



Seward Depot Improvements

PROJECT FACTS

Project Scope

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) plans to improve passenger train operations with two facility additions nearby the Seward Depot. Improvements include construction of restroom facilities and installation of a power connection for passenger trains parked at the depot.

Existing restrooms inside the Seward Depot are inadequate to accommodate the number of customers and employees using the depot. Long lines form frequently during peak depot use. Faced with growing train ridership, for the last few years the Alaska Railroad has rented port-a-potties to augment the depot restrooms. This project would construct suitable restroom facilities approximately 20 feet from the depot to replace the rented port-a-potties.

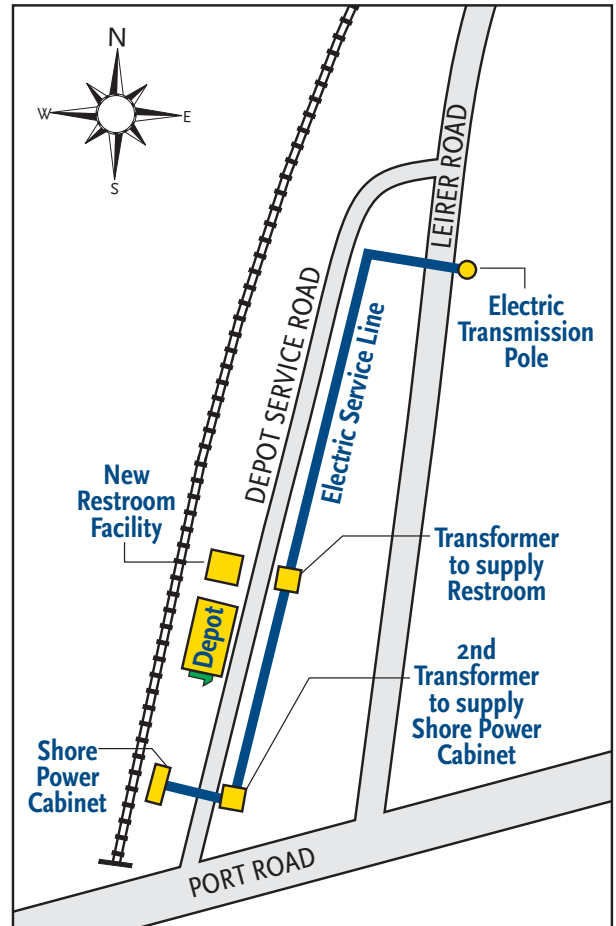
Passenger trains park at the depot on standby while passengers disembark to visit the community of Seward. Currently, power needed to support food and beverage service aboard the train is generated by the locomotives running their engines. This project would install a power hook-up south of the depot and adjacent to the track, providing a plug-in power supply for the train.



The Seward Depot May 2009. The ramp and stairs will be similar for the restroom facility.



The Shore Power cabinet will be similar to the one in the Anchorage yard (pictured).



Project Benefits

- Train ridership continues to grow and the restroom addition will accommodate this growth.
- With modern plumbing and electrical systems, the 26-by-24.5-foot building will provide customers with acceptable sanitary facilities.
- Locomotive electrical power connection will minimize locomotive idling, thereby reducing engine wear-and-tear and saving approximately five gallons of fuel per locomotive per hour.
- The community will benefit from reduced engine noise and emissions.

Status

- Electrical power connection conceptual plans are complete. They call for a new underground high-voltage electrical cable to tap into an electric transmission pole on Leirer Street and bring new secondary and shore power service to the plug-in outlet adjacent to the track.

- Restroom designs are complete and call for separate mens and womens facilities.
- Environmental analysis and documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was completed in spring 2009.
- Restroom construction and power installation began in fall 2009 and will be completed in 2010.

Project Cost and Funding

- Restroom facility cost is estimated at \$500,000.
- Shore power cost is estimated at \$250,000.
- Both projects are funded 100% by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 through a grant administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

