

## PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Project: **BBNA WO30 A2K Study**

Bristol Project No: 32250060

Reference: Initial Public Meeting - Ekwok

Date of Meeting: October 7, 2025; ~4:00pm – ~7:00pm (Alaska Time)

Location of Meeting: MS Team Meeting or Teleconference.

Call in Information: **907-313-2185**; Conference ID: **445 552 150#**

Participants:

- Isaac Pearson, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, Bristol Engineering Services Company (Bristol)
- Brandon Shayan, Civil Engineer, Bristol
- Breena Hickey, Planner, Bristol (*virtual attendance*)
- Dan Breeden, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) (*virtual attendance*)
- See sign-in sheet (Attachment A)

Meeting Notification:

A Flyer about the A2K Study and meeting information was developed and posted on September 15, 2025. See attachments section for the flyer.

Trip Summary:

Isaac and Brandon traveled from Anchorage to Ekwok on Tuesday, October 7. The meeting began at 4:00pm in the Ekwok school gym, see the photos of the meeting area in the attachments. Bristol gave a presentation. The Q&A and group discussion continued until 7:00pm.

Meeting Purpose:

- Present A2K Study to the public. Presentation slides, public meeting #1 handout / community survey, and handout maps were given to the public for the presentation meeting. See attachments section for the presentation slides, public meeting #1 handout / community survey, and handout map.
- Collect public feedback on the A2K Study.

Public Discussions:

1. Project Background / Information
  - a. A detailed discussion was held regarding funding, major stakeholders, project need, project objectives, reinforcement of what exactly the study is and is not, project approach, and connectivity.
2. Public Involvement Overview

- a. An evaluation of opportunities and threats was discussed with the public.
  - i. Community Needs and Priorities
    - 1. Opportunities:
      - a. Lower cost of living
      - b. Easier access to health care
      - c. Education – keep schools open
      - d. Better Teachers
      - e. Provide more employment opportunities
      - f. Safer medical travel during bad weather
      - g. Improve recycling
      - h. Open areas to military presence
    - 2. Threats:
      - a. Everything – bad factors coming into community, but already happens
    - 3. Other:
      - a. Road to anchorage – opportunities for groceries
      - b. Make land available for the children
      - c. Monitor traffic in / out
      - d. Toll station
      - e. Look at fiber optic line to follow that path
      - f. Copper / Nickel deposit would go to Ekwok then go to bay. This was in the 1960s's. Alaska Miners Association was the lead.
  - ii. Cultural and Subsistence Considerations
    - 1. Opportunities:
      - a. More access to berries / hunting – more places to access
      - b. Provide access to cultural camps
      - c. Learn more about nature
      - d. Start new campsites for others
    - 2. Threats:
      - a. Outside development
  - iii. Environmental and Seasonal Factors
    - 1. Opportunities:
      - a. Reduce scarring of lands from winter and summer travel over tundra
    - 2. Threats:
      - a. Could impact wetland rivers
  - iv. Economic and Social Impacts
    - 1. Opportunities
      - a. Outside development
      - b. Open up land for locals
      - c. Housing development
      - d. Local driven timber harvesting
      - e. Gas, electric, and food will be more affordable
      - f. More cars in the community
    - 2. Threats:

- a. Outside Development
- 3. Threats:
  - a. None mentioned
- v. Road Design and Maintenance
  - 1. Opportunities:
    - a. Gravel sales private
  - 2. Threats:
    - a. Must maintain – cost money
    - b. Erosion
    - c. Permafrost
- 3. Community Input on Roadway
  - a. Considerations for the public included geographic feasibility, environmental factors, cultural and historical resources, and community preferences.
- 4. Project Schedule / Next Steps
  - a. A project schedule was given to the public to inform them of the next steps in the study.
- 5. Questions
  - a. Any last-minute questions were answered, and comments were noted.

