



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: January 10, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Additional open house events in Seward, Anchorage and Wasilla

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to an open house on Wednesday, January 17, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., at the Fairbanks Rail Depot, 1745 Johansen Expressway. 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 system-wide and Interior-area projects, including:

- [Northern Rail Extension](#) (Eielson AFB to Ft. Greely)
- [Fort Wainwright Rail Realignment](#)
- [Fairbanks Area Rail Realignment](#)
- [Fairbanks Freight Intermodal Improvements](#)
- [Locomotives and Railcars to Support the Stryker Brigade](#)
- [Nenena Rail Realignment](#)
- [Healy Canyon Safety and Reliability Improvements](#)
- [Collision Avoidance System](#)
- [Track Rehabilitation](#)
- [Bridge Improvements](#)

POP Open House events are also scheduled in:

- **Seward** – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, January 20, at ARRC's Passenger Dock Terminal on Port Avenue. This will be held in conjunction with Seward's Polar Bear Jump Festival. Emphasis will be on projects located in Seward and along the mainline leading from Anchorage to Seward.
- **Anchorage** – 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, at the Railroad's Historic Rail Depot (Ship Creek), 411 West First Avenue. Emphasis will be on projects located in and around Anchorage and Southcentral Alaska.
- **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.



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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.

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.

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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