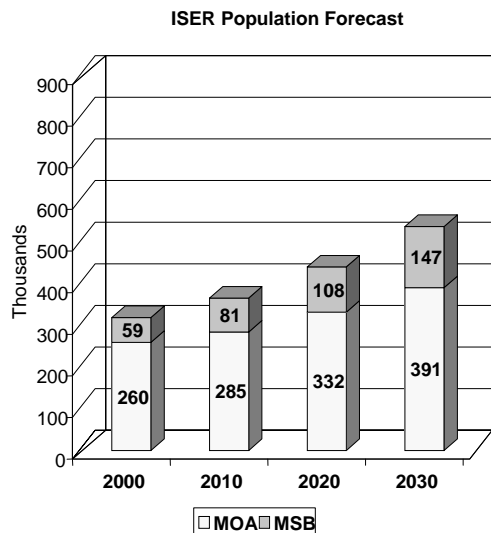


Purpose and Need



The purpose of the Knik Arm Crossing project is to further the development of transportation systems in the Upper Cook Inlet region by providing improved vehicular access and surface transportation connectivity between the Municipality of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Borough, at the Port MacKenzie District, with a financially feasible* and efficient+ crossing to meet the needs for:



1. Improved regional transportation infrastructure to meet existing and projected population growth and locally adopted economic development, land use, and transportation plans, and as directed by the Alaska State Legislature in Alaska Statutes chapter 19.75;
2. Regional transportation connectivity for the movement of people and the movement of freight and goods to, from, and distribution between Anchorage, the Mat-Su Borough, and interior Alaska;
3. Safety and transportation system redundancy for alternative travel routing and access between regional airports, ports, military bases, hospitals, and fire, police and disaster relief services for emergency response and evacuation.

Source: Economic Projections for Alaska and the Southern Railbelt 2000-2025, ISER, October 3, 2001. Note: The ISER forecast was extended to 2030 by Northern Economics using the same annual growth rates assumed in the 2010-2025 period.

* Financially feasible is based upon the ability to finance a total estimated project cost not-to-exceed \$600 million, unless other yet to be identified funding sources become available.

+Efficient means a measure of traffic operating conditions that occur when such factors as travel demand, effects on connecting transportation networks, facility length, travel time, and operating speed are collectively considered.