Attachments:

- 1. Sign in Sheet (2 pages)
- 2. Flyer (1 page)
- 3. Photos: Public Meeting Area (3 pages)
- 4. Presentation Slides (6 pages)
- 5. Public Meeting #1 Handout / Community Survey (2 pages)
- 6. Handout Map (1 page)

## **Attachments**

Gift Card Recipients

Sign-In Sheet

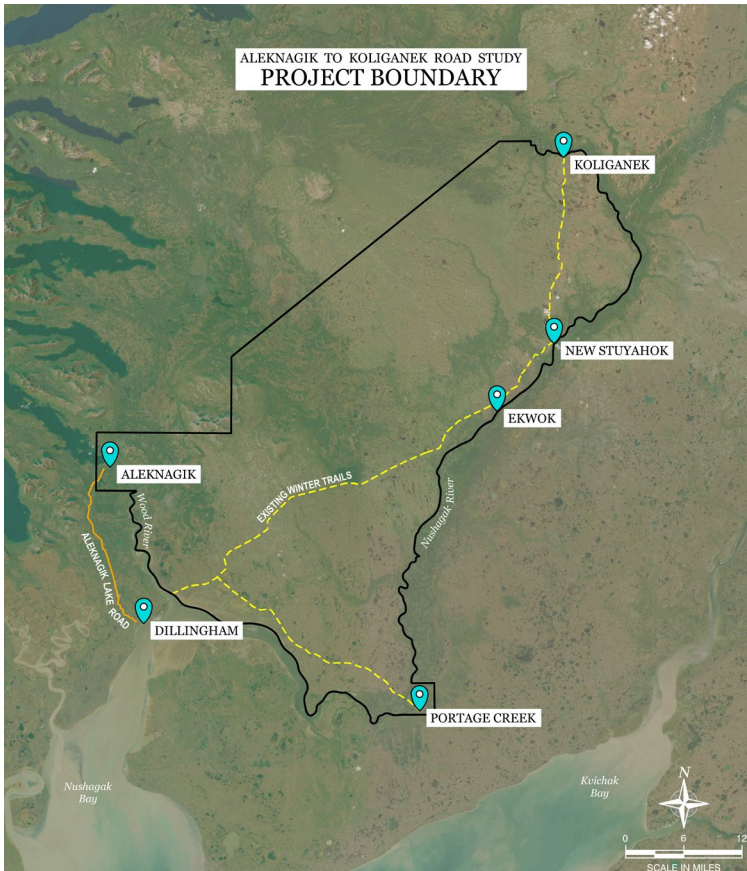
|     | Name                  | Phone (optional) | Email (optional) |
|-----|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Anna Akellak          |                  |                  |
| 2.  | Mery Kawesha          | 907-464-3009     | none             |
| 3.  | Christian Vander      |                  |                  |
| 4.  | Jim Karasti           | (907) 464-3358   |                  |
| 5.  | Jamie Karasti         | (907) 464-6047   |                  |
| 6.  | Nevaeh Valdez         |                  |                  |
| 7.  | Mary Kaleak           | (907) 464-6033   |                  |
| 8.  | Tefren Kaleak         | "                |                  |
| 9.  | William Kaleak        |                  |                  |
| 10. | Marcie Karasti        | 907-855-0607     | -                |
| 11. | Grand King            |                  |                  |
| 12. | Rubal King            |                  |                  |
| 13. | Uma Taylor            | 907-464-6077     |                  |
| 14. | Sandra Stermer        | 907-464-6057     |                  |
| 15. | Joyce Stermer         |                  |                  |
| 16. | Brenda Romie          | 907-444-1853     |                  |
| 17. | Loridee Anduser-Romie |                  |                  |
| 18. | Christian Vander      |                  |                  |
| 19. | Sophie Kaleak         | 907 464 - 6043   |                  |
| 20. | Lorraine King         | 907 464 - 3200   |                  |

