APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARIES

ALEKNAGIK

Bristol
ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, LLC

111 W. 16th Avenue, Third Floor
Anchorage, AK 99501-5169
phone (907) 563-0013
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www.bristol-companies.com

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Project: **BBNA WO30 A2K Study**

Bristol Project No: 32250060

Reference: Initial Public Meeting - Aleknagik

Date of Meeting: March 25, 2026; ~6:00pm – ~ 7:20pm (Alaska Time)

Post discussion with local populous until 8:00pm (Alaska Time)

Location of Meeting: MS Team Meeting and Aleknagik School Gym

Call in Information: **907-313-2185**; Conference ID: **112 042 673#**

Participants:

- Jackie Hebnes, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, Bristol Engineering Services Company (Bristol) *(virtual attendance)*
- Breena Hickey, Planner, Bristol
- Brandon Shayan, Civil Engineer, Bristol
- Dan Breeden, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) *(virtual attendance)*
- Basil Tilden, Curyung Tribal Council *(virtual attendance)*
- Miriam Olson, Aleknagik Traditional Council (ATC) *(virtual attendance)*
- Brandi Yeager, ATC *(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 March 10, 2026, see Attachment B.

Trip Summary:
Breena and Brandon traveled from Anchorage to Dillingham on Tuesday March 24, 2026, and then to Aleknagik on Wednesday March 25. The public meeting began at approximately 6:00pm in the Aleknagik School Gym, see Attachment C for photos of the meeting area and participants. Bristol gave a presentation and facilitated an open discussion about the meeting topic. The presentation and group discussion continued until approximately 8:00pm.

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:

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.
    b. One participant asked what prompted this study.
        i. BBNA supports communities through the Transportation Consortium which consists of seven tribes including New Stuyahok and Ekwok. This includes developing Long Range Transportation Plans in which it was documented that there was an interest in connections between Ekwok and New Stuyahok and considering connections to Dillingham. BBNA assisted with a grant to fund a study to evaluate the feasibility of these connections and included the communities along the Nushagak Drainage.
        ii. The study is being funded by the Denali Commission and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.
    c. A participant asked if this study includes a NEPA Environmental Assessment.
        i. Bristol responded that no, NEPA is a formal environmental assessment document. This study will address preliminary environmental considerations.
    d. A participant asked how the study area was chosen.
        i. Bristol responded that the study area was determined based on terrain constraints (mountains and rivers) and land ownership boundaries, as well as determining what areas were needed to include the communities along the Nushagak Drainage.
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. A participant asked how Portage Creek would be accessed?
            1. Bristol responded that access to Portage Creek, if they desired access, may require a bridge crossing, or the development of a road terminating at a boat launch.
        ii. Participants noted that prior to the construction of the Aleknagik Lake Road, traditional routes existed between Aleknagik and Dillingham. There is a

desire to maintain access to or preserve these traditional routes with any new development.

3. Considerations for New Roadway
    a. Bristol held a discussion on how a road connection could impact communities and things that need to be considered when discussing a new road connection including the following: the communities' needs and priorities, cultural and subsistence considerations, environmental and seasonal factors, and the economic and social impacts. Throughout the discussion, participants brought up the following:
        i. Concerns about increased traffic and congestion, particularly new parking areas and boat launches were discussed.
        ii. Interest in incorporating safety features such as high visibility striping or reflective markers for improved visibility during low visibility conditions.
        iii. Questions regarding winter maintenance responsibilities, in which Bristol responded that this remains to be determined and will be addressed in the feasibility study.
        iv. Suggestions to review the road system connecting Nome and surrounding villages as a potential case study.
        v. There was a discission about the threat of drugs and alcohol throughout the region with increased connectivity. The community of Aleknagik is already connected to Dillingham, so upriver communities are more at risk of this becoming an increased issue. One participant mentioned that some upriver communities already have direct flights to Anchorage which allows access to drugs and alcohol. The participant believes that there is a big fear around road connections and the increase of access to drugs and alcohol, but that these issues are already a present problem within communities.
        vi. One participant noted that there is currently no school bus service in Aleknagik, which shows some of the community's transportation challenges. Bristol is currently working on the Dillingham Transit Plan, and while this may not directly discuss the school bus service, the plan will provide a strategy for designing, operating, and improving public transportation for Aleknagik and Dillingham.
4. Evaluation of Opportunities and Threats
    a. Opportunities
        i. Decreased travel costs.
        ii. Improved public safety to the upriver communities through increased access for troopers and medical support when needed.
        iii. Increased access to subsistence activities.
        iv. Reduced reliance on barged fuel and lower risk of fuel spills along river systems.

b. Threats

i. Increased traffic through the community.

ii. Potential social impacts, including concerns about increased drug and alcohol issues.

iii. Jurisdictional challenges between state, city, and VPSO enforcement.

iv. Concerns about inequities in the judicial system.

v. Increased risk of wildlife collisions.

vi. More littering and improper waste disposal (e.g., dumping fish waste).

vii. Risk of overharvesting subsistence resources (e.g., commercial berry picking), potentially impacting local availability and increasing costs.

