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For Immediate Release

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RAILROAD TUNNEL REPAIRS UNDERWAY; REGULAR SERVICE LIKELY TO RESUME ON THURSDAY

Repairs to prevent further rock slides and stabilize Moody Tunnel located in Healy Canyon between Denali Park and Healy are expected to continue through Wednesday. Passengers will again be bussed on Wednesday through Healy Canyon and south from Denali to Anchorage. Passenger and Freight service will likely resume Thursday only if it is deemed safe to operate trains.

A 12-foot section of timber support frames in Moody Tunnel, located at railroad mile post 353.6 about six miles from the Denali Park train depot, was damaged Sunday evening when a railroad train loaded with equipment too high for tunnel clearance passed through the tunnel. Temporary repairs were made Sunday evening. Activity to perform permanent repairs Tuesday morning caused a rock slide that closed the track to train traffic. No one was hurt in the incident.

Steel support frames are being fabricated to replace the damaged timber frames and will be on site for further repair work starting Wednesday.

The program for moving passengers on Wednesday will be identical to Tuesday's operations. The northbound passenger train leaving Anchorage at 8 a.m. and bound for Fairbanks will travel as far as Denali Park on its regular schedule. Those passengers will be bussed through Healy Canyon where they will meet the southbound train and continue to Fairbanks by rail.

The Southbound passenger train leaving Fairbanks at 8 a.m. and bound for Anchorage will travel as far as Healy where passengers will be bussed through Healy Canyon to Denali Park. Those passengers traveling beyond Denali Park will be bussed to their destinations including Talkeetna and Anchorage.

Passengers needing information regarding train schedules should contact the Alaska Railroad reservation number at (907) 265-2494.

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