### Sign-In Sheet

|     | Name              | Phone (optional) | Email (optional) |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 21. | Lolki Akerkoll Sr | 907-464-6009     |                  |
| 22. | Pauline Akerkoll  | 907-464-6022     |                  |
| 23. | Quinn King        | 907-464-6074     |                  |
| 24. | Alice Karasti     | 907-464-6222     |                  |
| 25. | EMMA Valdez       | 907-464-6079     |                  |
| 26. | Julia Baehr       |                  |                  |
| 27. | Jimmy Baehr       |                  |                  |
| 28. | Jackson Baehr     | 907-464-6126     |                  |
| 29. | James Baehr       |                  |                  |
| 30. |                   |                  |                  |
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# BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

## COMMUNITY MEETING



**Tuesday,  
October 7, 2025  
4 PM**

- Ekwok School Gym
- Voice your opinions about the project
- Refreshments provided
- Door prizes

For more information:

Isaac Pearson  
(907) 743-9313

[ipearson@bristol-companies.com](mailto:ipearson@bristol-companies.com)

We are excited to announce the launch of the BBNA Aleknagik–Koliganek Road Feasibility Study, an early-stage project to evaluate the potential for developing a road connection between the communities of Aleknagik, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and Portage Creek.

Come learn more about this project at the first round of community meetings. The project planners will be available for any questions and to receive feedback from the public. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided for those that attend. Invite your friends and family so the whole community is involved!

