



## Location Map

*Figure 1-1, Alaska's Glenn Highway begins in downtown Anchorage at Milepost (MP) 0, where the All-American Seward Highway ends. The Glenn Highway then travels north and east to pass between the Chugach and the Talkeetna mountain ranges, and rises up to meet Alaska's vast Interior plateau.*

# 1 Introduction



The proposed Glenn Highway Scenic Byway has grown out of a local interest and enthusiasm for sharing the stories of the Byway, the land around it, and the indomitable spirit of the original inhabitants and the pioneers who helped settle America's Last Frontier—Alaska, the Great Land. The origin of this Byway nomination effort was a Palmer community meeting where a representative of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Alaska DOT&PF) was asked to speak about the Byways program within the state. The presentation that day was to be about a segment of the Parks Highway (another state scenic Byway) that was being proposed for nomination as a National Scenic Byway. A minute or two into the presentation, in typical Alaskan fashion, a member of the audience stood up and asked, over the voice of the presenter, why was he discussing the Parks Highway when, clearly, the Glenn Highway was far more scenic and historic in the development of Alaska. Unshaken by the interruption, the speaker continued his talk—replacing the Parks Highway with the Glenn Highway for the remainder of the presentation.

From that humorous beginning, the Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway nomination and Corridor Partnership Plan have had outstanding local support and continuing interest that has shaped this plan for improving, preserving, and developing the Glenn Scenic Byway. The communities of Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak, Palmer, Sutton, Chickaloon, King Mountain, Hicks Creek, Glacier View, and Sheep Mountain, along with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, have proposed a Scenic Byway designation. Over a period of eight months, the partners have worked together and with the Alaska DOT on a "Partnership Board" to prepare the Glenn Highway Scenic Byway Partnership Plan.

The proposed Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway is approximately 135 miles long. It begins in Anchorage, Alaska at Milepost (MP) 0, and ends near the border of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the area of Gunsight Mountain. The first 3 miles of the Byway are urban in nature, beginning in the eastern part of downtown and extending through northeast Anchorage. While arguably less rustic than the rest of the corridor, this section provides an important connection to the end of the Seward Highway, Alaska's only All American Road. Starting the Glenn Byway at MP 0 will allow visitors and residents to travel on an All American Road regardless of the direction they choose to travel when departing from Anchorage.

Photo courtesy of LDN

Introduction





Photo courtesy of LDN

*Lush vegetation along the Glenn Highway*

To help the reader to grasp the phenomenal complexity and features of the Glenn Highway, the corridor is divided into four distinct segments for further discussion. This segmental approach can also help organize members of the Partnership Board into area and interest groups as they discuss what is most familiar to them. In the future, if regional subcommittees are needed, these divisions will provide a geographically based structure for development. Chapter 2 contains a listing of the segments and a brief description of each.



Photo courtesy of LDN

*Snow caps the mountains along the Glenn Highway*

*Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan*



# Our Home, AND OUR STORY



*Designating the Glenn Highway corridor as an All-American Road would provide an opportunity for the residents of the corridor—past and present—to tell their story to visitors and Alaskans alike.*

*Where nature dominates the human story is subtle and an extra effort needs to be extended to make the interesting stories come to life, and thus, to help visitors connect personally with the landscape.*

*In this Corridor Partnership Plan, we have taken the opportunity to begin outlining some of the storylines, some of the characters, and point out just a few of the places that deserve special mention.*

*We hope you enjoy our stories, and provide us a better opportunity to share them with visitors as an All-American Road!*

Thank You!

The Glenn Highway Scenic Byway Partnership Board

Photo courtesy of LDN

