



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update: Railroad Modifies Shuttle Service to Whittier *Avalanche risk reduces train traffic to between Whittier and Portage*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) will limit scheduled passenger service to between Whittier and Portage, eliminating the Anchorage-to-Portage leg, due to avalanche conditions. Passengers can either use bus service from Anchorage to Portage, or drive to Portage to board the train. Two daily round-trips are scheduled with one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Passengers using the bus option will board at the Historic Ship Creek Depot at 411 W. First Avenue.

Whittier – Portage Shuttle Service

	Bus Service		Train Service	
Morning Trip	Depart Anchorage	9:30 a.m.	Depart Whittier	9:00 a.m.
	Arrive Portage	10:45 a.m.	Arrive Portage	10:00 a.m.
	Depart Portage	11:15 a.m.	Depart Portage	11:00 a.m.
	Arrive Anchorage	12:30 p.m.	Arrive Whittier	Noon
Afternoon Trip	Depart Anchorage	2:30 p.m.	Depart Whittier	2:00 p.m.
	Arrive Portage	3:45 p.m.	Arrive Portage	3:00 p.m.
	Depart Portage	4:15 p.m.	Depart Portage	4:00 p.m.
	Arrive Anchorage	5:30 p.m.	Arrive Whittier	5:00 p.m.

Passengers and businesses that need to transport groceries, fish and other cargo on the passenger train between Portage and Whittier are responsible for getting the cargo to Portage. In addition, fork lifts are not available in Portage, and therefore freight must be placed in rail baggage cars by hand. Any cargo must be packaged to allow for lifting by people, as opposed to forklift.

more -



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

Rail Shuttle Service Limited Whittier to Portage

Page 2

The shuttle service to Whittier is provided in response to blocked vehicle access caused by a rock slide. The service is specifically provided for residents, businesses and people with business in Whittier. Modified rail service is expected to continue at least through Saturday. **Due to regulatory requirements, all passengers are asked to make reservations for this service by calling 907-265-2494 or 1-800-544-0552.**

In addition, the Alaska Railroad has suspended afternoon freight train traffic between Anchorage and Whittier due to the avalanche risk between Girdwood and Portage in particular. With warmer afternoons, the snow is melting, creating ideal snow slide conditions. The railroad tracks hug the hillsides along this stretch, whereas the roadway is further away, with significantly less risk of impact from snow slides.

For more information contact Passenger Reservations at 907-265-2494 or 1-800-544-0552 or go on-line at www.alaskarailroad.com.

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