Posted: 9/15/2025

**Check out the website for more  
information: [A2KRoadStudy.com](https://A2KRoadStudy.com)**





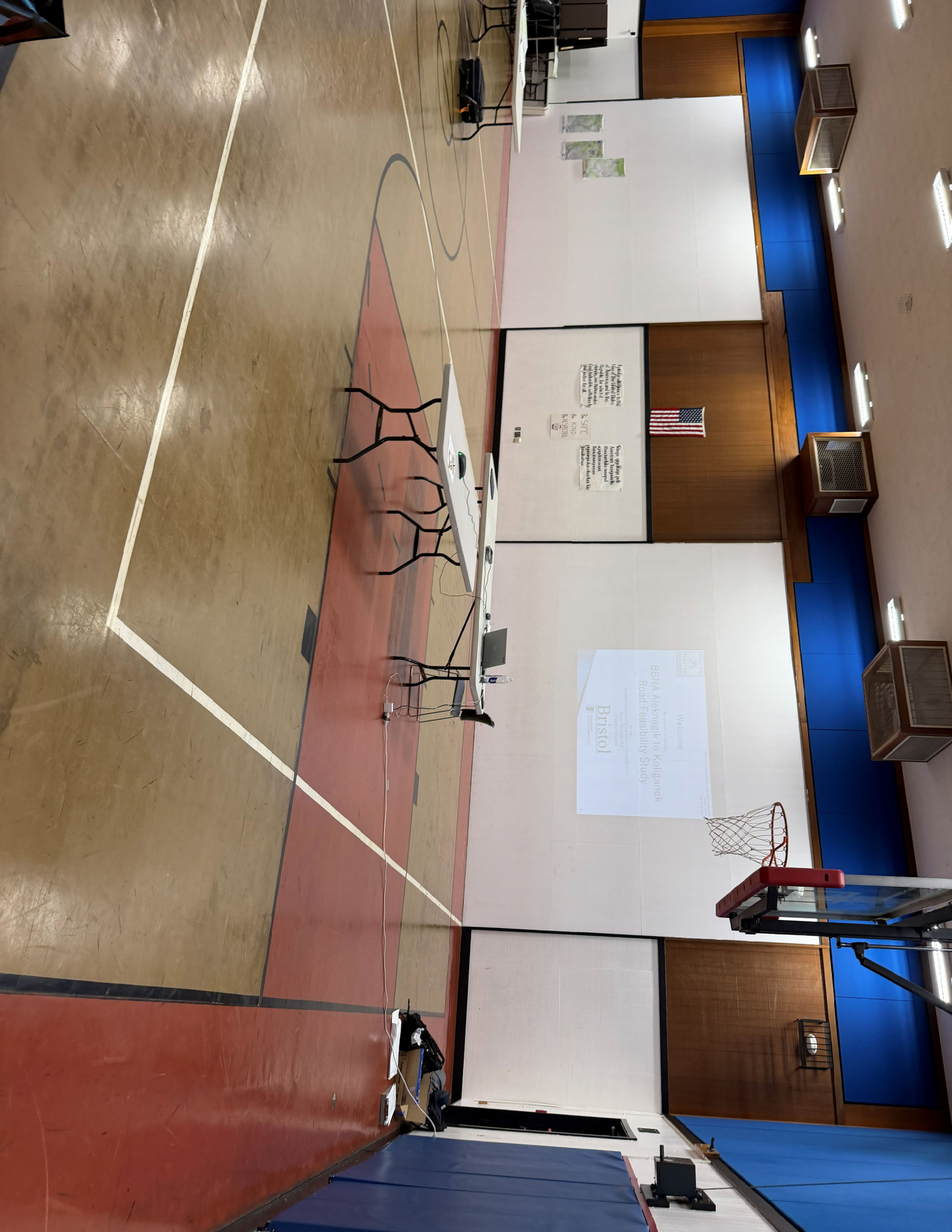
EXIT



| HOME        | PERIOD     | GUEST |
|-------------|------------|-------|
| SCORE       | POSSESSION | SCORE |
| PLAYER-FOUL | IN         | SCORE |
| MATCH       |            | FOULS |

  
**EKWOK WARRIORS**  
 WILLIAM SONNY NELSON





BBNA  
BBNA, Aleksandr Koltiganek  
Road Feasibility Study  
Bristol  
Tuesday, August 14, 2018  
Bristol Community Center

1. Help support the  
State of Florida's  
State to state  
relationships  
and make it a  
KIND  
KIND  
KIND

2. You get to  
see the  
American  
relationships  
and make it a  
KIND  
KIND  
KIND



Bristol Bay Native Association

BBNA A2K Road Feasibility Study Public Meeting #1  
Ekwok, Alaska  
Date 10/8/2025

# Welcome

We are here to discuss:

## BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

We are:  
Bristol Engineering Services Company, LLC  
Isaac Pearson, P.E.  
Brandon Shayan




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## Presentation Overview

- ▶ Project Background / Information
- ▶ Public Involvement Overview
- ▶ Project Team
- ▶ What is Connectivity?
- ▶ Community Input on Roadway
  - Opportunities and Threats
  - Where Could a Road go?
- ▶ Project Schedule/Next Steps
- ▶ Questions






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## Project Champion and Funding

- ▶ Project Champion
  - Bristol Bay Native Association Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Development
- ▶ Funding Sources
  - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, FY 2023
  - Denali Commission (DC)

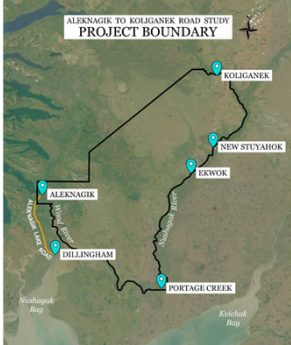




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## Primary Stakeholders

- ▶ Community of,
  - Aleknagik
  - Dillingham
  - Ekwok
  - Koliganek
  - New Stuyahok
  - Portage Creek



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## Project Need

- ▶ Understand ways to reduce costs of delivering goods, services, and people
- ▶ Provide year-round all-weather access to communities to enhance public safety
- ▶ Provide information to communities about connectivity feasibility

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## Project Objectives

- ▶ Understand communities' thoughts about road connections
- ▶ Evaluate cultural, environmental, economic, and social impacts of a road connection
- ▶ Evaluate the feasibility of road connections
- ▶ Develop a report that summarizes the findings

