What is AIDEA?

- Alaska Industrial Development & Export Authority
  - Formed as public corporation in 1967
  - Mission: creating job opportunities and encouraging economic growth, including development of natural resources
- Experience working with private sector
- Took over Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road (AMDIAR) in mid-2013
**Purpose of the Project**

- Construct industrial access road to the Ambler Mining District
- Support exploration and development of mineral resources in the Ambler Mining District
- Promote economic development and job opportunities in the region and the State

**Resource Rich Region**

- 75 mile long State-owned mineralized area
- Copper, zinc, lead, silver and gold
- Key deposits:
  - Arctic (Nova Copper)
  - Sun (Andover Ventures)
  - Bornite (NANA)
  - Smucker (Teck Cominco)

Mine feasibility studies show overland transportation is required for mining to be economically feasible.
Project Development To Date

- DOT&PF initiated transportation reconnaissance efforts in 2010
- Community outreach
- Preliminary engineering
- Preliminary baseline environmental research
- Identified feasible routes

Alternatives Evaluated
Preliminary Corridor Analysis

Preliminary corridors were evaluated on:

- Corridor length
- Federal Conservation System units (e.g. wildlife refuges)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Salmon/sheefish habitats
- Caribou habitats
- Threatened/endangered species and critical habitats
- Wetland habitats
- Availability of material sites
- Construction/maintenance cost

AMDIAR East Corridor

Most feasible route:

- 200+/- miles long
- Four maintenance stations
- 15 large bridges (>150 feet)
- Least caribou impacts, no endangered species impacts
- Least impact on salmon/sheefish habitats
- Corridor through Gates of the Arctic National Preserve
- Generalized land status
  - 115+/- miles on State land
  - 45+/- miles on federal (NPS/BLM) land
  - 45+/- miles on ANCSA corporation lands
Proposed AMDIAR Corridor

Tasks in Progress by AIDEA

- Community outreach/meetings
- Additional reconnaissance studies
- Preliminary engineering
- Environmental documentation/permitting
  - Agency consultation
  - Permit application to initiate EIS and ANILCA Title XI reviews
Community Input

- Over 25 meetings in local communities over last 4 years
- High level of interest in communities throughout the region
- Many of the comments/concerns have centered on:
  - Economics (employment, cost of living, etc.)
  - Subsistence
  - Access (restricted vs. public) and number of vehicles
  - Environmental (wilderness, asbestos, acid rock drainage)

Addressing Community Concerns

- Concerns about access
  - AIDEA is proposing a controlled access road
- Concerns about being near Pah River Valley
  - Proposed alignment stays away from Pah River Valley
- Concerns about potential effects on caribou, water quality, etc.
  - EIS provides detailed look at potential effects and suggests ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate them
Different than Dalton Highway

- Constructed using public ROW from BLM and closed by Commissioner of Transportation
- Dalton Highway owned by State and managed by DOT&PF. Commissioner has authority to open or close road
- Dalton Highway placed on the Federal Aid Highway System - allowed federal funds to be used for maintenance and repairs

Similar to Red Dog Mine Road

- Controlled access - for industrial use only
- Not designed to public highway standards
- User tolls to fund/repay construction, maintenance, and eventual reclamation
- Lessons learned from Red Dog Mine Road:
  - How to deal with caribou crossing road
  - How to identify road crossings for local community
  - Covered/closed containers to limit potential for dust
  - Commercial driver training/enforcement
Red Dog Mine Road

Project Development Steps

- Reconnaissance Studies
- AIDEA Board approves Filing for Environmental Impact Statement
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Financing Analysis
- AIDEA Board decision to proceed
- Final design/permitting
- Construction
- Operation
- Reclamation
EIS Process

- Notice of Intent
- Scoping Process
- Identify Alternatives
- Evaluate Impacts and Identify Ways to Minimize or Mitigate
- Draft EIS
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision and Final Permitting

Proposed Project Schedule

- Community Outreach/Consultation: 2011-2018
- Routing/Reconnaissance Studies: 2010-2013
- Baseline Environmental: 2012-2015
- Preliminary Engineering: 2013-2015
- Submit permit application/start EIS: 2014
- P3 Development Process: 2016
- Permitting/Final Design: 2016-2018
- Construction Start: 2019
Questions/Comments?