



# Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

DATE: April 23, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Wendy Lindskoog, 265-2498 or 240-9571

## **Whittier Update: Passenger and Freight Transportation**

*IMPORTANT: People MUST call to reserve a seat or arrange cargo transport*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) announces new passenger and freight rail transportation services to accommodate the evolving situation and public needs stemming from the rock slide that has blocked road access into Whittier. To comply with regulatory requirements and to ensure adequate space on passenger and freight trains, reservations are now *mandatory*. Whittier residents and businesses have priority.

**Passenger Reservations: (907) 265-2494 or 1-800-544-0552 (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon – Sat)**

**Freight Reservations: (907) 265-2485 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mon – Fri)**

**Conditions and Schedule Updates: 1-800-478-4340 (recorded, effective after April 24)**

**[www.AlaskaRailroad.com](http://www.AlaskaRailroad.com) / Breaking News**

### **Passenger Train Services**

In response to suggestions from Whittier elected officials, the Alaska Railroad has extended the daily passenger schedule to include three round trips – morning, mid-day and early evening – effective Friday, April 24. The new schedule will provide travelers out of Whittier additional time in Anchorage. Each of the three trips include train travel between Portage and Whittier. Due to threatening avalanche conditions between Anchorage and Portage, that part of the route will be accomplished by complementary bus twice a day. Bus service is available only for the morning and evening trip; the mid-day trip will not include bus service. The schedule – and schedule updates – are posted on the Alaska Railroad website, under the “Breaking News” and “Whittier Access” links.

The passenger train baggage car can accommodate small cargo loads, such as groceries, fish, small equipment and small material loads. By law, hazardous materials (such as flammables) cannot be transported on a passenger or baggage car. Hazardous materials must be transported by a freight train. Passengers and

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## New Whittier Passenger and Freight Services and Schedule

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businesses that need to transport small amounts of freight are responsible for getting the cargo to Portage in time for loading. Because fork lifts are not available in Portage, freight must be placed in the rail baggage cars by hand. Therefore, any cargo placed on the passenger train must be packaged to allow for lifting by people, as opposed to forklift. If there is any question about the size or weight or content of a “light” freight load, call the freight train services number (907) 265-2485.

### Whittier **PASSENGER** Service Schedule effective Friday, April 24, 2009

	<b>Bus Service</b>		<b>Train Service</b>	
<b>Morning</b>	Depart Anchorage	7:30 a.m.	Depart Whittier	8:00 a.m.
	Arrive Portage	8:45 a.m.	Arrive Portage	8:45 a.m.
	Depart Portage	9:00 a.m.	Depart Portage	9:15 a.m.
	Arrive Anchorage	10:15 a.m.	Arrive Whittier	10:00 a.m.
<b>Mid-Day</b>	No mid-day bus service		Depart Whittier	10:30 a.m.
			Arrive Portage	11:15 a.m.
			Depart Portage	Noon
			Arrive Whittier	12:45 p.m.
<b>Evening</b>	Depart Anchorage	4:30 p.m.	Depart Whittier	5:00 p.m.
	Arrive Portage	5:45 p.m.	Arrive Portage	5:45 p.m.
	Depart Portage	6:00 p.m.	Depart Portage	6:00 p.m.
	Arrive Anchorage	7:15 p.m.	Arrive Whittier	6:30 p.m.

### Freight Train Services

The Alaska Railroad is providing a variety of freight services to and from Whittier. Freight services include personal vehicles, boats, business and heavy equipment, business supplies, building materials, and other bulk or heavy weight goods. Freight can be moved in concert with the weekly Wednesday barge train, and if demand warrants, additional freight trains. Call (907) 265-2485 to speak to a freight account representative to make arrangements and reservations. *Freight reservations are required and must be made with 48-hour notice.*

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