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PNWER Celebrates \$25 million RAISE Grant for Cross-Border Alaska Highway Restoration

Project will restore northern stretch of highway impacted by climate change-related degradation

Last week, [U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced](#) \$1.8 billion for 148 projects across the United States through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. Included among the recipients is the [Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities](#), which earned a \$25 million award to restore a 45-mile section of the Alaska Highway in Fairbanks, Alaska and Yukon, Canada. This project will rehabilitate a 45-mile portion of the vital cross-border highway and ensure resiliency against future climate change-related impacts.

The Alaska Highway is a critical roadway that connects Alaska to the Lower-48 states via the Canadian Yukon. A project built by the U.S. in cooperation with Canada during World War II, the highway remains the only all-season corridor connecting Alaska to the North American highway network, enabling critical recreational, residential and commercial movement in and out of the state.

The restoration project will address a section of the highway impacted by the thawing of permafrost under the roadway, as well as other climate change-related degradation. The project will improve severe road conditions caused by the thawing permafrost, and increase safety, mobility and connectivity of Alaska and Yukon residents and visitors.

The Alaska Highway represents a long-standing cooperation between the U.S. and Canada, serving as an essential international route that supports both nations' economies. As a regional leader in cross-border collaboration, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) commends the U.S. Department of Transportation for recognizing the importance of this bi-national project. This award underscores the importance of international cooperation in strengthening economies, providing safe, reliable roadways and ensuring residents can reach the resources they need to thrive.



“To Alaskans, the Alcan Highway is a vital lifeline for commerce and food security, as well as connectivity with our Canadian neighbors and the Lower-48 states,” **Alaska State Representative and PNWER Vice President DeLena Johnson** said. “This project will increase regional resiliency and ensure continued cooperation with Canada and our other Pacific Northwest partners. I am thrilled that funding to maintain and enhance this critical transportation corridor has been secured.”

The RAISE program is a discretionary grant program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that provides funding to communities across the country for road, rail, transit and port projects that have significant local or regional impact. In this round of funding, PNWER’s states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington received a total of 18 RAISE grant awards for various transportation-related initiatives. Read the full list of awardees [here](#).

Read the press release from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities [here](#).

Learn more about the RAISE grant program [here](#).

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ABOUT PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit organization created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, and Yukon. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region; identify and promote "models of success; and serve as a conduit to exchange information. For more information on PNWER, visit www.pnwer.org.