



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad schedules open house in Wasilla to discuss proposed capital project plans for 2010

Additional open house events in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Seward

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to an open house 4:00-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, at Evangelo's Restaurant, 2530 E. Parks Highway in Wasilla. The venue provides an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed Program of Projects (POP) for 2010.

The open house will showcase continuing and proposed capital improvement projects that are in various stages – from conceptual planning to engineering and construction. Project managers will be on-hand to explain projects that are located all along the railroad system from Seward to Fairbanks, with an emphasis on projects located in and around the Mat-Su Valley, Southcentral Alaska and system-wide, including:

- Port MacKenzie Rail Extension
- South Wasilla Rail Line Relocation
- Southcentral Alaska Commuter Rail Study Update
- Talkeetna Depot Restroom Facility
- Rehabilitate Matanuska River Bridge and other bridge work
- Ship Creek Intermodal Transportation Center (Phase Two)
- Positive Train Control (Collision Avoidance System)
- Track Rehabilitation

The Wasilla event is the second in a series of POP Open House events. Open Houses in other locations are scheduled as follows:

- **Anchorage** – 4:00-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 20 – Anchorage Historic Depot, 411 W. First Avenue. Emphasis will be on projects located in and around Anchorage and Southcentral Alaska.
- **Fairbanks** – 4:00-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 26, at the Alaska Railroad Depot, 1745 Johansen Expressway. Emphasis will be on projects located in Interior Alaska.
- **Seward** – 10:00a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, February 19 – Breeze Inn, 303 N. Harbor Street. Emphasis will be on projects located in and around Seward and Southcentral Alaska.

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Project Open House in Wasilla – January 13, 2010

Page 2 of 2

The Alaska Railroad has budgeted approximately \$43.1 million in new spending for capital improvements in 2010. About \$14.3 million will come from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants. This amount includes a required 9% matching contribution from the Alaska Railroad. In addition to FTA grant match, ARRC will spend another \$19.1 million toward internally-funded capital projects using revenues generated from passenger, freight and real estate activity. Finally, the railroad will spend about \$9.7 million of funds generated from the sale of revenue bonds that were sold in 2006 and 2007. Bonds are repaid with FTA formula fund appropriations.

People unable to attend the open house events may visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com for project information. Questions about the projects or open houses may also be directed to Corporate Communications Officer Stephenie Wheeler at 265-2671. Written comments may be e-mailed to public_comment@akrr.com or mailed to Alaska Railroad Capital Projects, P.O. Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510-7500.

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The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats. The POP meets public participation requirements of Section 5307 of the Urbanized Area Formula Program (49 U.S.C. 5307).