



# Juneau Douglas North Crossing PEL Study

## Purpose and Need Statement

### Purpose

The purpose of the Juneau Douglas North Crossing PEL Study is to identify ways to improve the connection between Douglas Island and Juneau. The secondary purposes are to identify ways to improve transportation for non-motorized users and reduce transportation related energy consumption.

### Need

An improved connection to Douglas Island should address the following needs:

#### **Alternate access and transportation infrastructure resilience**

The community has expressed concerns regarding the lack of an alternate access during emergencies and the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) has identified the issue in the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. In the event of the Douglas Island Bridge or another single route travel corridor in the area (North Douglas Highway or Egan Drive) being inaccessible or out of service, emergency response would be delayed, and residents cut off from the access to workplace and critical resources.

#### **Decrease traffic pressure on Douglas Island Bridge and its intersections**

The traveling public is currently experiencing delays and congestion on the Douglas Island Bridge and its intersections during the peak travel times. Analyses indicate that the intersections operate at or over capacity during peak travel times and will continue to deteriorate based on estimated future traffic counts.

### Additional goals

- Improve connection to North and West Douglas Island by creating additional traffic capacity to support the future development of affordable housing and economic development opportunities.
- Enhance and protect the public health and safety of travelers and the communities that transportation facilities traverse and serve.
- Transportation improvements should avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the environment and to residential areas.
- Transportation improvements should maintain the visual, cultural, and scenic identity of Juneau and Douglas Island.