5. Potential Road Locations

a. A detailed discission was held assessing where a road could go with considerations of different variables in mind. Considerations for the public included geographic feasibility, environmental factors, cultural and historical resources, and community preference. A general discussion was had with no detailed routes provided, however, after the meeting, one participant marked up a map with snowmachine trails and an old dog team trail that are used to connect to upriver communities (see Attachment C).

6. Other Questions and Comments

a. A participant emphasized the importance of respecting local knowledge and ensuring the project team engages with integrity and genuinely listens to community concerns.

Attachments:

A. Sign in Sheet (1 pages)
B. Flyer (1 page)
C. Photos: Public Meeting Area (4 pages)
D. Presentation Slides (5 pages)
E. Public Meeting #1 / Community Survey Handout (2 pages)
F. Map Handout (1 page)

Aleknagik, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Wednesday, ~~February 18, 2026~~ **March 25, 2026**

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
1.	[illegible]		
Ticket → 2.	Nina Tinker		
Ticket 3.	Virginia Andrews		
Ticket 4.	LeRand Andrews		
Ticket 5.	Bruce Hutsik		
6.	Candace Chythlook		
Ticket 7.	Allen Hutsik		
8.	Randy Tinker		
Ticket 9.	KAY ANDREWS		
10.	Melanie Noden		
Ticket 11.	Vera E Andrews		
Ticket 12.	Rachel Andrew		
13.			
14.			
15.			
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BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

ALEKNAGIK COMMUNITY MEETING



Wednesday,
March 25, 2026
6 PM

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

For more information:
Jackie Hebnes
(907) 743-9314
jhebnes@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: 3/10/2026

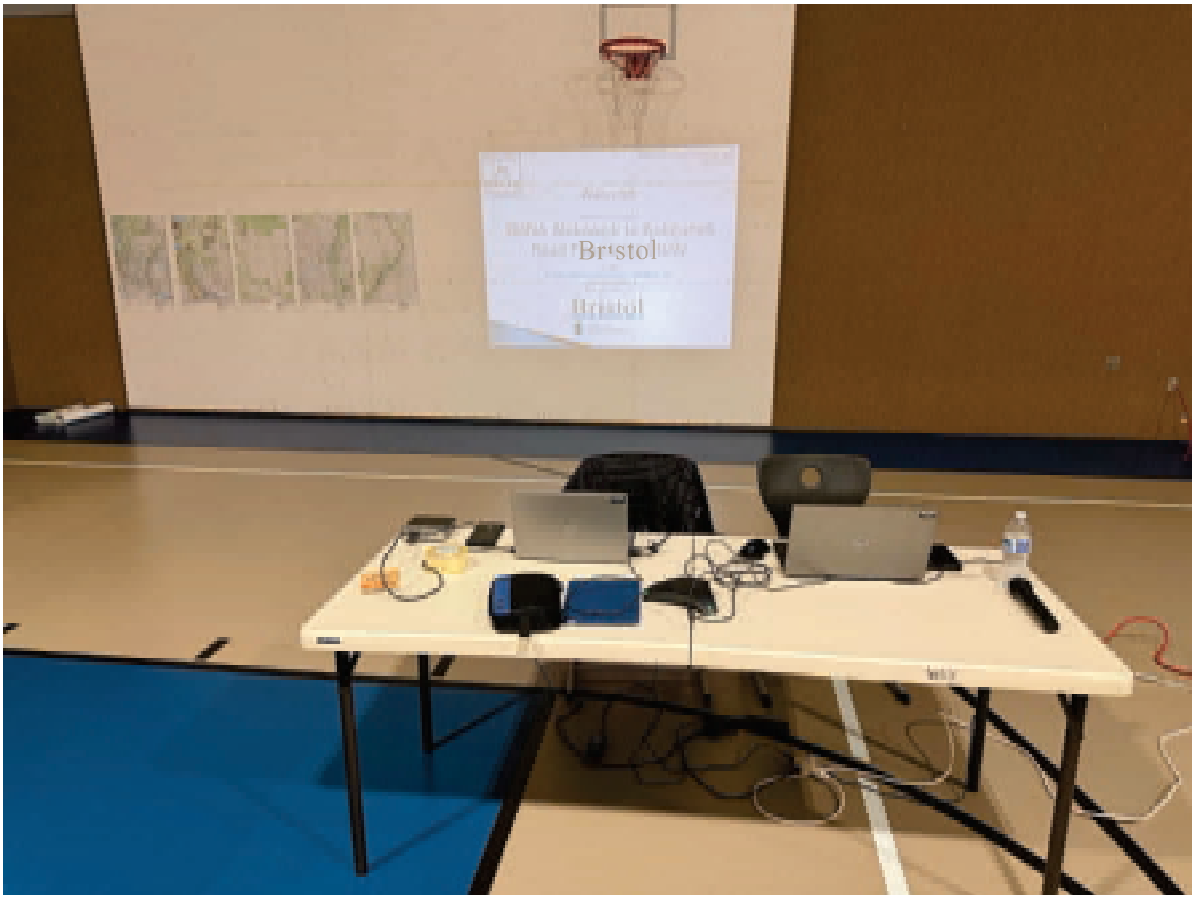
Check out the website for more information: A2KRoadStudy.com

Bristol Bay Native Association


Krispy Kreme
Krispy Kreme




Figure 04
Figure 02
Figure 01
Figure 03


Bristol
Bristol

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
Breena Hickey
Brandon Shayan

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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



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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
Considers the possibility of road connections between Aleknagik, Portage Creek, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Goltgorsk.	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.

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Project Approach



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Project Approach

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

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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

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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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Project Schedule / Next Steps

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

Check out the website: A2KRoadStudy.com

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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!

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Considerations for New Roadways

- Community Needs & Priorities
  - How would a road connection affect your daily life (travel, access to subsistence activities, school events, church events, visiting family and friends)?
  - What destinations are most important for you (nearby communities, subsistence areas)?
  - Are there times of year when better transportation is especially needed?

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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?

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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?

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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)?

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Evaluation of Opportunities and Threats

- As a group let's discuss. Think of a road to neighboring communities.
- **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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Opportunities and Threats

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

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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
    - 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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Questions or Comments?

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Thank you for your participation!

Bristol Bay Native Association

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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;
- 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

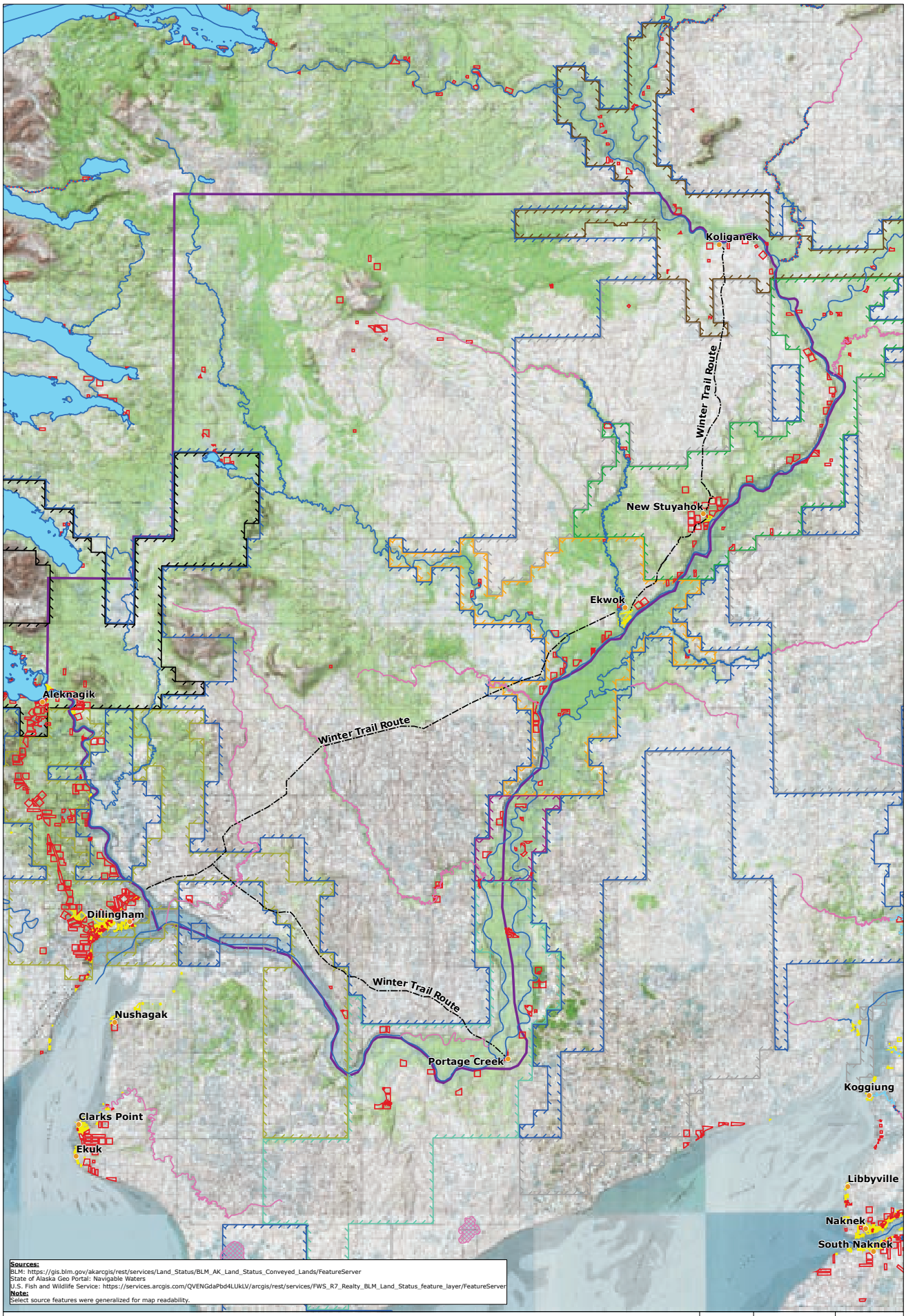
Community Survey

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.



