Anchorage Road/Rail Crossing Upgrades

Background

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) typically issues a permit to allow a roadway or pathway to cross the railroad tracks. The entity (often a state or local government) that requests a permit essentially owns the crossing and is responsible for its upkeep. Each year, ARRC works with the agencies that manage and maintain roadways that cross the track. ARRC and agencies — including the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) and Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Public Works Maintenance & Operations Division — regularly review the at-grade (road and rail at the same level) crossings for maintenance actions needed by both trains and vehicle traffic. As maintenance needs are identified, the agencies work together to fund and execute crossing surface upgrades which may include rebuilding the track, updating the surface panels, repaving the approaches, and re-stripping the crossing pavement markings.

Crossing upgrade work is accomplished on Boat Launch Drive near the Port of Anchorage during 2014.
Current Crossing Upgrades

In 2017, nine crossings were upgraded along the Alaska Railroad system (Seward to Fairbanks) including two upgrade projects in Anchorage. Both 2017 projects were along the Ocean Dock Road / North C Street corridor near the Anchorage Rail Yard and ARRC Headquarters building. In 2018, another road/rail crossing upgrade is planned along this corridor:

- **North C Street and Whitney Road**: Located just north of this roadway intersection, the road-rail crossing is near Ship Creek, along the main freight rail line. The Alaska Railroad is partnering with the Municipality of Anchorage to completely rebuild the crossing with new track and new crossing panels.

- **Funding**: The 2017 First Avenue / North C Street project and the 2018 project near Whitney Road are funded by MOA bonds. The Ocean Dock / Loop Road crossing was funded by the Alaska Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities.