FACT SHEET

Scope

Constructed in 2003, the existing roundabout interchange replaced two traffic signals with Alaska’s first multilane roundabouts and converted Dowling Road from a substandard 2-lane road to five lanes. The roundabouts were designed to meet projected 2020 traffic volumes. Current traffic volumes at some of the approaches now exceed those projections, resulting in longer wait times. There were also right-of-way, utility, and other constraints that were limiting factors during the original design. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has since implemented safety fixes to solve some problems with the existing interchange and acquired additional right-of-way.

This project will complete the reconstruction of the Seward Highway over Dowling Road, and replace the current Dowling Road/Seward Highway interchange. The goal is to improve safety, serve both motorized and non-motorized travelers, be cost-effective, and be easy to maintain. The reconstructed interchange will accommodate projected traffic through 2040.

Current Status

A Draft Preliminary Engineering Report evaluated multiple interchange types for replacement of the Dowling Road/Seward Highway interchange. A compressed diamond with roundabouts was selected as the preferred alternative to move forward to design. Two public open houses have been held (June 27, 2018 & August 1, 2019). The 75% design review was held 7/02/2019. The 95% review is anticipated to occur in June 2020.

Schedule

Preliminary engineering, environmental, and design efforts will continue through 2020. Currently the STIP shows construction funding in FFY 2023, which will allow construction to start in the spring 2023. The bid package is anticipated to be ready in early spring of 2021 should funding become available. This will be a one construction season project with traffic impacts to Dowling Road.

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