

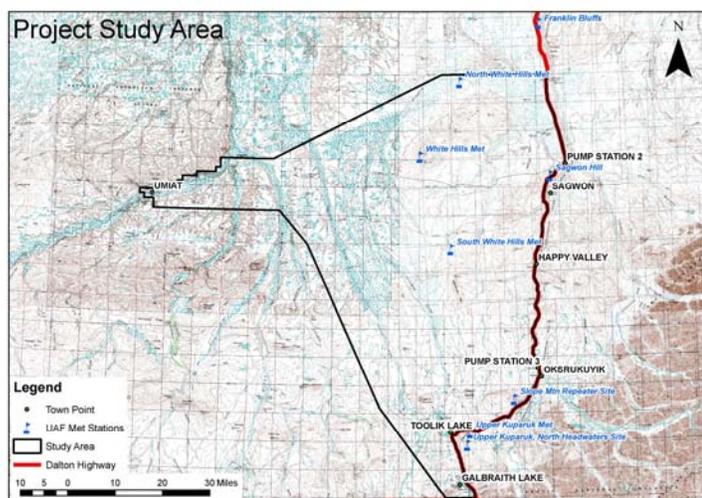
# Foothills West Project Update

## Vol.1 No.1 Spring, 2009



The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to construct an all-season road from the Dalton Highway to Umiat. Labeled the "Foothills West Transportation Access Project", the road will facilitate oil and gas exploration and development in the northern foothills of the Brooks Range and enhance access to the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR) via Umiat.

The proposed project is anticipated to be built in two phases. Phase 1 work would intersect the Dalton Highway and proceed nearly 100 miles to the Gubik oil and gas fields east of the Colville River. Phase 2 construction would extend the road fifteen miles to the Colville River and potentially access the state airport at Umiat by bridge. Benefits of year-round road access to Umiat also include establishment of a regional, multi-modal air/ground transportation network to enhance public safety, commerce and economic opportunity for regional communities and businesses.



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Foothills West Project

DOT&PF is planning a 2009 summer field season of engineering and environmental studies on potential road corridors in the project study area. These studies will collect information in advance of filing necessary environmental permit applications for the project. Engineering field studies will collect imagery of the area, create detailed topographic maps, investigate the hydrology of area rivers, acquire geotechnical data, and evaluate potential road alignments. The environmental field studies will map wetlands, evaluate fish and wildlife resources and habitats in the area, and identify subsistence and cultural resources.

For the duration of the project, DOT&PF will be scheduling and conducting community meetings to present information about the project and to gather local knowledge. Agency staff will be available by request for

meetings with interested public agencies, regional governments and local communities. In addition, periodic newsletters will be published and a website maintained to provide updates and receive feedback and comments.

DOT&PF encourages your interest in the project and thanks you in advance for your input. Questions and comments can be addressed to the Foothills West Project Manager using contact information below, or by visiting our website at: [www.foothillsroad.alaska.gov](http://www.foothillsroad.alaska.gov), where you'll find current news, project updates and a link to communicate electronically with project staff.

### **Contact information:**

Mr. Ryan Anderson, P.E.; Project Manager  
Alaska Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 451-5129





# *Foothills West Transportation Access*

Newsletter #1



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**State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99809**