

End of the Highway

Born of the concerns and need for security which arose from WWII, the construction of the Alaska Highway, also known as the AlCan Highway, was a monumental challenge. Beginning highway construction in April of 1942, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers faced enormous difficulties: a deadline of completion before winter set in; mud, muskeg, and mosquitoes; permafrost; the need to cut trees and shrubs by hand when heavy equipment did not arrive on time; and the often surprising and difficult weather of the far north.

An August 1942 Time Magazine article referenced the Roosevelt administration's focus on the highway, calling it "...a task befitting Paul Bunyan ... and an integral part of the war effort". Yet despite all the challenges they faced in constructing the highway, the more than 10,000 soldiers working with the Corps of Engineers succeeded in their task. On October 25, 1942, at 4 p.m., the final gap of the planned highway was closed. This achievement is just one more reminder of why those who struggled, fought, and sacrificed while facing so many challenges of WWII are known as the Greatest Generation.

Today the Alaska Highway is a route of peace and scenic beauty, bringing to Delta Junction many thousands of travelers from Canada, the lower 48, and beyond. Delta Junction's official designation as the "End of the Highway" at milepost 1422 makes it a destination. The Visitors' Center in Delta Junction is where travelers pose for photos at the End of the Highway Milepost marker sign. Sadly, that sign deteriorated to the point where it was not repairable, and it was removed in November, 2023.

A small group of volunteers, working in conjunction with the Delta Junction Chapter of the Alaska Farm Bureau, which operates the Visitors' Center, and the City of Delta Junction have begun a project to install a new Milepost 1422 marker, based upon the original design but with new and more durable materials. The Delta Junction High School welding and fabrication class will construct the frame for the sign. Our goal is to have the Milepost 1422 marker constructed and installed in time for this year's tourist season.

We need your help to fund this historical community project. No donation is too small. All donations will be accepted, held, and processed through the City of Delta Junction. Monetary donations may be made payable by check to :

City of Delta Junction

Memo: Milepost Sign

Donations can be mailed to : PO Box 229, Delta Junction, AK 99737
or dropped off at City Hall, 2288 Deborah St., Delta Junction, AK

An information board will be added to the Visitors' Center recognizing sponsors of the project. The community of Delta Junction greatly appreciates your support.