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

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

0 1.5 3 Miles

Key Map

EKWOK

Bristol
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fax (907) 563-6713
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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)

Ekwok, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Gift Card Recipients

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
1.	Anna Akelkak		
2.	Mary Kawagley		none
3.	Christian VAnder		
4.	Jim Karasti		
5.	Jamie Karasti		
6.	Nevaeh Valdez		
7.	Mary Kaleak		
8.	Jeffrey Kaleak		
9.	William Kaleak		
10.	Maggie Karasti		-
11.	[illegible]		
12.	Rachel Kreg		
13.	Vera Taylor		
14.	Sandra Stermer		
15.	Joyce Stermer		
16.	Brenda Romie		
17.	LoriDee Andujar-Romie		
18.	Christian Vanderjar		
19.	Sophie Kaleak		.
20.	Lorraine King		

Ekwok, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
21.	Luki Akelkok Sr		
22.	Pauline Akelkok		
23.	Quinn King		
24.	Alice Lkerasti		
25.	Emma Valdez		
26.	Julia Baehm		
27.	Jimmy Baeha		
28.	Jackson Baeha		
29.	James Baehm		
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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

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

Bristol Bay Native Association


EKWOK
WARRIORS
EXIT


HOME
PERIOD
GUEST
POSSESSION
SCORE
PLAYER-FOUL
SCORE
FOULS
MATCH
FOULS
WILLIAM 'SONNY' NELSON
EKWOK WARRIORS
EXIT


Welcome
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek
Road Feasibility Study
Bristol
& SAFE
& KIND
& RESPECTFUL

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



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Project Approach IP0

- Public Involvement
  - 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



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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

13

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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

17

17

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?"

18

18

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
- Toll station?

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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

berries

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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

22

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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

27

27

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

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Questions or Comments?

31

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Thank you for your participation!

Bristol Bay Native Association

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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;
- 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

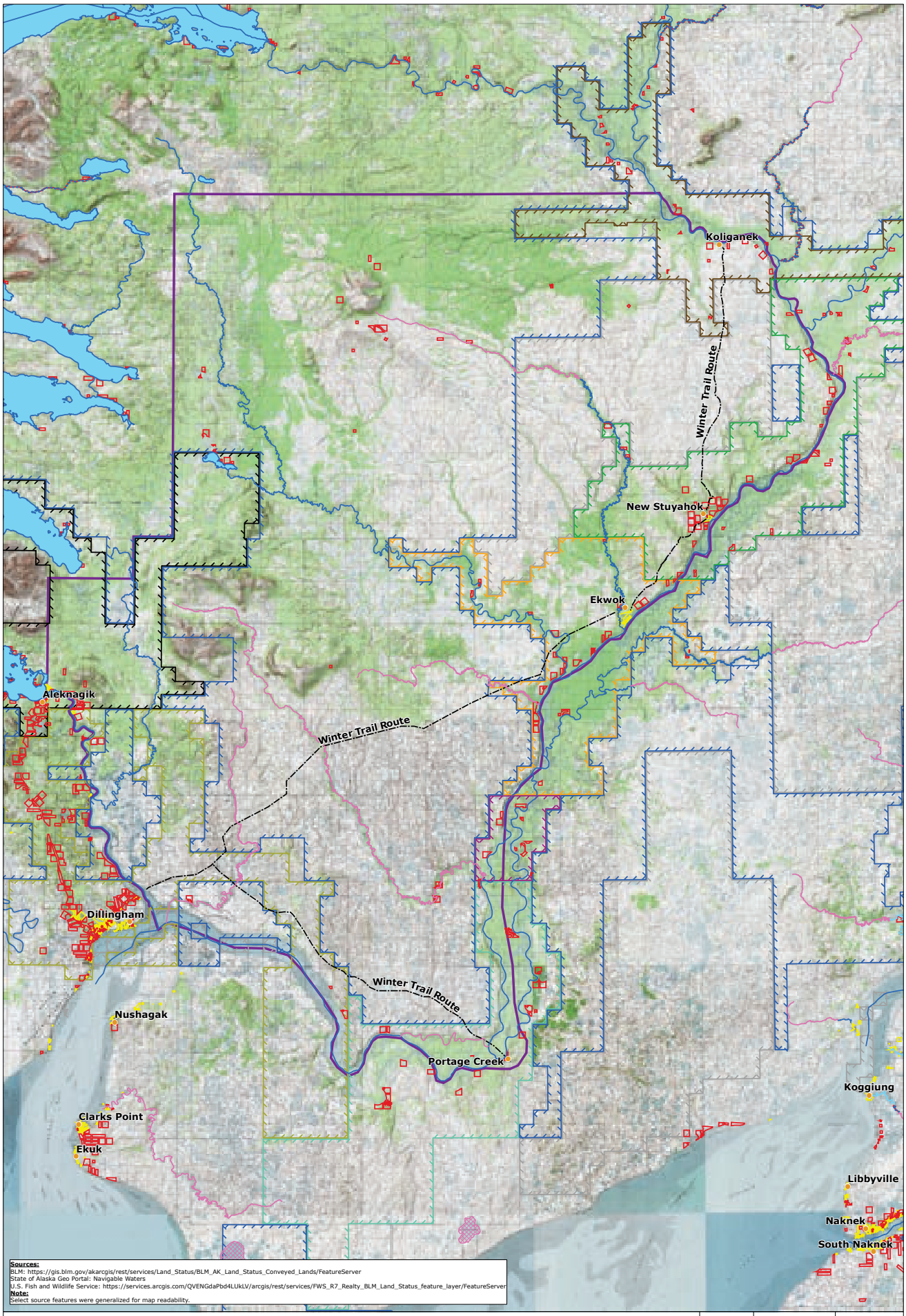
Community Survey

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.



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

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

0 1.5 3 Miles

Key Map

NEW STUYAHOK

Bristol
ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, LLC

111 W. 16th Avenue, Third Floor
Anchorage, AK 99501-5169
phone (907) 563-0013
fax (907) 563-6713
www.bristol-companies.com

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Project: **BBNA WO30 A2K Study**

Bristol Project No: 32250060

Reference: Initial Public Meeting – New Stuyahok

Date of Meeting: October 23, 2025; ~4:00pm – ~5:20pm (Alaska Time)

Location of Meeting: CQ Building MS Team Meeting or Teleconference.

Call in Information: **907-313-2185**; Conference ID: **995 698 466#**

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 23, 2025. See attachments section for the flyer.

Trip Summary:
Isaac and Brandon traveled from Dillingham to New Stuyahok on Thursday, October 23. The meeting began at 4:00pm. Bristol Engineering (Bristol) gave the presentation. The Q&A and group discussion continued until 5:20pm.

Meting 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. 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. Participant asked about part of Tribe's LRTP to connect to neighbors.
    1. Presenter informed participant that this project is the first step in a very big discussion about connection.

ii. Participant asked if airport improvements are being looked at to reduce cost of goods and services.
    1. Presenter explained that this project is not directly looking into improving air travel, but it will be noted as public comment and researched.
    2. Presenter added that projects congruent to this feasibility study are also being further investigated. An example that was given by the presenter was about a study that was done in which a participant from the public meeting in Ekwok mentioned occurred in the 1960's. The presenter brought up how Bristol is conducting further research on the 1960's project that was brought to Bristol's attention during the public meeting in Ekwok.
    3. Presenter reinforced the fact that this project is in the preliminary research and public outreach phase to the participants.

iii. Participant asked how many other villages want road connections.
    1. Presenter explained that Bristol doesn't understand if a road is something the community's desire.

iv. Participant expressed concern about big construction companies coming into New Stuyahok and not hiring locally from the village.
    1. Presenter explained that local construction projects typically hire local qualified individuals. Presenter also reaffirmed that construction would be far into the future and informed the participants that tribes can take steps and contract mechanisms to ensure local hires.

v. Participant asked about the idea of only connecting Koliganek, New Stuyahok, and Ekwok. Participant did not want to connect to Aleknagik nor did the participant see the benefit to connecting to Aleknagik.
    1. Presenter explained that part of this study is to investigate different connection options.

vi. Participant liked the idea of connecting to neighbors, Koliganek and Ekwok – it could be very beneficial especially when barges cannot make it all the way up to the upper communities of New Stuyahok and Koliganek that are above Ekwok.

vii. Participant expressed concerns about the trouble that a connection to Aleknagik would bring to New Stuyahok. A particular concern that the participant had was that a road connection would invite / advance the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Project.

viii. Presenter informs participants that Historic Sites will be discovered as Bristol continues to research for the study and that Historic Sites will not be made available to the public, but it will be provided to the Tribal Council.

1. Presenter explained how an abbreviated version will be incorporated into the study.

ix. Participant asked about maintenance of the road and who will maintain it.

1. Presenter informed participant that the study will identify the subject matter and review information regarding maintenance.

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. The presenter emphasized the project's focus is to understand the feasibility of a year-round overland road connection.

3. Considerations for New Roadways

a. The presenter prepared the participants to consider different variables for the community in their assessment for new roadways, mainly community needs and priorities, cultural and subsistence considerations, environmental and season factors, and economic and social impacts.

