



Alaska Railroad Corporation *News Release*

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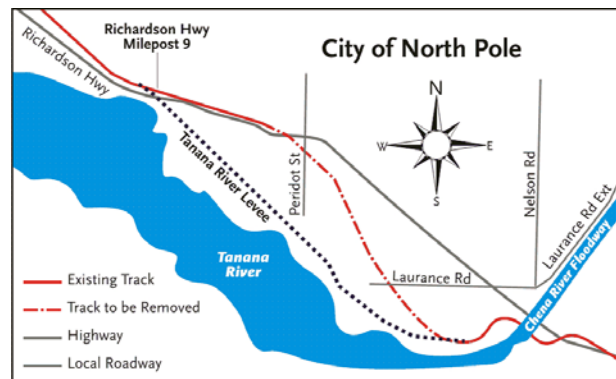
CONTACT:
Stephanie Wheeler, 265-2671

Alaska Railroad schedules scoping meeting on North Pole Road/Rail Crossing Reduction Project

*Project team on-hand to answer questions and listen to public input
Presentations at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) invites the public to a public scoping meeting from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, at the North Pole City Hall, 125 Snowman Lane. Presentations are scheduled for 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. The venue provides an opportunity to solicit input into a proposed project to reduce at-grade (same level) road/rail crossings along an 8-mile section of the Eielson Branch track (from Richardson Highway Milepost 9 to the Chena River Floodway) that runs through North Pole. The purpose is to enhance public safety in downtown North Pole and improve railroad operating efficiency, while ensuring continued rail access to existing and future customers along this portion of the track.

In cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), ARRC is initiating an environmental assessment (EA) and associated preliminary engineering to analyze the options, which may include realigning this section of track on or along the Tanana River Levee. The existing at-grade crossing of the Richardson Highway may also be removed and a new grade-separated crossing (overpass) installed. The proposed project represents Phase 1 of a larger proposed realignment project (Fairbanks Area Rail Line Relocation). This phase has independent utility and would provide immediate safety benefits. In particular, the project team is seeking public input on current use of the Tanana River Levee and the locations of key access points to the levee. **The deadline for public comment is Monday, February 28, 2011.** 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.



People unable to attend the open house events may visit www.AlaskaRailroad.com for project information. Questions about the projects or open houses may also be directed to Corporate Communications Officer Stephanie Wheeler at 265-2671.

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The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasj@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats