Bristol
ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, LLC

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PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Project: **BBNA WO30 A2K Study**

Bristol Project No: 32250060

Reference: Initial Public Meeting - Koliganek

Date of Meeting: December 3, 2025; ~11:40am – ~1:11 pm (Alaska Time)

Location of Meeting: MS Team Meeting and New Koliganek Village Council Building

Call in Information: **907-313-2185**; Conference ID: **482 912 076#**

Participants:

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

Meeting Notification:
A Flyer about the Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study (A2K Study) and meeting information was developed and posted on November 21, 2025, see Attachment B. The flyer was visibly posted in the Village Council Building at the time of the meeting, Attachment C.

Trip Summary:
Isaac and Breena traveled from Anchorage to Dillingham on Tuesday December 2, and then to Koliganek on Wednesday December 3. The public/entity meeting began at approximately 11:40am in the New Koliganek Village Council Building, see Attachment C for photos of the meeting area and some participants. Bristol gave a presentation and facilitated an open discussion about the meeting topic. The presentation and group discussion continued until approximately 1:11pm.

Meeting Purpose:

- Present A2K Study to the public. Presentation slides, public meeting #1 / community survey handout, and map handout were given to the public at the onset of the meeting. See Attachment D for the presentation slides, Attachment E for the public meeting #1 / community survey handout, and Attachment F for the map handout.
- Collect public feedback on the A2K Study.

Public Discussions:

Community members expressed strong opposition to both the study and to the idea of any road connections involving Koliganek. Towards the end of the meeting, a vote was held to document community sentiment.

The vote results were: 23 community members were against the possibility of a road connection, and 2 community members were in favor. *Due to the length of the meeting some attendees were not able to stay for the entirety of the meeting; this comment was made as the sign-in sheet indicated 42 participants.*

1. Presentation Overview
    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 public / stakeholder involvement. The project team was introduced, and an overview of the project schedule was discussed.
        i. Community members were curious how and when the idea for this study originated, in which Bristol explained that the connection concept was identified in some of the communities' Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs), specifically New Stuyahok, Ekwok, and Portage Creek.
        ii. One participant asked if these LRTPs are available. Bristol explained that LRTPs are updated every 5 years and had just been updated in 2025. The LRTPs are public information, and Bristol can provide copies if desired.
2. Connectivity
    a. A detailed discussion was held regarding the movement of people, goods, and services. Current types of connectivity were also talked about within the study area: air, land, and water. Limitations to the current types of connectivity were talked about, including cost, seasons, and weather. Bristol emphasized the project's focus is to understand the feasibility of a year-round overland road connection.
        i. One participant brought up the fact that gas prices in Koliganek are the same or cheaper than in Dillingham. And, food prices are also comparable between the communities because Koliganek gets freight directly from Anchorage. They were curious how, and how much prices for essential goods would be lowered by a road connection.
            1. Bristol responded that those are great points and that Koliganek may be more unique than the lower communities. This study will look into these types of questions, but we do not have those answers at this time.
        ii. A participant mentioned that their current connection via skiffs and snowmachines are sufficient transportation options between communities.
        iii. Participants were curious to know the thoughts that the other communities had on connectivity.
            1. Bristol let the participants know that the public meeting summaries from the other communities would be available on the Project

Website. Both New Stuyahok and Ekwok had discussion about both the pros and cons of a road connection.

iv. A participant questioned if there were examples of other communities that had recent road connections and how that affected rates of drugs and alcohol use throughout the community. Drugs and alcohol are easier to patrol via air travel than via road travel.
    1. Bristol responded that this was a common comment throughout the communities. This will be part of Bristol's literature review to try to understand if there is any existing data on the community impacts from road connectivity, specifically in regards to drug and alcohol use.