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### Project Do's and Do Not's

| What This Study Does   | What This Study Does NOT Do   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Considers the possibility of road connections between Aleknagik, Portage Creek, Ekwook, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek.</li> <li>✓ Evaluates both pros and cons of the potential roads including economic, environmental, social, and cultural considerations.</li> <li>✓ Identifies if communities want road connections or not.</li> <li>✓ Helps communities make informed decisions about road connection planning.</li> <li>✓ Identifies potential road corridors based on community input and traditional local knowledge.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Make decisions for communities.</li> <li>✗ Build roads.</li> <li>✗ Solicit input from outside interests.</li> <li>✗ Promote the Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project.</li> <li>✗ Promote mining or resource development.</li> </ul> |

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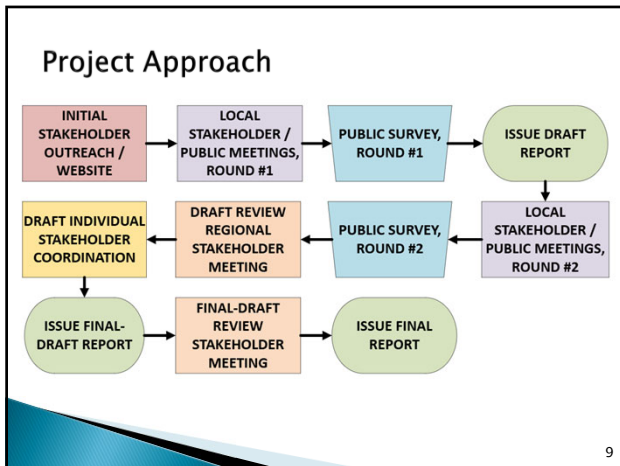
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### Project Approach <sup>IPD</sup>

- ▶ Public Involvement <sup>BH1</sup>
  - Initial Stakeholder Outreach / Website
  - Local Stakeholder / Public Meetings, Round #1 – before draft
  - Public Survey, Round #1
  - Local Stakeholder / Public Meetings, Round #2 – after draft
  - Public Survey, Round #2
  - Draft Review Regional Stakeholder Meeting
  - Draft Individual Stakeholder Coordination
  - Final-Draft Review Stakeholder Meeting
- ▶ Study Development (Draft, Final-draft, Final)
  - Cultural Resources / Environmental
  - Economic Analysis
  - Geotechnical
  - Land Status and Corridor Development

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### Project Approach

- ▶ Study Development (Draft, Final-draft, Final)
  - Cultural Resources / Environmental
  - Economic Analysis
  - Geotechnical
  - Land Status and Corridor Development

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### Public Involvement Overview

- ▶ Purpose of Public Engagement
  - Ensure transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration throughout the study
  - Gather local insights to inform reporting
- ▶ Engagement Tools
  - Project Website: Project updates, meeting materials, contact information
  - Public Surveys: To gather broad input
  - In-Person & Virtual Meetings: Local and regional reach
  - Target Outreach: For key stakeholders and communities

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### Public Involvement Overview

- ▶ Engagement Activities

| Activity                                | Timeline    | Status      |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Project Website Launch                  | Summer 2025 | Complete    |
| Initial Stakeholder Outreach            | Summer 2025 | Complete    |
| Public & Stakeholder Meetings – Round 1 | Fall 2025   | In Progress |
| Public & Stakeholder Meetings – Round 2 | April 2026  | Planned     |
| Individual Stakeholder Coordination     | Ongoing     | In Progress |

- ▶ Your Voice Matters
  - We invite the community to participate, ask questions, and stay engaged.

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### Project Team

- ▶ Agnew::Beck
  - Economic Analysis
  - Public Involvement
- ▶ Bristol
  - Land Status Mapping
  - Public Involvement
  - Analysis and Reporting
  - Project Management
- ▶ Midnight Sun Environmental
  - Environment Analysis
- ▶ Shannon & Wilson
  - Geotechnical Reporting
- ▶ True North
  - Cultural Resources Report



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### What is Connectivity?

