

State-Federal Permitting Council Memorandum of Understanding Frequently Asked Questions

On August 27, 2025, Governor Dunleavy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (FAST-41 MOU) with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (Permitting Council) to streamline federal permitting of infrastructure development in Alaska.¹

The State looks forward to Alaska projects benefiting from streamlined federal review processes under the FAST-41 MOU via improved coordination, collaboration, transparency, and timeline predictability in federal permitting for major infrastructure projects across the State.

This document provides answers to the FAST-41 MOU frequently asked questions.

Does the FAST-41 MOU apply to all projects in Alaska?

No. The FAST-41 MOU only applies to eligible FAST-41 Covered² and Transparency³ projects – two categories identified in federal law – that are approved by the Permitting Council for inclusion on its dashboard.⁴ Under the FAST-41 MOU, the State can recommend projects for FAST-41, contribute the State’s Alaska and Arctic experience and expertise to project-specific discussions, and support timely and effective federal environmental reviews and permitting.

Does the FAST-41 MOU convey new authorities or create or alter any legal rights or requirements?

No. The FAST-41 MOU does not convey new authorities or create or alter any legal rights or requirements. It establishes a coordination mechanism to make federal permitting more efficient through the State’s role in identifying critical infrastructure and development projects, seeing the projects qualify for FAST-41 and be listed on the dashboard, and ensuring Alaska has a seat at the table to assist in delivery of efficient and transparent federal permitting decisions.

How long does the FAST-41 MOU remain in effect?

The FAST-41 MOU is in effect for five years and may be revised or extended.

¹ [Press Release | Governor Dunleavy Announced an Agreement with Federal Permitting Council to Streamline Infrastructure Development](#) (Press Release). “FAST-41” refers to Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act.

² [FAST-41 Covered Projects | Permitting Dashboard](#).

³ [FAST-41 Transparency Projects | Permitting Dashboard](#). Transparency projects have their permitting scheduled and public engagement opportunities posted online for greater accountability.

⁴ [FAST-41 Covered Projects | Permitting Dashboard](#).

How can a project sponsor benefit from the FAST-41 MOU?

A project sponsor can benefit from the FAST-41 MOU through State support in all phases, from qualifying as FAST-41 project through State expertise in federal permitting, applying to be a FAST-41 Covered or Transparency project, and engaging with the State for support.

What infrastructure sectors are eligible under FAST-41?

FAST-41 may apply to a broad range of infrastructure sectors including energy, mining, transportation, broadband, manufacturing, and advanced technology. See FAST-41 Eligibility Requirements at: [FAST-41 Eligibility | Permitting Council](#).

What does the FAST-41 MOU require of Permitting Council?

For projects on the dashboard, the FAST-41 MOU requires Permitting Council to:

- Coordinate with the State to identify and fill gaps in federal agencies' Alaska and Arctic experience,
- Support timely and effective federal environmental reviews and permitting,
- Communicate with the State prior to modifying any federal timetables that affect the State's responsibilities,
- Provide opportunities for State agencies to educate federal permitters and project sponsors on items in the State's jurisdiction,
- Provide opportunities to discuss concurrent rather than sequential reviews and secure and efficient data and document sharing, and
- Coordinate with the Director of the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) within the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to hold targeted coordination and consultation meetings between relevant State and federal agencies to discuss proposed scope, scale, and methods of regulatory efforts, including community outreach, environmental analysis (including fish, wildlife, and subsistence), and cultural analysis, and to avoid duplication of efforts and timeline extensions.

What does the FAST-41 MOU require the State to do?

The FAST-41 MOU requires the State to:

- Interact with Permitting Council and project sponsors to identify Alaska projects that could benefit from being FAST-41 Covered or Transparency projects,
- Assist in developing a template for a Notice of the Initiation of a FAST-41 Notice (a FAST-41 Initiation Notice, or FIN) that will support efficient application for FAST-41 coverage by project sponsors,

- Identify any need for practice tools to aid in FAST-41 implementation,
- Support Permitting Council staff in communication and outreach efforts, and
- Provide opportunities for Permitting Council to present at State conferences to advance knowledge of FAST-41 and the FAST-41 MOU.

Does the FAST-41 MOU change State permitting processes or timelines?

No. As Governor Dunleavy said, “With this agreement, Alaska will have a seat at the table to ensure that federal agencies work hand in hand with the State to deliver timely and transparent permitting decisions.”

If a project signs into FAST-41, the FAST-41 MOU provides a vehicle for State engagement and support through the federal permitting process. On these projects, the State has an option to “opt in” to FAST-41 for further State and federal coordination. If the State exercises this option, a project-specific MOU may be signed covering how to best coordinate existing State processes to ensure timely and transparent outcomes for the applicant and the public. The State will prioritize conducting its current processes under State law with the greatest possible efficiency.

How will Permitting Council and the State interact?

Under the FAST-41 MOU, OPMP will coordinate with Permitting Council to identify eligible projects, engage project sponsors, and share State regulatory expertise. OPMP leads and implements multi-agency coordination to ensure consistent, defensible, transparent, and timely permit decisions for a range of responsible natural resource and infrastructure development projects.

Permitting Council will provide technical assistance, coordinate federal reviews, and ensure project timelines are tracked and visible on the federal Permitting Dashboard.

For more information about FAST-41 and the federal Permitting Dashboard, visit [permitting.gov](https://www.permitting.gov).

For more information about OPMP, visit [Alaska Department of Natural Resources](https://www.alaska.gov/dnr).

[Click here](#) to view the FAST-41 MOU.