3. Considerations for New Roadway
    a. One participant brought up that even though there is no road, they are very connected with their sister villages.
    b. One participant felt that since the community is already so connected to their neighbors, a roadway would not add any benefits for connectivity.
    c. There were many comments about the maintenance cost and responsibility if new road connections were developed.
        i. Bristol responded that those details are not yet known, but this study would look into road maintenance costs, responsibility, and frequency.
4. Evaluation of Opportunities and Threats
    a. Opportunities
        i. No opportunities were presented by the participants.
    b. Threats
        i. Many threats were discussed throughout the entire meeting. Here is an overview of the main threats identified:
            1. Environmental/Ecological
                a. Adverse effects on lands, wildlife, subsistence (including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking)
                b. A road could bring in outside pressures which could impact opportunities for subsistence.
                c. Water quality and water habitat impacts along the roadway.
                d. Air pollution from dust.
                e. A road connection could cause an influx of people that would risk the over consumption of local resources for others economic gain.
                f. The people of Koliganek live a very sustainable lifestyle alongside a very important ecosystems. It is their job to protect their land for future generations. A road connection could risk their most important resources.
            2. Local Government Relinquishes Control of Local Resources
                a. A public road would open up lands outside of the local governments control. Outside interests could have access to land and resources and the community would have no say in what happens to that land.

b. A road could open up opportunities for further development.

3. Alcohol/Drugs
    a. Concern of the influx of drugs and alcohol within the community. Illicit drugs like meth and fentanyl were mentioned.
    b. Possibility of bootlegging alcohol within the community.
    c. Increase of drunk driving.
4. Increased Potential for Accidents
    a. Impaired driving
    b. Wildlife encounters
    c. Poor driving conditions in the winter
        i. A participant noted that if the weather is so bad that the planes cannot fly the road will also be unsafe.
5. Costs
    a. Overwhelming maintenance costs.
    b. Concerns on who would pay and provide road maintenance, and how frequently.

5. Potential Road Locations
    a. No potential road locations were discussed.
6. Other Questions and Comments
    a. One participant was concerned about the decision-making process for this study. What if some communities are for the road, and others are not? How is the decision made to go forward with a road or not?
        i. Bristol made it known that there is no decision making within the final study, and no roads will be built because of this study. The study will document what communities want in regards to connectivity and look at the feasibility of building a road in this area.
        ii. Bristol will meet with the New Koliganek Village Council (Council) and get a formal response about how Koliganek would like to continue participation in the A2K Study and make their opinions known within the study.
    b. Multiple participants had issues with how this study came about. They felt that they were blind sided and not included in the decision-making process to even begin this study. They would rather time and resources be spent elsewhere to help with housing, plumbing, or other community needs.
        i. Bristol and BBNA explained that the concept and process was presented to the BBNA Board of Directors, where Koliganek has a representative. When BBNA received funding for the study, the board was made aware. In the future, they will work on ensuring the information reaches the community government level.
        ii. This study was not designed to be intrusive or insert opinions onto communities. This study wants to look at opportunities to lower the costs of delivering costs, goods, and people, and determine if communities desire road connections or not.

c. It was brought up in discussion that some community members felt it was disrespectful to not contact the local governing body to involve the community prior to requesting funding for a project that would include Koliganek.
d. BBNA apologized and responded that they appreciate this input. BBNA was under the impression that the representative on the Board of Directors is also part of the local leadership. BBNA will work on making this process smoother and more inclusive in the future.
e. Multiple participants were concerned that this project was connected to the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Project.
    i. Bristol ensured the community that there was no connection.
f. Multiple participants felt that the A2K Study was another development project that the community would now have to fight. They said that they just finished fighting the Nuyakuk Hydro Project and Pebble Mine, and were frustrated about the possibility of more development that the community would have to fight.
    i. Bristol explained that the grant that received funding was named the Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study. If Koliganek does not want to be included in the study, no more contact needs to happen after this meeting. The study will be developed in a way that makes Koliganek's feelings about road connectivity clear.
    ii. BBNA will not act on anything that a community does not want.
g. There was a rumor that multiple participants had heard from Ekwok that a road will happen within the next 50 years.
    i. Bristol clarified that there are no roads coming, but if a road was desired by a community, that it would be a very distant project, likely to happen no sooner than 20 to 50 years.
h. A community member thought that on top of the environmental, analysis, geotechnical reporting, economic analysis, and cultural resources report, that a noise study and wildlife studies should be included to see the effects that a road would have on noise.
i. One community member brought up the amount of fishing lodges around Dillingham and how they affect the watershed. There is a potential for more fishing lodge development in the future that could be correlated with road connections.

7. Bristol's Meeting Takeaway:
    a. We appreciate the time, honesty, and clarity that Koliganek community members shared during the public meeting. It was evident throughout our discussion that the community strongly opposes a road connection to neighboring communities, and we recognize the values, concerns, and priorities that underlie this position. We will coordinate with the Tribe to better understand how they would like to proceed with the A2K Study and the broader conversations surrounding connectivity. Our goal is to work collaboratively at the Tribe's direction, to determine an approach that aligns with community interests and honors the feedback received.

Next Steps:

1. Meet with the Council to discuss how the community would like to move forward with the A2K Study.

2. Koliganek, Ekwok, and New Stuyahok Public Meeting Summaries will be posted on the A2K Study website: www.A2KRoadStudy.com

Attachments:

A. Sign in Sheet (3 pages)
B. Flyer (1 page)
C. Photos: Public Meeting Area (4 pages)
D. Presentation Slides (6 pages)
E. Public Meeting #1 / Community Survey Handout (2 pages)
F. Map Handout (1 page)

Koliganek, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Door Prize Recipients

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
1.	ANUSKA M. HANSON		
2.			
3.			
4.			
#4 5.			
6.	Bryan Johnson		
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.	Joachim Gumlickpuk		
11.			
#5 12.	Jantelle Brown		
13.	Sarina Merlino		
14.	Samantha Sharpe		
15.	Andrew Larson		
16.	Delores Larson		
17.	Elena Norbert		
18.			
19.	Natalia Ishnook		
20.			

Koliganek, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
21.	Gusty Tungwing III		
22.	Oscar Olsen JR		
23.	Elena Olsen		
24.	Amelia Wysocki		
25.	John Norbert		
26.	Sonya Lucy Kapsak Jr		
27.	Brianna Nelson		
#1 ✓ 28.	Brenda Norbert		
29.	Alex Hansen		
30.	Myrtle Johnson		
31.	Ashleanne Ishnook		
32.	Frances A. Nelson		
33.	William Krasan		
#3 ✓ 34.	Edward Kapsak Jr.		
35.			
36.	Ashley Apokedak		
37.	constantine Gumlickpuk		
38.	Nicholi Ishnook		
#4 39.	Gustavus Gumlickpuk		
#2 40.	Christopher Larson		

Koliganek, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
41.	Elena Johnson		
42.	Tatiana Nanalook		
43.			
44.			
45.			
46.			
47.			
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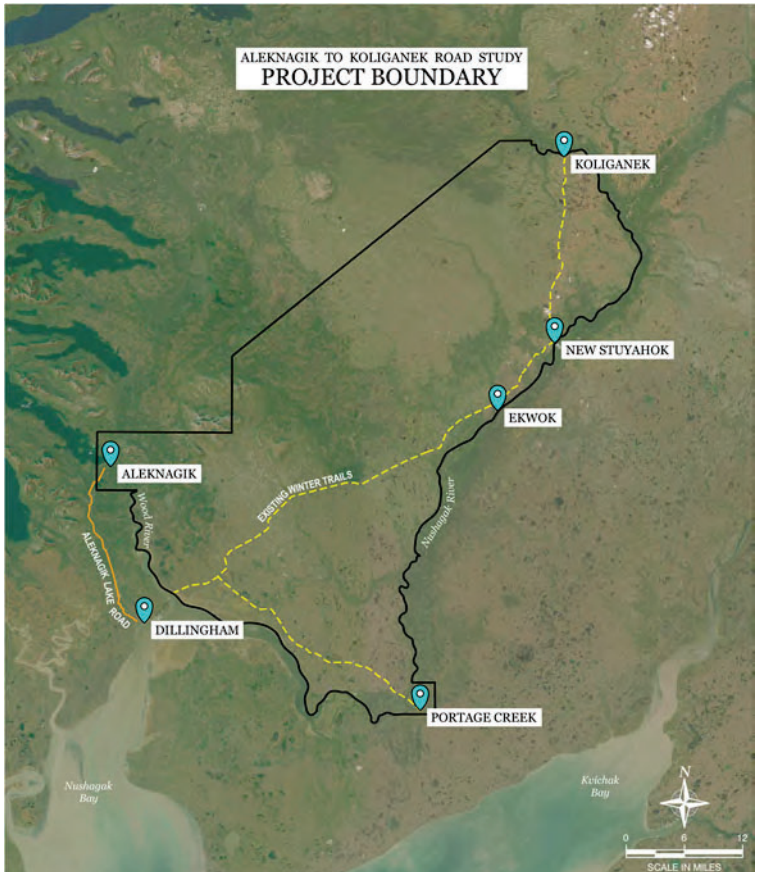
BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

KOLIGANEK COMMUNITY MEETING



Wednesday,

December 3, 2025

12 PM

- **Koliganek Council Building**
- **Voice your opinions about the project**
- **Refreshments provided**
- **Door prizes**

For more information:
Isaac Pearson
(907) 743-9313
ipearson@bristol-companies.com

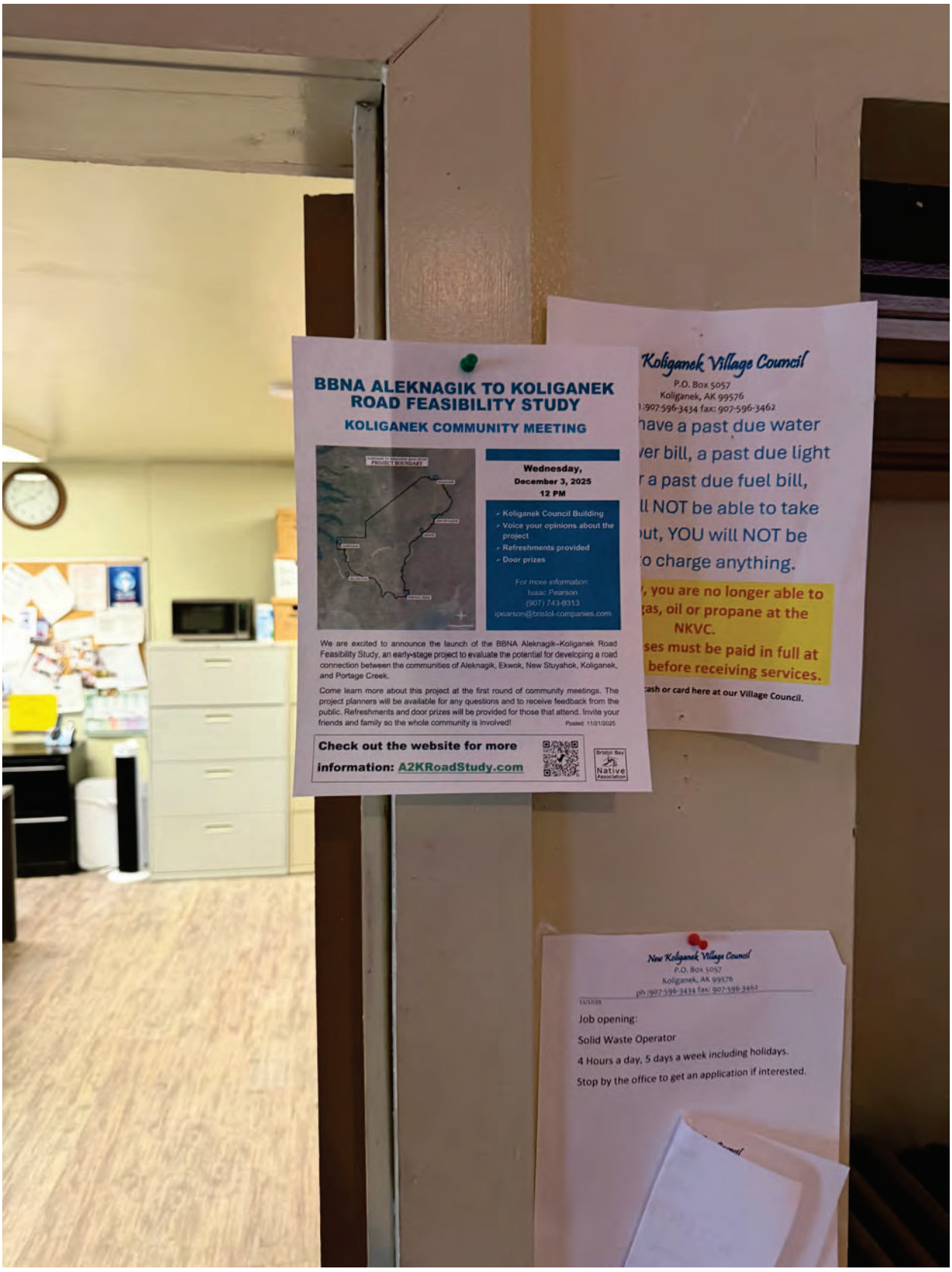
We are excited to announce the launch of the BBNA Aleknagik–Koliganek Road Feasibility Study, an early-stage project to evaluate the potential for developing a road connection between the communities of Aleknagik, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and Portage Creek.

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: 11/21/2025

Check out the website for more information: A2KRoadStudy.com

Bristol Bay Native Association



BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

KOLIGANEK COMMUNITY MEETING

PROJECT BOUNDARY

Wednesday,
December 3, 2025
12 PM

- Koliganek Council Building
- Voice your opinions about the project
- Refreshments provided
- Door prizes

For more information:
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Bristol Bay Native Association

Koliganek Village Council
P.O. Box 5057
Koliganek, AK 99576
:907-596-3434 fax: 907-596-3462

have a past due water
ver bill, a past due light
r a past due fuel bill,
ll NOT be able to take
ut, YOU will NOT be
o charge anything.

, you are no longer able to
as, oil or propane at the NKVC.
ses must be paid in full at
before receiving services.

ash or card here at our Village Council.

New Koliganek Village Council
P.O. Box 5057
Koliganek, AK 99576
ph:907-596-3434 fax: 907-596-3462

11/17/25

Job opening:

Solid Waste Operator

4 Hours a day, 5 days a week including holidays.

Stop by the office to get an application if interested.




CAT
EXIT


New Koliganek Village Council
P.O. Box 5057
Koliganek, AK 99576
ph :907-596-3434 fax: 907-596-3462
NEW FUEL PRICES
GAS.....$7.50/GALLON
OIL.....$6.50/GALLON
PROPANE.....$230.00/BOTTLE
VISA
ers are

BBNA A2K Road Feasibility Study Public Meeting #1
Koliganek, Alaska
Date 12/3/2025

Welcome

We are here to discuss:

BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

We are:
Bristol Engineering Services Company, LLC
Isaac Pearson, P.E.
Breena Hickey

Bristol ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, LLC

1

1

Presentation Overview

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



2

2

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)

U.S. Department of Transportation

DENALI COMMISSION

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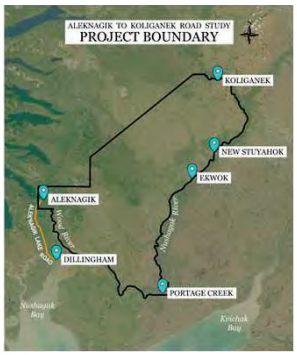
Primary Stakeholders

- 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

6

6

Project Do's and Do Not's

What This Study Does	What This Study Does NOT Do
Considers the possibility of road connections between Aleknagik, Portage Creek, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek.	Make decisions for communities.
Evaluates both pros and cons of the potential roads including economic, environmental, social, and cultural considerations.	Build roads.
Identifies if communities want road connections or not.	Solicit input from outside interests.
Helps communities make informed decisions about road connection planning.	Promote the Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project.
Identifies potential road corridors based on community input and traditional local knowledge.	Promote mining or resource development.