4. Evaluation of Opportunities and Threats

a. Opportunities

i. Better access to healthcare during bad weather

ii. Cheaper freight movement from Dillingham

iii. Access to more subsistence areas

iv. Connect the three villages together (Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek)

1. Ekwok would be the best place for a bigger airport if these communities were connected

v. More access to gravel resources

b. Threats

i. Drunk driving on the road

ii. Non-local people coming into Dillingham and taking it over. This concept could happen to New Stuyahok with more connections.

iii. Animal encounters on the road

iv. The advancement of the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Project

v. Increased drug / alcohol use and availability

vi. Access for adolescents to do what they want / get into mischief

vii. Could ruin subsistence areas

viii. Could diminish / hurt fish and game populations as well as all other species – need to study this more before moving forward

ix. Road could create dust

x. Development could mean cutting down more trees

c. Other Notes and Comments

i. New Stuyahok is warmer in general

ii. Participant commented on an improved airstrip for New Stuyahok

iii. Participant mentioned in the past, people that needed medical care were able to receive it, even with bad weather. All the recent deaths have been alcohol related (last 5 to 10 years).

iv. Presenter explained that Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska), are stakeholders – they won't have individual reports, but the study can provide next steps – what is needed before moving forward

v. Caribou herds are diminishing in the area. The community of New Stuyahok have not had the heard in their area for some time.

vi. Cultural Considerations – Connections could be both good and bad for subsistence

vii. Environmental considerations – Winds have been stronger, permafrost is melting, more swamp areas, more vegetation (alders, willows, etc.), warmer than it used to be. This could impact current/typical modes of travel.

1. Participant mentioned the desire for a wind turbine

viii. Participant had a question about how the study / road would tackle river crossings

1. The study would look at routes, and some rivers would be crossed, swamp or bad areas would be avoided if possible

ix. It was brought up multiple times that participants would like a connection to Ekwok and Koliganek rather than all the way to Aleknagik

5. Potential Road Locations

a. A detailed discussion was held assessing where a road could go with considerations of different variables in mind. Considerations for the public included geographic feasibility, environmental factors, cultural and historical resources, and community preference. No detailed routes were provided, general discussion only.

6. Questions
    a. Any last-minute questions were answered, and comments were noted.

Attachments:

1. Sign in Sheet (1 page)
2. Flyer (1 page)
3. Presentation slides (9 pages)
4. Public meeting #1 handout / community survey (2 pages)
5. Handout map (1 page)

New Stuayhok, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Thursday, October 23, 2025

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
1.	Mary Olympic		
2.	Joe Kobler		
3.	Lisa Andrew		
4.	Natalia Wassillikey		
5.	Wally Gust		
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
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BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

NEW STUYAHOK COMMUNITY MEETING



Thursday,
October 23, 2025
4 PM

- **CQ 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: 9/23/2025

Check out the website for more information: A2KRoadStudy.com

Bristol Bay Native Association

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

Bristol

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



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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)

3

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
Considers the possibility of road connections between Aiktenaght, Portage Creek, Edenda, New Skoykuk, and Bulgarak.	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.

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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

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Project Approach



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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
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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

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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?

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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?

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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

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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:**
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Opportunities and Threats

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- Things to consider:
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- Let's mark up some maps!!!
- Also, Let's do some surveys!!!

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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

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Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

