

From: [John Bennett](#)
To: [Remsberg, Garry L \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: RE: Federal Highway Route Numbers
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2017 11:54:00 AM

Garry, this was actually a bit of a challenge. I haven't really considered these numbered routes before because they really didn't seem to have much to do with the historical documentation. There are several sets of pre-statehood route numbering schemes that are important to cross reference so you can track them over time when doing ROW research but these numbered routes didn't really seem to come from those systems. You've likely seen some references to them on the internet where people comment that they exist but that most Alaskans don't know much about them because the routes are more commonly called just by their names. I had found some indications that the numbered routes were a part of an AASHTO scheme and then I found a reference to one of our own DOT manuals, specifically, the Alaska supplement to the MUTCD that is also a part of the Alaska Traffic Manual. I have copied 4 pages from that manual and attached them. They verify that the numbering policy came from AASHTO. North-South routes were supposed to be odd numbers and E-W routes even numbers, but its not really consistent. They are also to be continued to make the longest routes which is odd because Route 2 ends up being the Alaska Highway, then Richardson Highway, then Steese Highway then Elliott Highway. I suspect not many folks know that or why. The other attachment is the AASHTO numbering policy which provides some guides as to how the routes should be numbered. This is all interesting because it doesn't seem to have a lot of value, at least not from a planning or ROW research point of view. Hope all this helps answer your question. JohnB

John F. Bennett, PLS, SR/WA *Senior Land Surveyor – Right of Way Services*

R&M CONSULTANTS, INC. | 212 Front Street, Ste. 150 | Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907.458.4304 direct | 907.687.3412 mobile

[Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [rmconsult.com](#)

Innovating Today for Alaska's Tomorrow

From: Remsberg, Garry L (DOT) [<mailto:garry.remsberg@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:09 PM
To: John Bennett <JBennett@rmconsult.com>
Subject: RE: Federal Highway Route Numbers

Thank you John. Enjoy the conference.

From: John Bennett [<mailto:JBennett@rmconsult.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:24 AM
To: Remsberg, Garry L (DOT)
Subject: RE: Federal Highway Route Numbers

Garry, I'm in Anchorage at the surveying conference right now. I should be able to look into this either Monday or Tuesday. Johnb

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Remsberg, Garry L (DOT)" <garry.remsberg@alaska.gov>

Date: 2/14/17 1:39 PM (GMT-09:00)

To: John Bennett <JBennett@rmconsult.com>

Subject: Federal Highway Route Numbers

John,

Good Afternoon. I'm trying to get an answer on when & how the federal highways in Alaska obtained their route numbers (i.e. Route 5 is Taylor Highway, Route 3 is Parks, etc...). Would like to have documentation on this as well. I'm assuming the older routes were numbered when DOT was the Bureau of Public Roads but I believe that Route 7 in Southeast and Route 98 (Klondike) were numbered later in the 1980's. Please feel free to educate me on this topic.

I have met you before when I came to Fairbanks to showcase some of our GIS Applications. You were the ROW Chief. I hope all is going well at R&M.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Garry

Garry Remsberg | GIS Analyst III

Spatial Applications & Map Products, Lead

Information Systems and Services Division

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

3132 Channel Drive | PO Box 112500 | Juneau, Alaska 99811

Tel : 907-465-8956 | Fax : 907-465-6984