

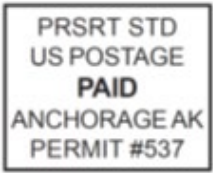


**Representative Jim Colver**  
**Budget & Road Report**  
**April 2016**

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# Session Wrap Up

At the time this is being written, the Legislature is in extended session after a hectic final two weeks, working 7 days a week, culminating at 3a.m on the 90th day of the session. Many big issues were accomplished, but there are several big issues outstanding, including resolving differences between the Republican House Majority (which I am a member of) and the House Minority to access the Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR) to fund the budget, which requires 30 votes. Reaching a deal is complicated because the Minority is leveraging their CBR vote to have input on HB 247 Oil & Gas Tax Credit Reform, and on any new proposed revenue measures. Representative Colver does not support undoing the progress made reducing the budget. The legislature continues to work toward reaching a consensus on HB 247, the Governor’s proposal to reduce the cost of Cook Inlet and North Slope credits.

The good news is that the following legislation passed: SB 74 Medicaid Reform, HB 126 Code of Military Justice for the Alaska National Guard, HB 216 Passage on Navigable Waters, which Rep. Colver cosponsored, asserting the state’s right to free passage on state waters free from federal interference, and HB 314 Extending Regional Economic Development Organizations to diversify rural economies at no cost to the state.

Representative Colver is looking out for you on each and every piece of legislation in the legislature that impacts your liberty and pocketbook. He added property tax protection measures to HB 370 on the House floor. HB 370 proposed extending property tax exemptions for economic development projects for an unlimited period of time. Rep. Colver’s amendment made sure that developers still have to pay their fair share of fire, road and other services, so taxpayers won’t have to subsidize their services. HB 370 got hung up in the Senate and did not pass.

The Governor is very insistent that the Legislature create new revenue to plug the \$4 billion budget hole. Representative Colver has been reaching out to constituents since January to gauge support for the Governor’s various proposals. District 9 constituents by about 64% prefer using some of the permanent fund earnings, while maintaining a dividend of at least \$1,000. Currently the House Finance Committee is holding hearings on HB 245, which provides a minimum of a \$1,000 dividend that will increase as oil prices rise. Representative Colver is still evaluating the best way to proceed that will have the least impact on individual Alaskans and keep our economy healthy. Please weigh in by contacting him.

Representative Colver needs your opinion to help represent you. Call him toll free at 1-888-465-4859 or email him at [Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov) to give him your opinion.



**Representative Jim Colver on the House Floor.**

## Dear District 9 Friends,

You told me loud and clear: “Cut the budget.”

I am glad to report progress on cutting the budget!

The House passed a budget that cut \$283 million. When last year’s reductions are included, the budget has been trimmed \$1 billion over the past two years to \$3.8 billion. The House and Senate will negotiate final budget numbers before the end of the session.

As your legislator I pushed back on proposals that shift the cost of state retirement obligations to local communities and school districts that would raise your property taxes and bust school budgets. I also opposed a bill that would gut the senior property tax exemption. They did not pass.

Thank you for all the calls, emails, and answering my survey on solving the budget shortfall and on new revenue options. I am still evaluating the best way to proceed that will have the least impact on individual Alaskans and keep our economy healthy.

Please keep me informed on your opinions! Please call or send me an email.

**Representative Jim Colver**

## Progress on Long Lake Reroute

Design Moving Forward!

Over the past year, Representative Colver has made good progress on improving the safety of the Glenn Highway at Long Lake.

Last summer, DOT gathered soil samples and developed preliminary route alternates south of Long Lake. This spring and early summer, survey crews will perform topographic surveys to be used to design the road.

The project is scheduled for construction in 2018, with an estimated cost of \$80 million.

Representative Colver has met with DOT and Federal Highway Project managers frequently to keep the project moving. He gets a monthly project update to make sure progress is on schedule. At a transportation fair this fall in Wasilla, the Long Lake reroute was rated as the highest priority project.