- ▶ Movement of people, goods and services
- ▶ Current Connectivity in Study Area
  - Air
  - Land
  - Water
- ▶ Cost, Seasons, and Weather are limitations for current modes of travel
- ▶ Let's evaluate Connectivity with less barriers...

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### Barrier Reduction Strategies

- ▶ **What will improve accessibility and/or reduce cost?**
- ▶ Air Travel
  - Runway Improvements including instrument approach.
- ▶ Water Travel
  - Waterway maintenance programs for safety and water levels.
  - More freight movement options.
- ▶ Over Land Travel
  - Winter trail improvements / ice roads.
  - Permanent roadway. Let's talk about this!

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### Considerations for Permanent Roadways

- ▶ Community Needs & Priorities
- ▶ Cultural & Subsistence Considerations
- ▶ Environmental & Season Factors
- ▶ Economic & Social Impacts
- ▶ Logistics & Access
- ▶ Governance & Decision Making
- ▶ Road Design & Maintenance

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### Evaluation of Opportunities and Threats

- ▶ As a group let's discuss.
- ▶ Think of a road of either to neighboring communities or the hub.
- ▶ **Opportunities:**  
What good things could a road bring in the future?
- ▶ **Threats:**  
What risks could come with a road, or from outside forces?"

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**Community Needs & Priorities**

- ▶ Lower cost of living
- ▶ Education keep school open.
- ▶ Better teachers
- ▶ Provide more employment opportunities
- ▶ Safer medical travel during bad weather
- ▶ Improve recycling
- ▶ Open areas military presence.

**Threats**

- ▶ Bad actors coming into community, but already happens.

**Other**

- ▶ Road to Anchorage
- ▶ Make land available for the children
- ▶ Monitor traffic in/out

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**Cultural & Subsistence Considerations**

- ▶ Could expand hunting area.
- ▶ Provide access to cultural camps.
- ▶ Learn more about nature.
- ▶ Start new campsites for others

**Threats**

- ▶ xx

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**Environmental & Seasonal Factors**

**Opportunities**

- ▶ Reduce scaring of lands from winter and summer travel over tundra

**Threats**

- ▶ Could impact wetlands rivers

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**Economic & Social Impacts**

**Opportunities**

- ▶ Outside development
- ▶ Open up land for locals
- ▶ Housing development.
- ▶ Local driven timber harvesting.
- ▶ Gas, electricity, food will be more affordable.
- ▶ More cars in the community.

**Threats**

- ▶ Outside development

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**Logistics & Access**

**Opportunities**

- ▶ xx

**Threats**

- ▶ xx

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**Governance & Decision-Making**

**Opportunities**

- ▶ xx

**Threats**

- ▶ xx

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### Road Design & Maintenance

#### Opportunities

- ▶ Gravel sales on private.

#### Threats

- ▶ Have to maintain, cost money.
- ▶ Erosion
- ▶ Permafrost

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### Where Could a Road Go?

#### ▶ Things to consider:

- Geographic feasibility
  - Terrain challenges (mountains, rivers, wetlands, permafrost)
  - Accessibility in all seasons
- Environmental Factors
  - Sensitive ecosystems, wildlife corridors, fisheries
  - Subsistence resource areas
- Cultural and Historical Resources
  - Sites of cultural or historical importance
- Community Preferences
  - Connections people would find useful
  - Proximity of road to the townsite

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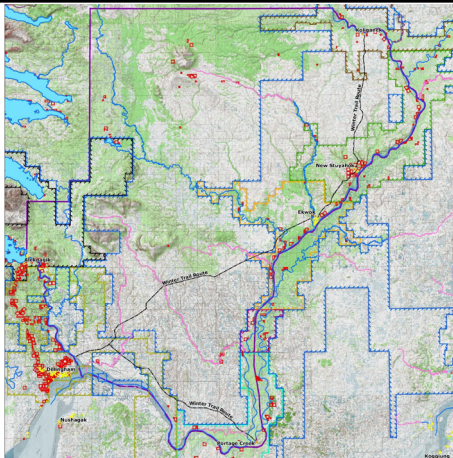
### Where Could a Road Go?

