



AKTTAP Newsletter | January 2026

Ultra-Low Volume Roads Guide Developed

Alaskan villages are generally isolated communities that lack road access. As a result, transportation of passengers and freight relies primarily on-air transport or barge services. Travel within the village core is typically less than one mile, while trips to outlying destinations such as airports are usually under three miles. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are the most common mode of transport, with snowmobiles preferred during winter months. While some villages maintain one or two pickup trucks for transporting freight from barge landings or airports, ATVs equipped with trailers frequently fulfill these requirements.

With minimal exceptions, village roads and streets are surfaced with unprocessed gravel or indigenous materials. Consequently, conventional design standards for paved surfaces may not be applicable. For example, the coefficient of friction for tires on gravel is approximately 0.45, compared to roughly 0.75 for paved surfaces, influencing key design criteria such as stopping distances. It is essential for roadway designers to recognize and address these considerations in geometric design.

The Alaska Village Roads Guide offers transportation professionals comprehensive guidance for designing roads and streets in Alaskan villages. This publication addresses transportation infrastructure in relation to safety and the unique needs of rural Alaskan communities with populations below 1,000, where ATVs serve as the predominant vehicle.



Alaska village roads perform a variety of functions, including facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services; supporting community activities; and enabling construction or industrial operations. The availability of materials, equipment, expertise, and the characteristics of the local environment necessitate adaptable approaches to road design, geometry, surface maintenance, and operational procedures.

These roads are specifically engineered to accommodate challenges associated with geographic isolation and local conditions, ensuring that infrastructure meets diverse community requirements. Factors such as the accessibility of construction materials and skilled labor, along with the adequacy of equipment and methods, often determine the feasibility, operation, and maintenance of these facilities as well as the level of service provided to users. The guide is available online at <http://hdl.handle.net/11122/16265>.

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We acknowledge the Alaska Native nations upon whose ancestral lands our campuses reside. In Fairbanks, our Troth Yedha' Campus is located on the ancestral lands of the Dena people of the lower Tanana River.



Upcoming Events

TTP 201 Class *February 24-25, 2026*

The Alaska TTAP is providing a 2-day class on the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) in Anchorage, Alaska on February 24-25, 2026. The class will be held at The Lakefront Anchorage. There is no cost for attending the class. Please register for the class at <https://forms.gle/v9V2JUeMLmpaLELw7>. This intensive 2-day, in-person course builds upon FHWA's "Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) 101" online course. This course will take an in-depth look at the administration of the TTP and associated projects and activities. This course is designed for Tribal Transportation employees, State and local government transportation professions that interact with Tribal Transportation Departments, who would like detailed information about the TTP. This includes Tribal Council members, Tribal transportation practitioners, and state and local agency practitioners. It is encouraged that attendees complete Federal Highway Administration Local Aid Support's Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) 101 on-line at no cost (registration required) prior to attending this course.



Gravel Roads Training

April 13 and 14, 2026

The AKTTAP in partnership with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) for Alaska will be presenting a 2-day class on the construction and maintenance of gravel roads. Topics covered will include routine maintenance, drainage and dust management. The course will be offered in Fairbanks on April 13 and 14, 2026 and in Nome on April 16 and 17, 2026. Registration will open in February 2026.



Past Webinars Available on YouTube

Ongoing

Every webinar sponsored by the AKTTAP is recorded and posted to the AIDC channel on YouTube. Topics currently available are Dust management, Updating Your LRTP, Ice Roads Funding, and DOT Grants Dashboard Demonstration. The dedicated AKTTAP playlist can be found at [AKTTAP Playlist](#). Topics scheduled for 2026 include Geospatial resources from the BIA, Impacts of storms on Alaska, and the Denali Commission.



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