Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN ALASKA COMMUNITIES

Michael J. Coffey
Statewide Maintenance and Operations Chief
The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) manages the State’s transportation infrastructure in a very challenging environment. Many facilities in the Alaska’s interior, northern, and southwest regions are underlain by ice-rich permafrost.
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

- Over 14,000 Miles of Public Roadway
- Over 5,600 Miles of State owned road
- 845 Bridges
- 257 Rural Airports
- 28 Harbors
- 720 Buildings (DOT owned or managed)
Climate Change Impacts

- Melting/Warming permafrost
- Increased storm frequencies and intensity
- Increased Coastal erosion due to lack of sea-ice
- Increased river and shore erosion
- Sea-level rise
- Increasing temperatures
ADOTPF Adaptation Strategies

- Shoreline Protection
- Relocation
- Evacuation Routes/Shelters
- Flood Mitigation
- Drainage Improvements
- Permafrost Protection
Newtok Relocation Example
ADOT/PF’s Involvement

- Designed and constructed new barge landing facility (2009), partially funded by EDA grant
- Worked cooperatively with the USACE on road design and permitting (State funded)
- ADOT/PF purchased 4900CY of road construction materials (Newtok Traditional Council also contributed funding)
- US Military (IRT) personnel constructed a 14 foot wide, 1500 foot road this summer with ADOT/PF oversight
- Overseeing the design and construction of the evacuation shelter (2011-2013) funded by State grant to Newtok
- Working with IRT on possible quarry site development
Thank You - Questions