**INSIDE: SUMMER ROAD CONSTRUCTION  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**



# HELP IS ON THE WAY!

**“As your Representative, I am putting my professional road building experience to work for you!”**



**Rep. Colver on Glenn Highway emergency job in Sutton last summer, after working to protect the highway from the Matanuska River.**

than 2,100 dump truck loads of large “rip rap” rock to protect the shoulder along the highway on the river side at Mile 64. After excavating and placing the rock, the surface will be top soiled and seeded. “There will be some interruption for motorists during construction, but this work will ensure the highway won’t be washed out should the Matanuska River act up,” Rep. Colver said. “I’m thankful for the quick response by the Dept. of Transportation to get this project designed and out to bid over the winter – good job DOT.”

## Road Projects, 2017 - 2019

1. **Richardson Highway MP 30-33** Deep Culvert Replacement: Anticipated to advertise for construction in May, 2017. Replace 2 large deep culverts near MP 30. Construction cost approx. \$5M.
2. **Richardson Highway MP 35-65** Resurfacing: This project Representative Colver initiated at the request of constituents. Will advertise for construction in March, 2017. The scope of work is to repave the entire length of road from MP 35-65 and replace culverts.
3. **Richardson Highway MP 80-82** Improvements: Anticipated to advertise for construction in March, 2018. Re-establish surface and subsurface drainage, and resurface.
4. **Glenn Highway MP 79-84.5** Long Lake Reroute: New alignment south of Long Lake, construction 2018.
5. **Glenn Highway Chickaloon Hill MP 78.3 to 79:** New alignment north of current location, construction 2019.
6. **Richardson Highway MP 65-80** Rehabilitation: Anticipated to advertise in March of 2019.
7. **Richardson Highway MP 115-148 Rehabilitation** Anticipated to advertise the first stage for construction in March 2019.



**Sixth grade students from Academy Charter joined Rep. Colver and other legislators in Juneau to learn about Alaska’s state government.**

18. **Richardson Highway MP 167-173** Reconstruction: Widen and upgrade to federal standards, construction scheduled for 2019.
19. **Richardson Highway MP 159-167** Reconstruction: Widen and upgrade to federal standards, construction scheduled for 2018.

## Project to Protect Glenn Highway

Granite Construction is the low bidder for a project that will shore up the shoulder of the Glenn Highway at Mile 64 in Sutton to protect it from flooding and erosion caused by the Matanuska River.

The Matanuska River ate away its north bank in Sutton last summer, unfortunately taking some private property and threatening the Glenn Hwy. In July, Rep. Jim Colver was able to get DOT&PF to perform emergency work to protect the Glenn Highway by installing large rocks in the most threatened area. This project will continue the work along the long straight stretch at Mile 64 and at a spot near Mile 63 where the river is eroding near the guardrail.

The contractor will place 43,000 tons, more

# DISTRICT 9

## 2016 Summer Road Projects

### PALMER

**8. Repave: Farm Loop Road, Buffalo Mine Road.** Contractor: Quality Asphalt Paving.

**9. Mile 49 Glenn Highway at Fishhook Road:** Reroute a portion of the highway at pullout where erosion of the slope threatens the Glenn Highway. Contractor: Granite Construction Company.

### SUTTON

**10. Repave: 58 Mile Road, Jonesville Mine/Eska Road.** Contractor: Quality Asphalt Paving.

**11. Glenn Highway Mile 64 Erosion Protection** Contractor: Granite Construction.

### CHICKALOON

**12. Chickaloon River Bridge Replacement:** Work to complete the Bridge will continue until the fall. Contractor: Hamilton Construction.

**13. Glenn Highway Rebuild MP 77.4 to 78.3:** Rebuild highway to the new Chickaloon bridge.

### GLENNALLEN

**14. Lake Louise Road repairs:** DOT M&O will repair frost heaves.

### VALDEZ

**15. Richardson Highway MP 0-3.6 Repavement Project.** Contractor: Harris Sand and Gravel.

**16. Richardson Highway Erosion Protection, MP 6.5 and MP 12.** Will raise the height of the highway 5’, and install culverts and armor rock along the shoulder to protect the highway from the Lowe River. Contractor: Great Northwest.

