



Mayor Suzanne LaFrance
Municipality of Anchorage

March 18, 2026

Mayor LaFrance issues notice to proceed for Terminal 1 construction at Don Young Port of Alaska

Work to replace Cargo Terminal 1 (T1) at the Don Young Port of Alaska officially began Monday, after Mayor Suzanne LaFrance issued the Notice to Proceed with construction. This groundbreaking marks a critical milestone for the massive Port of Alaska Modernization Program, which will rebuild Alaska’s primary inbound cargo port and ensure long-term food, cargo and fuel security for the state.

“This is a moment to celebrate. The Don Young Port of Alaska is a lifeline for our entire state, and we are officially breaking ground on a modern, seismically resilient cargo terminal. This project will ensure the port is functional, efficient, and serving Alaskans for the next 70 years,” **said Mayor LaFrance.**

“The journey to this moment has been a long saga of pitfalls and challenges, met at every turn by sheer determination and grit – and today, the Port of Alaska Modernization Program is finally on a clear track to success,” **said Assembly Chair Chris Constant.** “Breaking ground on Terminal 1 is a win for our entire state. I want to thank everyone who has supported this effort to date.”

Following the Mayor’s authorization, contractors began landside preparations. Initial work includes:

- **Mobilization:** Setting up contractor offices and site delineation to manage the massive scale of the Terminal 1 build.
- **Ground Preparation:** Placement of ground-thaw heaters began March 16 to prepare for excavation in the sub-arctic conditions.
- **Earthwork:** Excavation and the installation of temporary pads for ground improvement work near the new Trestle 1A are beginning.
- **Demolition:** Taking down the existing terminal one.

The project will reach its next milestone in May, when the first barges carrying 240-foot pilings are expected to arrive at the North Extension. Marine operations are expected to begin in mid-May or early June with pile-driving at the north side of the new terminal.

As construction intensifies, the public should expect an increase in work truck traffic and heavy equipment movement in the vicinity of the Port. The Municipality advises commuters and residents to exercise caution and remain alert to changing traffic patterns near the construction zone.

About the Don Young Port of Alaska

The Don Young Port of Alaska is a fundamental piece of infrastructure, handling the majority of consumer goods, construction materials, food and fuel for the state of Alaska. Additionally, it's a designated Commercial Strategic Seaport by the Department of War, showing the port's importance in projecting U.S. military power across the Arctic and around the world.

The Terminal 1 replacement is a key phase of the ongoing Port of Alaska Modernization Program (PAMP), a once-in-a-generation effort to replace the Port's aging, corroded docks. Work on Terminal 1 is expected to be completed in 2029.

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