#### ▶ We want to hear from you!

- If a road were considered, where would you want it to go, or not go?
- Where should be avoided?
- ▶ Let's mark up some maps!!!
- ▶ Also, Let's do some surveys!!!

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### Project Schedule / Next Steps

- ▶ Draft A2K Study February / March 2026
- ▶ Public Meeting Round #2 April 2026
- ▶ Final Draft A2K Study August 2026
- ▶ Final A2K Study December 2026

Check out the website:  
[A2KRoadStudy.com](http://A2KRoadStudy.com)



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Questions or Comments?

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Thank you for your participation!



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# Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study



## Public Meeting #1

### Welcome and Thank You!

Thank you for attending the public meeting for the Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study (A2K Study). This is an early-stage planning project that evaluates the potential for developing road connections between the communities of Aleknagik, Portage Creek, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek.

### What Is This Study About?

The A2K Study aims to:

- Gather input from local residents, tribes, and stakeholders;
- Understand possible impacts on social, cultural, and environmental values;
- Analyze potential economic opportunities;
- Evaluate possible routes between the communities;
- Summarize findings in a comprehensive report.

**⊘ Important Note:** This study does not propose road construction at this stage. Its purpose is to understand community interest and determine whether a road project could be feasible in the future.

### We Want To Hear From You!

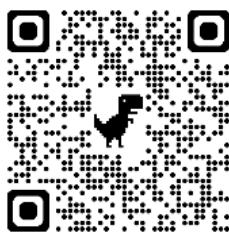
Your input is vital to this study. Please share your thoughts throughout online public survey:

More information about the survey on the back of this handout.

### Stay Connected

For updates, meeting notices, and study documents, please visit the project website:

[www.A2KRoadStudy.com](http://www.A2KRoadStudy.com)



# Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study



## Community Survey

The goal of this survey is to collect feedback around the potential impacts on the cost of living, quality of life, regional travel patterns, and subsistence activities from the people living in the communities that could potentially be affected by future road connections. This survey will also help gauge community interest and document community concerns around future road connections.



Survey respondents will be eligible to be entered into a drawing for an Apple iPad.