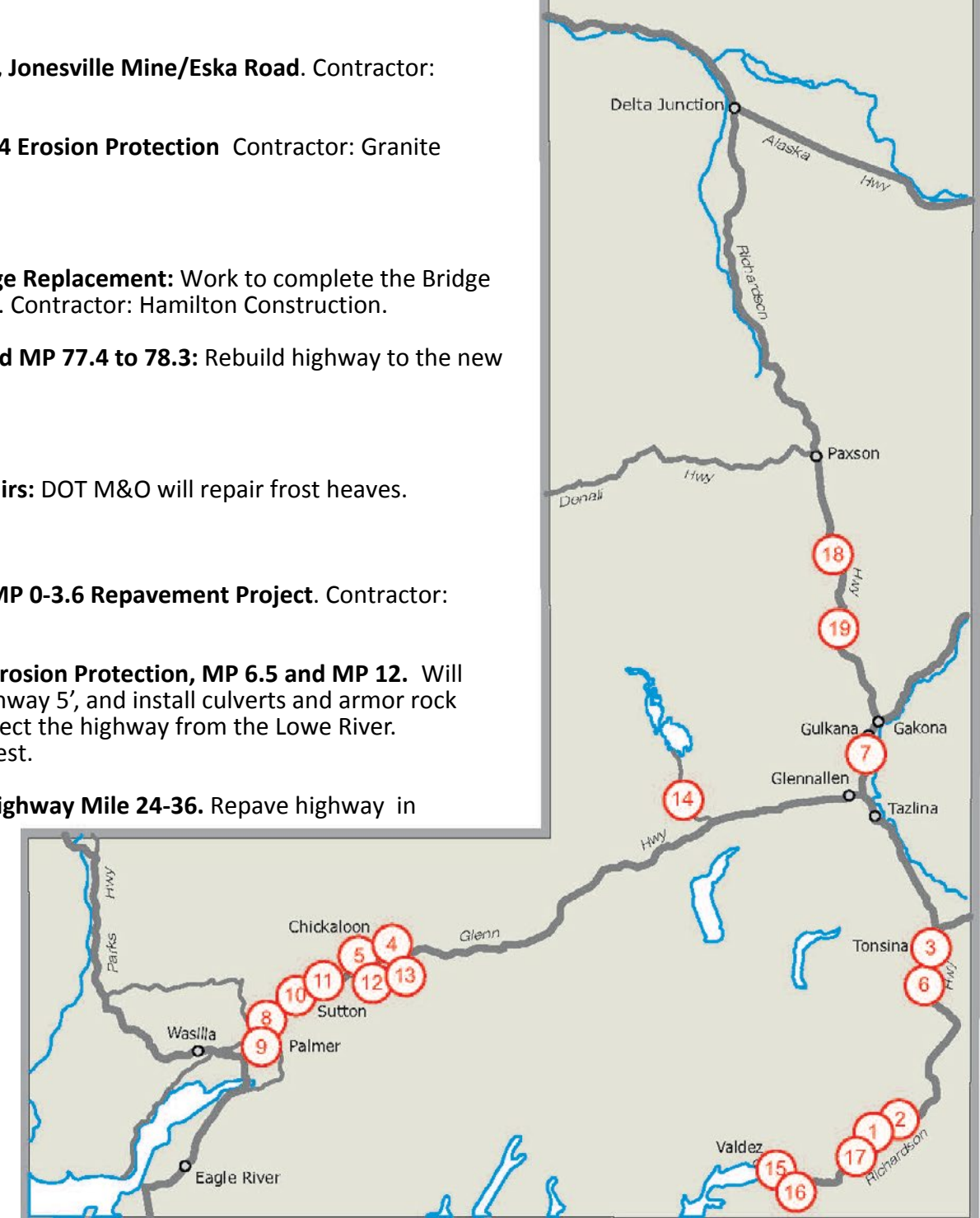
**17. Repave: Richardson Highway Mile 24-36.** Repave highway in Thompson Pass.

**Sign up for my e-newsletter!**

*If you would like to receive more regular updates on what’s happening in the District, please send me an email:*

Rep.Jim.Colver@akleg.gov

## Road Projects Map



**KEY:** Map numbers match the listed numbers for each highway project.