



Support of Ship Creek Trail Extension

PROJECT FACTS

Project Scope

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is supporting a Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) effort to complete the Ship Creek Trail Extension. MOA began the effort in 1999, constructing a path from the Chugach Electric Association Dam to Post Road. Efforts then continued in segments. A tunnel was built under Post Road and the trail was extended east to the William Tyson School in Mountain View. On the other end, a trail was constructed from North C Street, east to the first bridge over Ship Creek. In 2004, work focused on connecting the two trail segments. ARRC became involved in 2001 when the trail design proposed an at-grade crossing of the mainline track. In the interest of safety, ARRC pledged \$1.5 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funds to grade-separate the trail and tracks with a bridge.

Status

- MOA and ARRC began trail bridge design in 2004. Construction was completed in 2008.



Benefits

- The connection provides a long-awaited upgrade to the city trail system, creating commuter and recreational opportunities.
- Pedestrian activity in the Ship Creek basin has continued to increase with the Ship Creek fishery. The level of activity is expected to rise as future development expands commercial and retail businesses. Extending the trail provides a safe avenue for non-motorized visitors to enjoy this unique area.
- The bridge over the railroad tracks just west of Post Road will enhance trail user safety, eliminating the potential risks associated with getting too close to a moving train.

Cost and Funding

- \$1.5 million budget for the trail bridge, funded 91% by FTA and 9% by the ARRC.

Below left: the stream and existing rail bridge in 2007.

Below right: Crews place the pedestrian bridge June 2008.



Figure 1. Ship Creek Trail Expansion