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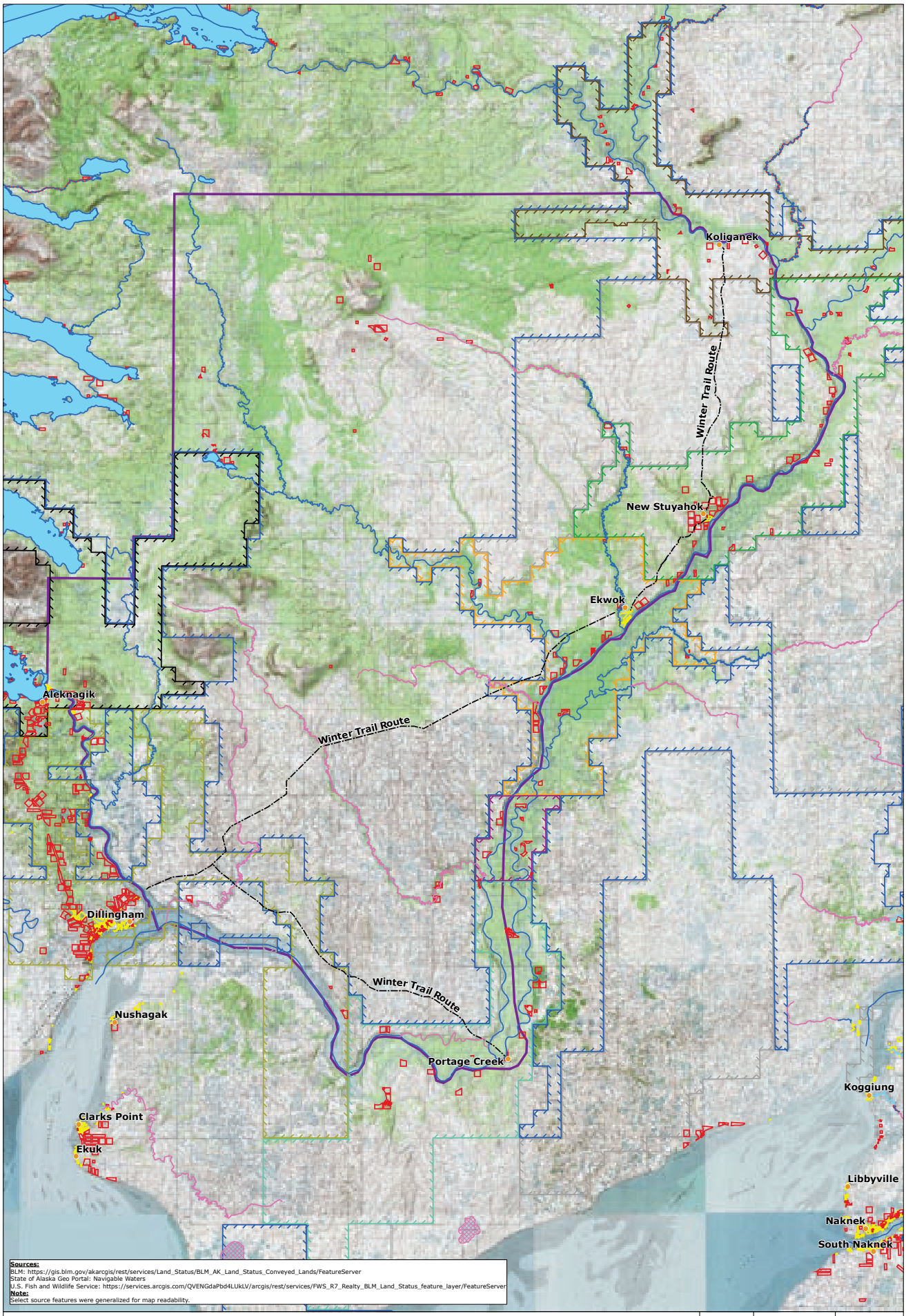

Sources:
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- BLM's Land Status of Alaska (3/9/2017)
- Study Boundary

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

0 1.5 3 Miles

Key Map

KOLIGANEK

Bristol
ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, LLC

111 W. 16th Avenue, Third Floor
Anchorage, AK 99501-5169
phone (907) 563-0013
fax (907) 563-6713
www.bristol-companies.com

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 Gumlichpuk		
11.			
#5 12.	Jantelle Brown		
13.	Sarina Merlino		
14.	Samantha Sharpe		
15.	Andrew Larson		
16.	Dolores Larson		
17.	Elena Norbert		
18.			
19.			
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 Wyfsocki		
25.	John Norbert		
26.	Sonny Joe Kapsak Jr		
27.	Brianna Nelson		
#1 ✓ 28.	Brenda Norbert		
29.	Alex Hansen		
30.	Myrtle Johnson		
31.	Ashleanne Ishnook		
32.	Frances A. Nelson		
33.	William Kusma		
#3 ✓ 34.	Edward Kapsak Jr.		
35.			
36.	Ashley Apokedak		
37.	Constantine Gumlickpuk		
38.	Nicholi Ishnook		
#4 39.	Constantine 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.			
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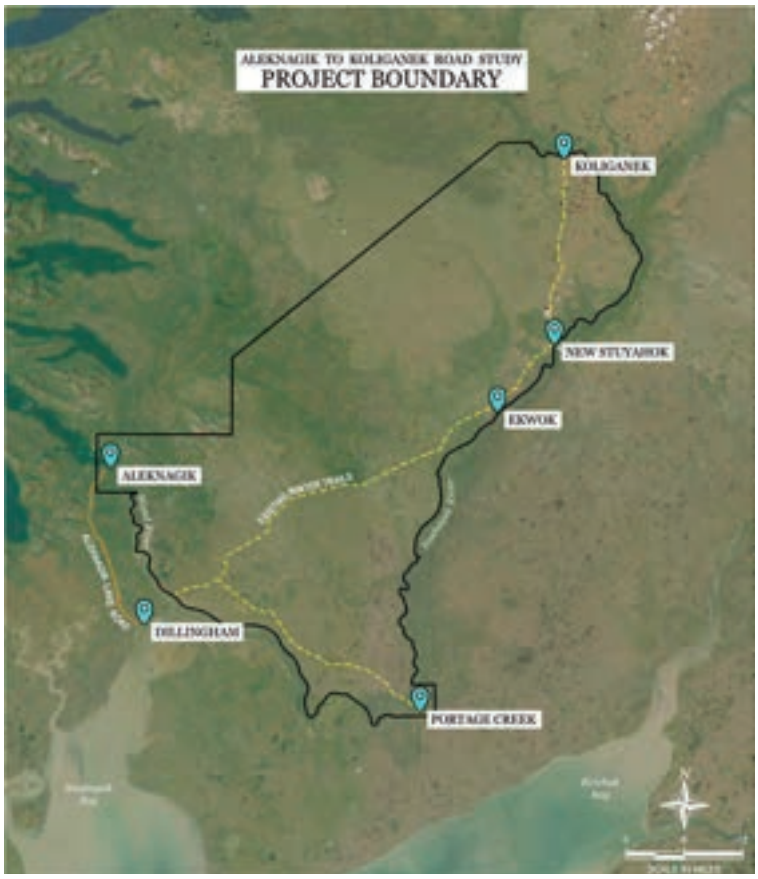
BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

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
Wednesday,
December 3, 2025
12 PM
Check out the website for more
information: A2KRoadStudy.com
Koliganek Village Council
have a past due water
er bill, a past due light
a past due fuel bill,
l 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.
es must be paid in full at
before receiving services.
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.






