



Section Maintenance Facilities

PROJECT FACTS

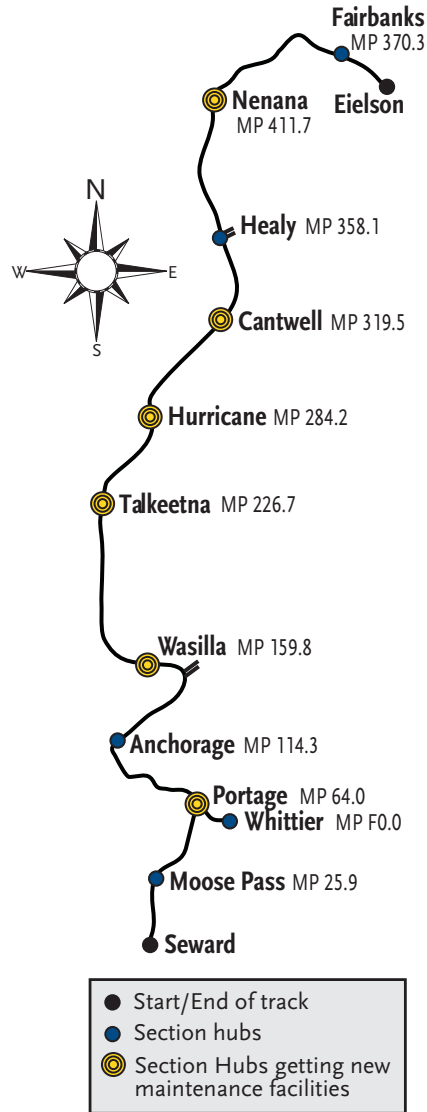
Project Scope

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) proposes to build up to six section maintenance facilities (SMF) along the mainline track. The prototype was constructed in Cantwell in 2006, with additional facilities planned for Hurricane, Portage, Talkeetna, Wasilla and Nenana. A facility is underway at Portage.

Each of these locations is known as a “section,” which, as the name suggests, correlates to a section of track. Currently, ARRC sections are located at Portage, Whittier, Anchorage, Wasilla, Talkeetna, Hurricane, Cantwell, Healy, Nenana and Fairbanks. Sections typically have at least three people assigned, including a supervisor, track laborers and equipment operators. These employees are tasked with keeping their section of track in good operating order. In support of this function, sections are outfitted with a maintenance shelter, ranging from a heavy-duty tent to an aging building. More remote sections also provide housing, ranging from a nearby hotel to a trailer to a temporary structure. Little consistency currently exists among the section facilities.

The SMF project will eventually bring uniformity to the section architecture and infrastructure. These steel-framed heated maintenance facilities will measure a minimum 45-by-62-foot footprint with 2,800 square feet of space. Each will house a small office, small restroom, small utility room, and a two-bay open shop area to accommodate one piece of rail maintenance equipment (typically a ballast regulator, which doubles as a snow plow), and one to two trucks. The Talkeetna facility may be larger to accommodate a larger piece of rail equipment (possibly a self-propelled passenger rail car) in the future.

Situated on a concrete foundation, the facility’s exterior is consistent with the railroad’s current building image. It includes lap siding (overlapping horizontal siding) and split face block design



(brick veneer halfway up the sides) aluminum insulated windows and metal roofing. A decorative timber truss, which mimics the Hurricane Gulch Bridge, will accent each side of the building, providing a distinctive, unifying design element.

Located entirely within the Alaska Railroad right-of-way, facility sites will include a small graded approach and parking area. A single track will run from the mainline track to the facility, and continue, embedded in the concrete, through the entire length of the building.

Project Benefits

- The Alaska Railroad Facilities and Engineering departments designed the facilities to be simple, easy to construct, expandable and readily adaptable to many uses. The purpose is to support continuing growth and development through modern, uniform infrastructure.
- During the winter employees spend significant time clearing trucks of snow and ice. Providing truck shelter will decrease the likelihood of injuries and improve response times to rail and track maintenance needs.
- The SMF provides a safe, secure place to protect investments in vehicles and tools. Railroad trucks, and tools stored in truck beds, are often stored outside, subjected to the weather, and in some cases, vulnerable to vandalism and theft.
- The SMF will replace aging, non-uniform facilities that are costly to maintain. The new facilities will lower the cost of operating and maintaining sanitation and heating components.
- The SMF represents a significant first step toward improving employee conditions in

semi-remote areas. Future infrastructure upgrades call for construction of amenities buildings to replace existing old trailers. Amenities buildings will include showers, laundry room and a kitchen/breakroom.

Project Status

- Construction on the first SMF in Cantwell was completed in October 2006.
- Construction on a second facility got underway in 2011, when the site in Portage was filled (phase one). Construction on the 47-by-65-foot building will occur in 2012 to provide vehicle and equipment storage (phase two). The final phase will add offices and restrooms at a later undetermined date.

Project Costs

- Each facility will cost between \$750,000 and \$1.5 million, depending on facility size and location. Funding is 100% Alaska Railroad.
- Phases 1 and 2 of the Portage SMF are estimated to cost \$1,250,000, funded by ARRC.



The first Section Maintenance Facility was completed in Cantwell in 2006.