7

7

Project Approach

- Public Involvement
  - Initial Stakeholder Outreach / Website
  - Local Stakeholder / Public Meetings / Public Survey – (Two Rounds)
  - Draft Individual / Regional Stakeholder Meetings
  - Final-Draft Review Stakeholder Meeting
- Study Development (Draft, Final-draft, Final)
  - Public Involvement
  - Cultural Resources / Environmental
  - Economic Analysis
  - Geotechnical
  - Land Status and Corridor Development

8

8

Project Approach



9

9

Public / Stakeholder 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

10

10

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

11

11

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

12

12



13

13

What is Connectivity?

- This Project Considers: Movement of people, goods and services
- Current Connectivity in Study Area
  - Air, Land, and Water
- Each mode has limitations: Cost, Seasons, and Weather.
- This Project's Focus is to understand the feasibility of a year-round overland road connection.

Let's talk about this together!

14

14

Considerations for New Roadways

- Community Needs & Priorities
  - How would a road connection affect your daily life (travel, access to food, healthcare, jobs)?
  - What destinations are most important for you (nearby communities, regional hubs, subsistence areas)?
  - Are there times of year when better transportation is especially needed?

15

15

Considerations for New Roadways

- Cultural & Subsistence Considerations
  - What traditional hunting, fishing, or gathering areas might the road affect?
  - Are there cultural or sacred sites that should be avoided?
  - How might a road change seasonal travel by snowmachine, boat, or ATV?

16

16

Considerations for New Roadways

- Environmental & Season Factors
  - Are there areas that are especially important to avoid (wetlands, caribou migration paths, fish streams)?
  - How do you see climate change affecting the land in the coming years?

17

17

Considerations for New Roadways

- Economic & Social Impacts
  - What opportunities might the road bring (jobs, lower costs of goods, tourism)?
  - What risks do you see (outside access to subsistence resources, increased alcohol/drug trafficking, loss of local control)?

18

18

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?"

19

19

Opportunities and Threats

- Community Needs & Priorities
- Cultural & Subsistence Considerations
- Environmental & Season Factors
- Economic & Social Impacts

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21

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
    - 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

22

22

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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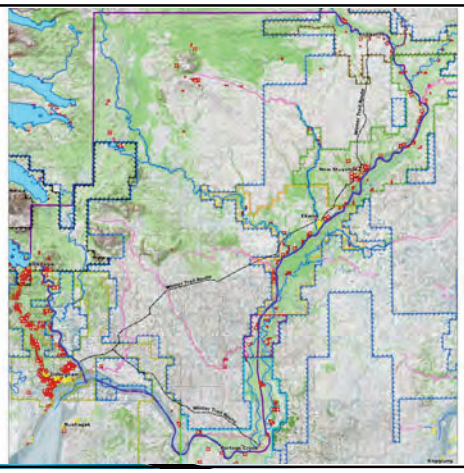

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Questions or Comments?

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Thank you for your participation!

