



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: January 17, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alaska Railroad schedules open house in Anchorage to discuss proposed capital project plans for 2007

Additional open house events in Fairbanks, Seward and Wasilla

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to an open house on Wednesday, January 24, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., at the Alaska Railroad Historic Ship Creek Depot, 411 W. 1st Avenue. The venue provides an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed Program of Projects (POP) for 2007.

The open house 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 projects in and around Anchorage, including:

- [Ship Creek Intermodal Transportation Center](#) EA Re-evaluation: Section 4(f) analysis — public comment requested
- [Rail Capacity Improvements](#) between the Anchorage Yard (Milepost 114) and Airport Spur (Milepost 110)
- [Anchorage Yard Passenger and Freight Car Shops](#)
- [Anchorage Yard Weigh-In-Motion Scale](#)
- [Train Whistle Noise Reduction Systems \(Quiet Zone\)](#)
- [Chugach Forest Whistle Stop Service](#)
- [Anchorage-to-Wasilla Track Realignment](#)
- Support of Municipality of [Anchorage's Ship Creek Trail Expansion](#)

This is the third in a series of POP Open House events. The first is being held in Fairbanks January 17 and the second is being held in Seward January 20. A fourth open house event is scheduled in:

- **Wasilla** – 4:00-6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 25 – Evangelo's Restaurant, 2530 E. Parks Highway. Emphasis will be on projects located in and around the Mat-Su Valley.

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.

All 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.

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Since 1996 through 2007, the Railroad will have received approximately \$580 million in federal grants that have been used to repair and improve an aging mainline track, to modernize signal and safety equipment, to build new facilities, and to offer valuable new services. About \$51.3 million in federally-funded grants is budgeted for 2007. Grants received from such federal funding agencies as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) require a funding match from ARRC. Since 1996, the Alaska Railroad has provided \$32.8 million in matching funds, including \$3.4 million in 2007. In addition to matching funds, ARRC will have invested an additional \$158 million of internally-generated funds in numerous non-federal capital improvement projects since 1996; this includes \$15.6 million in 2007.

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

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