



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: January 18, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Tim Thompson, 265-2695
Stephanie Wheeler, 265-2671

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

Additional open house events in Fairbanks, Seward and Anchorage

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to an open house on Thursday, January 25, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., at the Evangelo's Restaurant, 2530 E. Parks Highway. 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 the Mat-Su Valley and systemwide, including:

- [Anchorage-to-Wasilla Track Realignments](#)
- [South Wasilla Track Realignment](#)
- [Road-Rail Transportation Corridor Realignment Around Wasilla](#)
- [Curry Quarry Development](#)
- [Healy Canyon Safety and Reliability Program](#)
- [Collision Avoidance System](#)
- [Bridge Improvement Program](#)
- [Track Rehabilitation](#)
- [Passenger Car Purchase and Rehabilitation](#)

This is the final in a series of four POP Open House events. The first was held in Fairbanks January 17; the second is being held in Seward January 20; and the third is being held in Anchorage January 24.

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.

-more-



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

Project Open House in Wasilla – January 18, 2007

Page 2 of 2

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.

###