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

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)

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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



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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

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Project Approach



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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

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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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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

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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!

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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?

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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?

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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?

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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)?

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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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Opportunities and Threats

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

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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
    - 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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Questions or Comments?

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Thank you for your participation!

Bristol Bay Native Association

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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;
- 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

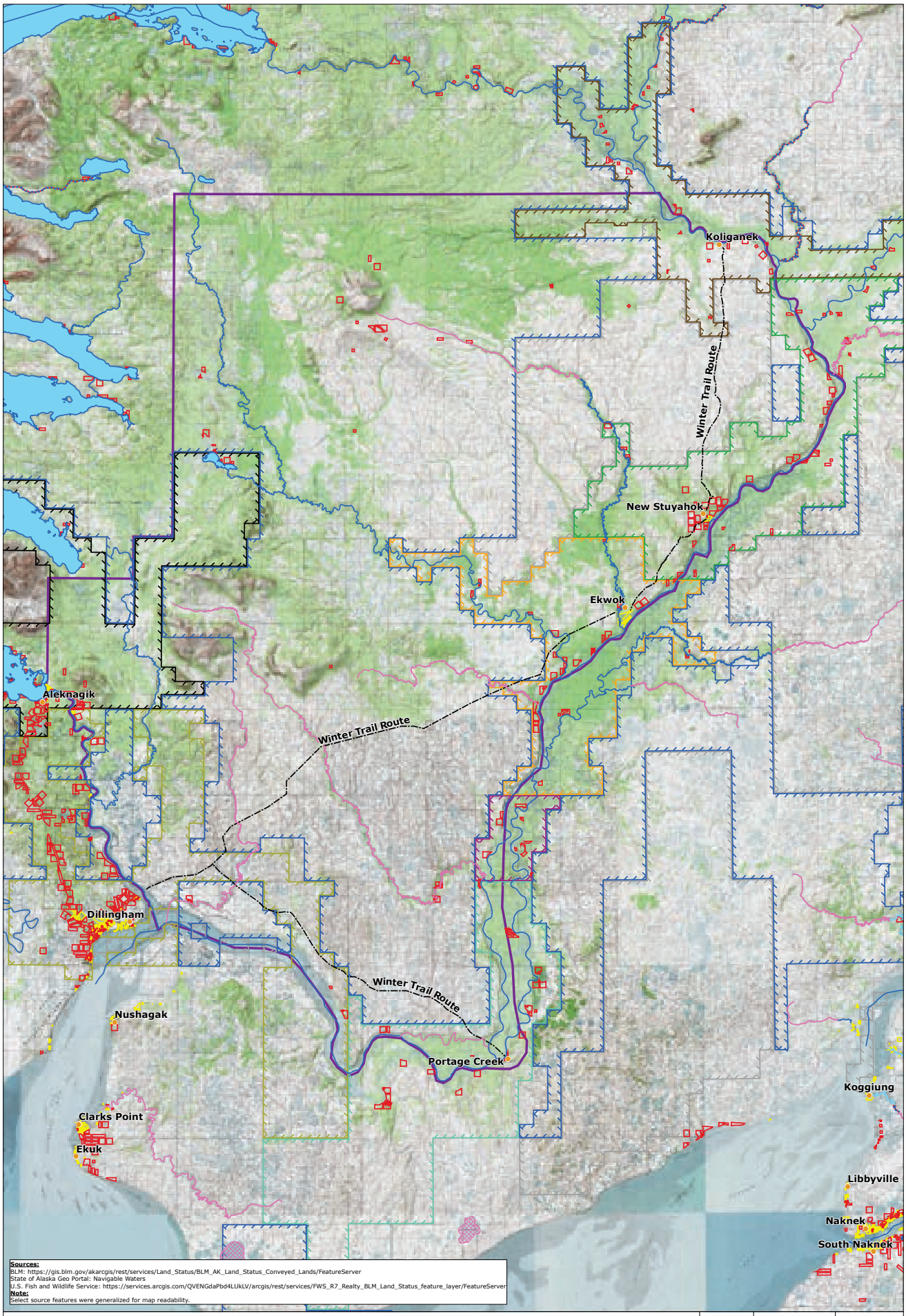
Community Survey

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.



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

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

0 1.5 3
Miles

Key Map