

Alaska Railroad Corporation



P.O. BOX 107500 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7500
327 W. SHIP CREEK AVENUE, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

JANUARY 3, 2005 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEPHENIE WHEELER, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OFFICER, 265-2671

OR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, TIM THOMPSON, 265-2695

Alaska Railroad schedules open house to discuss proposed capital project plans for 2005

Four events provide ample opportunity to participate: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward and Wasilla

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to an open house on Thursday, January 6, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at ARRC's Historic Rail Depot (Ship Creek), 411 West First Avenue. The venue provides an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed Program of Projects (POP) for 2005.

The Anchorage Open House – the first of four such events – will showcase continuing and proposed capital improvement projects that are in various stages – from conceptual planning to 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 Anchorage-area projects, including:

- Anchorage Whistle Noise Reduction Program
- Anchorage Operations Center
- Anchorage Rail Capacity Improvements from ARRC Milepost 110 to Milepost 114
- Anchorage-to-Wasilla Track Realignment and Improvements
- Ship Creek Intermodal Facility and Pedestrian Amenities
- North Ship Creek Yard Expansion
- Track Integrity System Demonstration
- Collision Avoidance System

Since 1996, the Railroad has received federal funding to repair and improve an aging mainline track, to modernize signal and safety equipment, to build new facilities, and to offer valuable new services. Many projects proposed in 2005 are funded all or in part by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

-MORE-

Alaska Railroad Project Open House events are also scheduled in:

- **Fairbanks** – 4:30-6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 13 - Alaska Railroad Depot at 280 N. Cushman. Emphasis will be on projects located in Interior Alaska.
- **Wasilla** – 4:00-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 19 – Best Western Lake Lucille Inn – 1300 W. Lake Lucille Drive. Emphasis will be on projects located in and around the Mat-Su Valley.
- **Seward** – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 12 – ARRC’s Passenger Dock Terminal. Emphasis will be on projects located in Seward and along the mainline leading from Anchorage to Seward.

People unable to attend the open house events may visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com for project information. 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.

For more information, call Public Involvement Officer Stephenie Wheeler at 265-2671 or Public Affairs Officer Tim Thompson, 265-2695.

Open House locations are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Railroad by calling TTY/TDD 265-2620, voice 265-2494, or via the Alaska Relay Service (ARS) TTY 1-800-770-8973 or voice 1-800-770-8255.

###