



Mr. Ottesen spent 6 weeks in Alaska in 1971 visiting a college roommate, and knew he would make his life here. After completing his education and military service (Captain in Army Combat Engineers), he moved to the Kenai Peninsula in late 1977.

His early career included time with the Kenai Peninsula Borough, two major consulting firms, and also his own consulting firm. In 1987 he joined the Alaska DOT&PF and has held jobs in engineering standards, right-of-way, environmental practices and planning. Since 1995 he has worked as a senior planner, first overseeing the federal planning and funding process, and since 2003 as the Director of the Program Development Division.

Mr. Ottesen has been a source of innovation throughout his career, introducing many new ideas and concepts and seeing them implemented. He started the Road Weather system of cameras and weather sensors, and also the 511 Travel in the Know web and phone system. A recent innovation started by him was photographing the highway system with high location precision; it has been showcased by the US DOT as a national “best practice”.

His education includes degrees in Landscape Architecture (Washington State University, 1972) and Masters in Regional Planning (University of Massachusetts, 1975). He has one grown son, and has been active in coaching baseball, Boy Scouts, and many outdoor hobbies.