

**Susan Bell**  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110800  
Juneau, AK 99811-0800

[www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov)



**Leslye Langla**  
Special Assistant

907.269.8159  
[leslye.langla@alaska.gov](mailto:leslye.langla@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 26, 2014**

**No. 14-005**

### **Alaska and Yukon Join to Study Economic Corridor**

Alaska and Yukon governments have issued a joint Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a contractor to determine the economic viability of creating a development corridor between Skagway and Whitehorse to provide new electric transmission and increased telecommunication capacity.

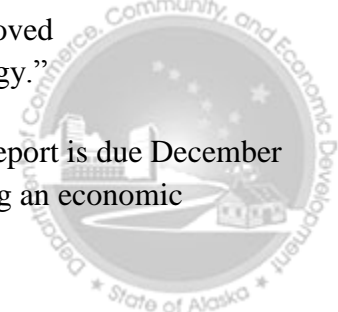
"I am pleased to see continued progress through the issuance of this RFP as Yukon and Alaska evaluate the cross border benefits that would flow from a Skagway to Whitehorse economic development corridor," said Commissioner Susan Bell, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED). "Increased development of renewable energy and greater broadband communication capacity will benefit the entire Upper Lynn Canal economic region and help to strengthen our communities."

The two governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 2013 sharing the expense of assessing the potential for an electrical and telecommunications connection between Whitehorse, Yukon and the Municipality of Skagway, Alaska.

"Yukon and Alaska have enjoyed a long history of working together and collaborating on projects like this allowing us to strengthen and grow our economies as well as our friendship," Minister of Economic Development Currie Dixon said. "Infrastructure projects like this will provide benefits for both our economies and will further integrate our already well-connected jurisdictions."

"Through this international collaboration, our intent is to increase and improve economic development opportunities," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said. "Our mutual vision is to strengthen our communities through improved telecommunications infrastructure and reliable and affordable energy."

The \$250,000 contract is expected to be awarded in April; a final report is due December 31st. The successful bidder will examine various aspects of creating an economic



corridor which could include new electric generation options near Skagway and increased regional telecommunications capacity.

For more information regarding the RFP, contact Gene Therriault, Deputy Director, Alaska Energy Authority, 907.771.3987 or [gtherriault@aidea.org](mailto:gtherriault@aidea.org).

The mission of the Department is to promote a healthy economy, strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska. For more information about DCCED, visit [www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov).

###