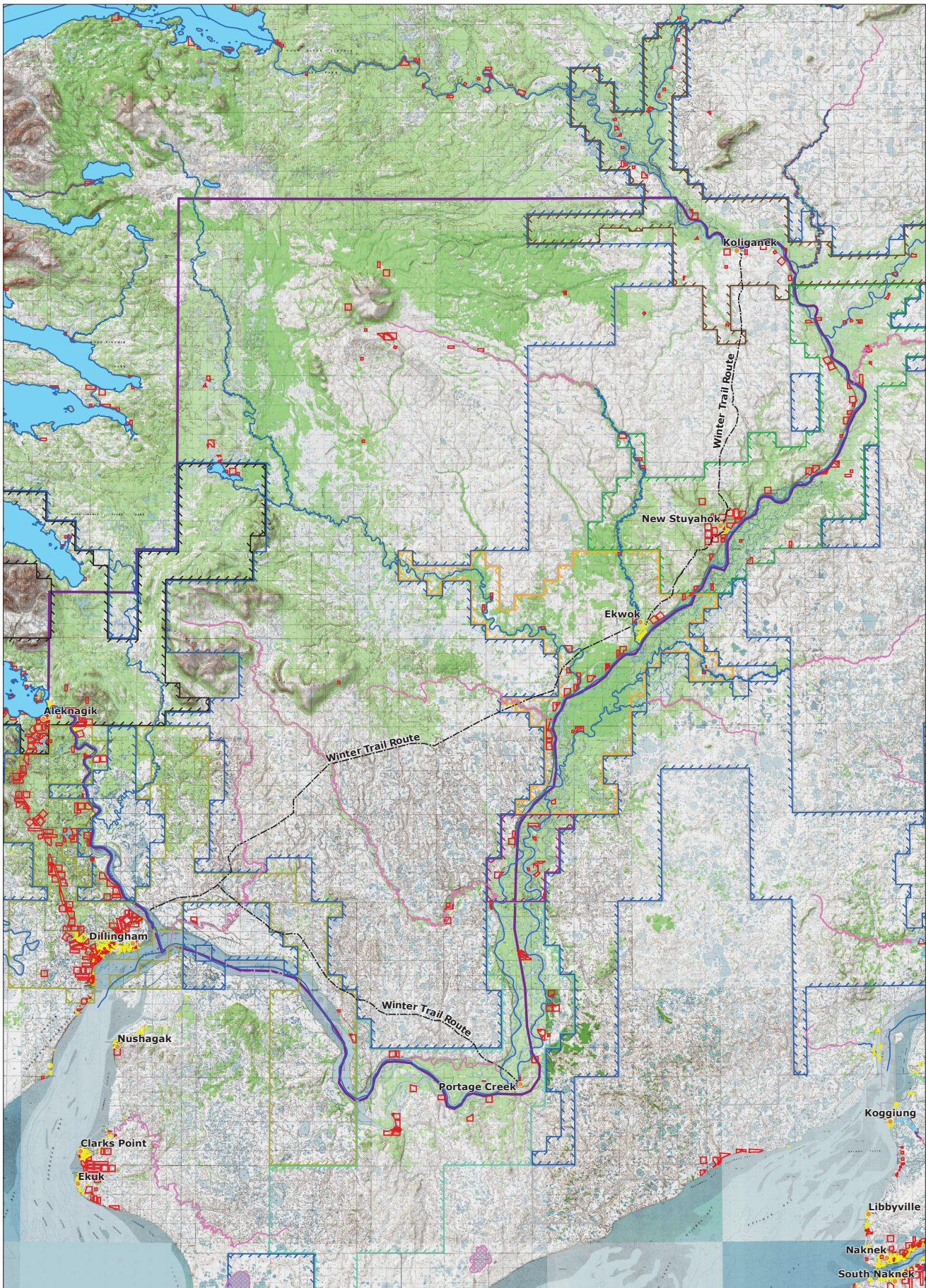
Visit the project website to access the survey and for more information on the study:

[A2KRoadStudy.com](https://A2KRoadStudy.com)



BBNA is committed to ensuring that this study reflects the voices and priorities of our member Tribal communities, with a focus on cultural respect, economic opportunity, and community-driven decision-making.





Sources:  
 BLM: [https://gis.blm.gov/akarcgis/rest/services/Land\\_Status/BLM\\_AK\\_Land\\_Status\\_Conveyed\\_Lands/FeatureServer](https://gis.blm.gov/akarcgis/rest/services/Land_Status/BLM_AK_Land_Status_Conveyed_Lands/FeatureServer)  
 State of Alaska Geo Portal: Navigable Waters  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [https://services.arcgis.com/QVNGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/FWS\\_R7\\_Realty\\_BLM\\_Land\\_Status\\_feature\\_layer/FeatureServer](https://services.arcgis.com/QVNGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/FWS_R7_Realty_BLM_Land_Status_feature_layer/FeatureServer)  
 Note:  
 Select source features were generalized for map readability.

- |                 |                              |                                       |               |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
| <b>Legend</b>   | City                         | Navigable                             | Dillingham    | BLM's Land Status of Alaska (3/9/2017) |
| Conflict        | Unknown                      | BLM AK Native Allotment Conveyed Land | Ekwok         | Study Boundary                         |
| Unknown         | BLM AK Private Conveyed Land | Aleknagik                             | Koliganek     |  |
| Tidal Influence | Aleknagik                    | New Stuyahok                          | Portage Creek |  |
| Winter Trail    | BBNC (Other)                 | Select State Land                     |               |  |



DATUM:  
 NAD83  
 PROJECTION:  
 SP AK Z6 FT  
 DATE:  
 10/3/2025

