



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Alaska Railroad schedules open house in Anchorage to discuss proposed capital project plans for 2009

Additional open house events in Wasilla and Fairbanks

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to an open house on Wednesday, January 21, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Railroad’s Historic Rail Depot (Ship Creek), 411 West First Avenue. The venue provides an opportunity to review and comment on a proposed Program of Projects (POP) for 2009.

The open house will showcase continuing and proposed capital improvement projects that are in various stages – from conceptual planning to engineering and 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 located in and around Anchorage, Southcentral Alaska and system-wide, including:

- Ship Creek Intermodal Transportation Center (Phase One)
- Rail Capacity Improvements Anchorage Yard (MP 114) to Airport Spur (MP 110)
- Historic Freight Shed LEED-certified Office Space Renovation (an Alaska first)
- Support of Municipality of Anchorage Ship Creek Trail Extension
- Chugach Forest Whistle Stop Service
- Port MacKenzie Rail Extension
- A self-propelled DMU Rail Car and two Bi-level “first-class” Dome Rail Cars
- Collision Avoidance System
- Bridge Improvements and Replacements
- Track Rehabilitation

The Anchorage event is the first in a series of POP Open House events. Open Houses in other locations are scheduled as follows:

- **Wasilla** – 4:00-7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 22 – Evangelo’s Restaurant, 2530 E. Parks Highway. Emphasis will be on projects located in and around the Mat-Su Valley and Southcentral Alaska.
- **Fairbanks** – 4:00-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, at the Alaska Railroad Depot, 1745 Johansen Expressway. Emphasis will be on projects located in Interior Alaska.

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Since 1996 through 2008, the Alaska Railroad will have received about \$795 million in federal grants that have been used to repair and improve an aging track infrastructure, to modernize signal and safety equipment, to build new facilities, and to offer valuable new services. About \$105 million in federally-funded grants is budgeted for 2009. Grants received from such agencies as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) require a 9% to 25% funding match from ARRC. Since 1996, the Alaska Railroad has provided more than \$42 million to match grants, including \$4.6 million budgeted for 2009. In addition to matching funds, ARRC will have invested an additional \$215 million of internally-generated funds to support numerous non-federal capital improvement projects since 1996; this includes \$21.6 million for 2009.

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.

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