

Principles of Decision-Making for Alaska's Infrastructure Investments

The State of Alaska shall:

Focus on existing infrastructure

1. Maintain and get maximum use of existing infrastructure before building new infrastructure (i.e., “fix it first”)
2. Prioritize public subsidies for projects that benefit communities, not those used primarily by industry
3. Examine the economic development opportunities in the shipping and cargo industries as the Arctic ice melts for longer periods of time to determine how increasingly-open navigable commercial shipping routes decrease global shipping costs
4. Support new public transit and active transportation projects. For the last 50 years, we've spent billions increasing the speed of cars by building bigger roads. To make safe and inclusive transportation options equally convenient we must proactively fund them.
5. Repurpose Alaska's existing rail infrastructure to make the train a viable transportation option.
6. Fund infrastructure that supports in-fill housing and commercial development, rather than building for new sprawl that stretches resources even more thinly.
7. Infrastructure plans need to consider the changes to our climate that will happen so design and material choice won't fail [under extreme weather](#).

Protect fish and wildlife

8. Require infrastructure design, construction, and operations to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat (including addressing habitat impacts at a project's earliest stages)
9. Utilize ferries instead of roads wherever possible to protect habitat

Safeguard community interests

10. Ensure there is community and neighborhood support for new infrastructure. Rather than measuring participation by the number of meetings, measure it by the number of unique Alaskans from the impacted area that attend those meetings.
11. Ensure that infrastructure decisions serve all Alaskans, including low-income, Indigenous, and other BIPOC populations, Alaskans with disabilities, and roadless communities

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

12. Support land-use and energy-efficiency policies that promote lower carbon options (e.g., public transportation, walking, bicycling, and electric-hybrid vehicles over non-hybrid vehicles, green buildings)
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13. Utilize rail and water transport for freight whenever possible instead of truck or air transport

Respect public participation

14. Determine priorities in consultation with Tribes

15. Ensure that infrastructure decisions are open, transparent, linkable, and accountable to the public, including publishing all public comments in addition to summaries, and recording all public meetings.

16. Ensure that Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities incorporates environmental and human health protection (including climate change and subsistence) and safety in all of its decisions.

