



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tim Sullivan, 907-265-2357; cell 223-7372

Alaska Railroad revises summer train service

Reduced ridership dictates shorter season and fewer trains

Anchorage, ALASKA — Reduced ridership aboard Alaska Railroad (ARRC) summer trains has led to schedule revisions that will shorten the season for one train and decrease operating days for another. The *Coastal Classic*, which provides service between Anchorage and Seward, will end daily operations on Sept. 7, one week earlier than originally scheduled. The *Denali Star*, which provides service between Anchorage, Denali and Fairbanks, will end daily bi-directional service on Aug. 1. From Aug. 2 to Sept. 13, the northbound *Denali Star* will operate on Saturdays and Mondays, while the southbound *Denali Star* will operate on Sundays and Tuesdays, with no service Sept. 7-8. The *Hurricane Turn* flagstop service will continue to operate as a merged service on the *Denali Star's* revised schedule.

“When the railroad began daily summer service July 1, we knew passenger volumes would be down significantly due to tremendous pandemic impacts,” said Dale Wade, VP Marketing & Customer Service. “We’ve been happy to see stable ridership on the *Coastal Classic* and the *Glacier Discovery* trains through early September, but the season has been more challenging for the *Denali Star*, and we could not continue to sustain daily service for that route.”

Even so, ARRC celebrates some safety and service successes, says Wade. Special rail travel discounts and deals on rail-lodging-excursion packages continue to generate economic activity for ARRC and partner Alaskan businesses. ARRC has worked diligently to keep passengers and employees safe with onboard face-coverings, social distancing and disinfecting protocols. Moreover, customer satisfaction ratings remain high.

Passengers with reservations that are impacted by schedule revisions will be contacted directly by ARRC’s reservations team to assist with refunds, rescheduling or possible alternate transportation. Contact ARRC Reservations at reservations@akrr.com or 1-800-544-0552.

— more —

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The *Glacier Discovery* train will continue to operate as originally scheduled, with daily Anchorage-Portage-Whittier-Grandview service through Sept. 7. The *Aurora Winter Train* will begin weekend operations Sept. 19. Find updated schedules at www.AlaskaRailroad.com/ride-a-train/schedules.

For summarized information about the Alaska Railroad, reference the [2020 ARRC Corporate Press Kit](#) and the kit's companion [ARRC Historic Timeline](#) documents found online at <https://www.alaskarailroad.com/corporate/news-media/press-media>.

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