA31034

SEWARD HIGHWAY WINDY-RAINBOW



MP 105-109.5



PROJECT OVERVIEW

DOT&PF is proposing to construct safety improvements along the Seward Highway between Windy Corner, at MP 105, and Rainbow, at MP 109.5. The Seward Highway within the project corridor traverses Chugach State Park (CSP) and is a National Scenic Byway and All-American Road known for impressive scenic views, wildlife, and recreation access. This stretch of road is a designated Safety Corridor. The proposed project is intended to decrease high-severity crashes and improve traffic operations to alleviate traffic congestion while improving adjacent recreational facilities and CSP access.

- Project development is in accordance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines; the project is funded with both state and federal dollars.
- In response to public comments, in spring 2021 DOT&PF expanded the project and restarted public and agency scoping needed to draft a new environmental document.

WHAT'S NEW - FALL 2021

- Survey and data collection in the Rainbow area continue to inform design.
- Concepts on highway alignment and cross section are under development and are being refined based on estimated impacts and public comments.
- Project corridor extends from Windy Corner to Rainbow Point, addressing two locations in the designated Highway Safety Corridor.
- A separated multi-use pathway connecting the Windy Corner and Rainbow trailheads is under consideration.
- Impacts of the different concepts are being quantified to objectively compare them.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT BENEFITS:

In addition to improving safety and traffic operations, the project proposes to:

- Provide emergency access to Turnagain Arm, allowing direct access for first responders.
- Provide wildlife viewing areas away from high speed traffic and with separation from wildlife.
- Improve trail access to the Turnagain Arm Trail.
- Include auxiliary lanes for slow and turning traffic.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

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PROJECT SCHEDULE

Ongoing Public & Agency Involvement



MARCH 2020 // Agency Scoping

NEPA-compliant agency scoping completed for Draft EA



2021 // Project Extension

Project extended 2.5 miles between Windy Corner and Rainbow Point to address public feedback



SPRING-SUMMER 2020 // Public Comment & Hearing

Formal public comment period on the Draft EA was March-August 2020; Open Forum Public Hearing Held in July 2020



SPRING 2021 // Public/Agency Scoping

Public/agency scoping commenced for the environmental document covering the expanded project renamed as Seward Highway MP 105 to 109.5, Windy Corner to Rainbow Point



FALL 2021 // Preliminary Design Initiated

Following the completion of public and agency scoping, and the the Scoping Summary Report, the preliminary design is being refined to respond to comments and concerns where possible.

WE ARE HERE

2023-2024 // Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition



If needed, coordination with affected property owners would begin when the project design approaches 75% completion



2020 - 2022 // Environmental Document & Preliminary Design

Building off the preliminary design and selection of a preferred alignment for Windy Corner presented in the 2020 Draft EA, the expanded project area between MP 107 and MP 109.5 will be incorporated into new project alternatives for consideration, which will include updated environmental analysis for the expanded corridor



2023 - 2024 // Final Design

After the new Environmental Document is completed, the project design will be finalized and bid documents will be prepared for construction



2024 - 2027 // Construction

Anticipated to be primarily seasonal and occur over 3-4 years, depending upon completion of environmental documents, permitting, and availability of funding

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For the latest updates and additional information about the project, visit:

www.windycorner.info