Bristol Bay Native Association

27

27

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;
- Analize 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

Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

Community Survey

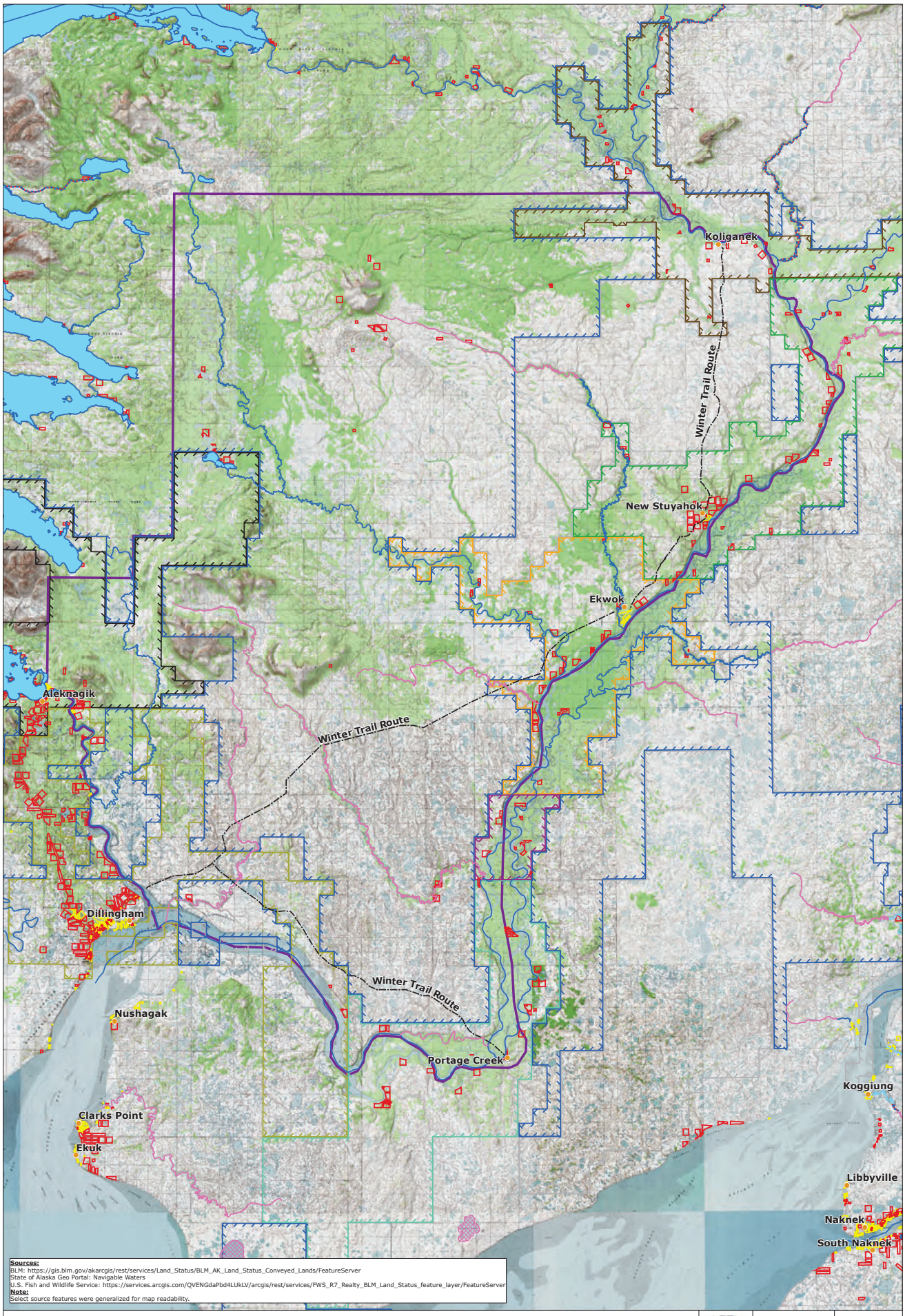
The goal of this survey is to collect feedback around the potential impacts on the cost of living, quality of life, regional travel patterns, and subsistence activities from the people living in the communities that could potentially be affected by future road connections. This survey will also help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

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.

Bristol Bay Native Association



Sources:
BLM: 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/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/FWS_R7_Realty_BLM_Land_Status_feature_layer/FeatureServer
Note:
Select source features were generalized for map readability.

Legend

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

Bristol Bay Native Association

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

0 1.5 3 Miles

Key Map