

Anchorage Historic Depot Traffic and Pedestrian Access Improvements

A Ship Creek Intermodal Transportation Center Project

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is improving street traffic and pedestrian access to the Anchorage Historic Depot located along First Avenue. The project is related to the Ship Creek Intermodal Transportation Center (ITC), a larger project to enhance pedestrian amenities, transit infrastructure, parking, track configuration and other efforts that connect transportation modes in the Ship Creek area and downtown Anchorage.

Since its inception in 2002, the Ship Creek ITC project has been pursued in phases. Work accomplished to date includes environmental assessment and preliminary engineering (2002-2003), facility layout and schematic design (2004-2005), track and utility work (2007), historic depot upgrades and security fencing (2009-2011). Future phases include removal of the Annex building and construction of a smaller crew facility, construction of a passenger plaza and improved passenger baggage and check-in area. The final phase envisions a departure lounge over the tracks and an elevated covered walkway connecting the project with downtown Anchorage. *For details, see the separate Ship Creek ITC fact sheet.*

The Alaska Railroad's Anchorage Historic Depot serves hundreds of thousands of passengers each year.

Project Scope

- Reduce west bound lane width to provide greater separation between pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Install designated loading zones for passengers and delivery vehicles
- Replace and widen the sidewalk along First Avenue in front (south side) of the depot. Includes demolition of existing sidewalk, saw-cut roadway asphalt and installation of 5-inch thick sidewalk.
- Add a new pedestrian cross-walk, including pedestrian ramps and detectable warning devices.
- Install storm drain improvements.
- Landscape to include planting trees and lawn, and installing a bike rack, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, reader board and concrete planters.



Project Benefits

- Significantly enhance pedestrian safety.
- Improve vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow.
- Expand passenger waiting areas.

Project Status

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)

- The Ship Creek ITC vision and plans were shared with the public through an Environmental Assessment (EA) process that began in 2002 and concluded in 2003 with an FTA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Because the depot is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, ARRC also agreed to mitigate adverse effects to the depot's historic nature. The FTA reviewed EA re-evaluations for refinements related to phased work in 2007 and 2009. In late 2016, FTA reviewed EA re-evaluation materials related to the 2017-18 traffic and pedestrian access work, and found no material change to the impacts disclosed in early NEPA documents. No additional NEPA review is required.

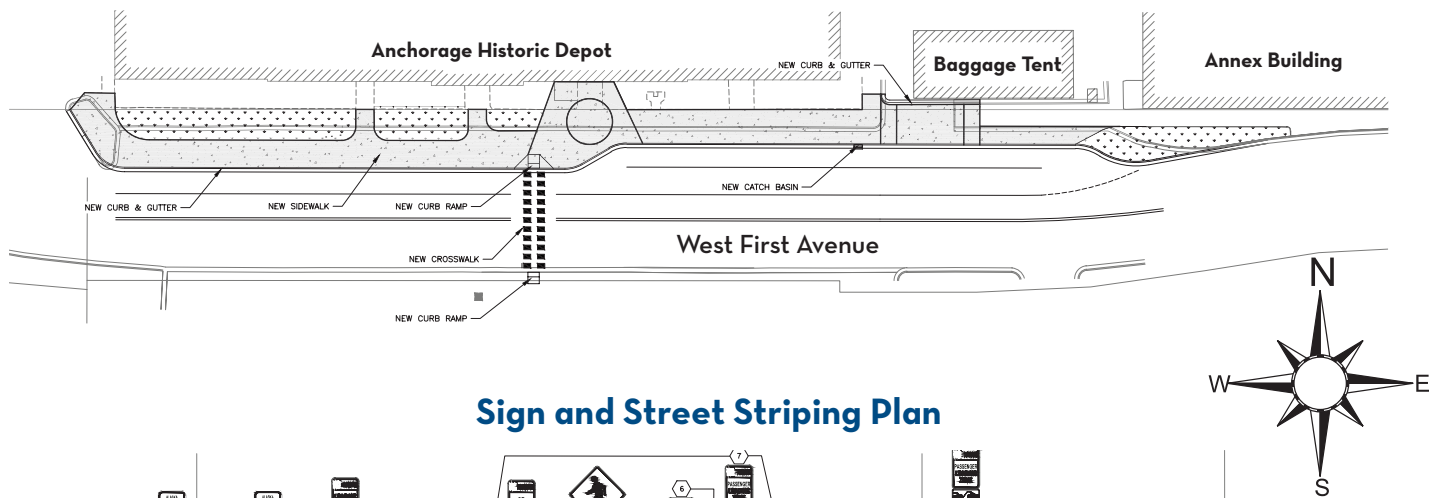
Design and Construction

- In 2013, the railroad designed pedestrian and bicycle access improvements.
- Environmental clearance from FTA in 2016.
- Construction work was awarded early spring 2017.
- Municipality of Anchorage permitting obtained late spring 2017. Sidwalk, curbing, roadside and signage work completed in 2017.
- Work to complete landscaping and enhancements (bike racks, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, reader board and planters) is planned for 2019.

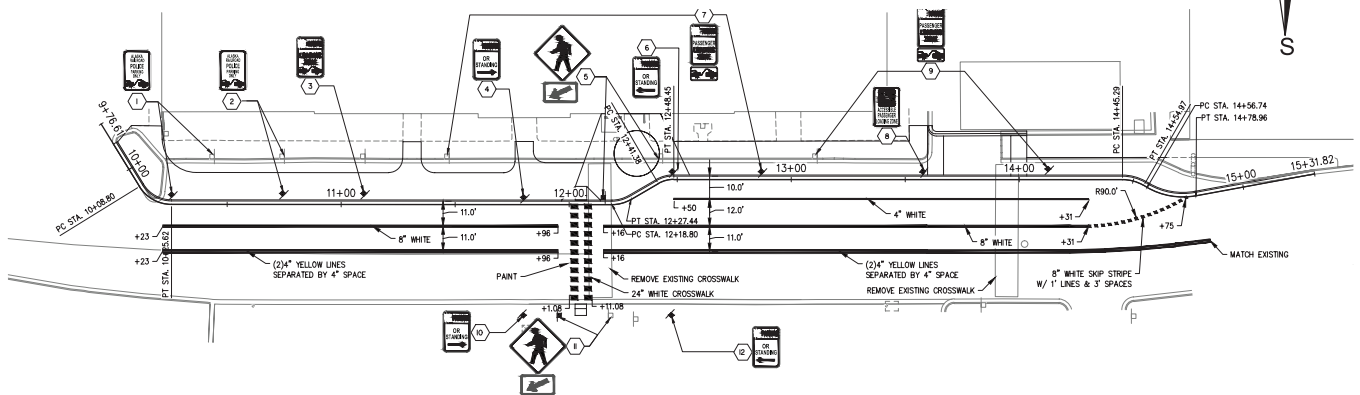
Cost and Funding

The project budget is \$289,000, funded primarily by the Federal Transit Administration (80%) with a 20% match in funding from ARRC. Funding includes \$30,000 remaining from the 2013 design budget. The remaining funds are programmed from 2017 and 2018 grants.

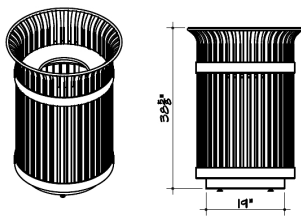
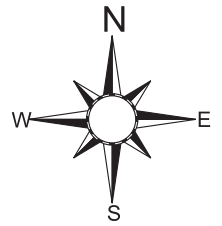
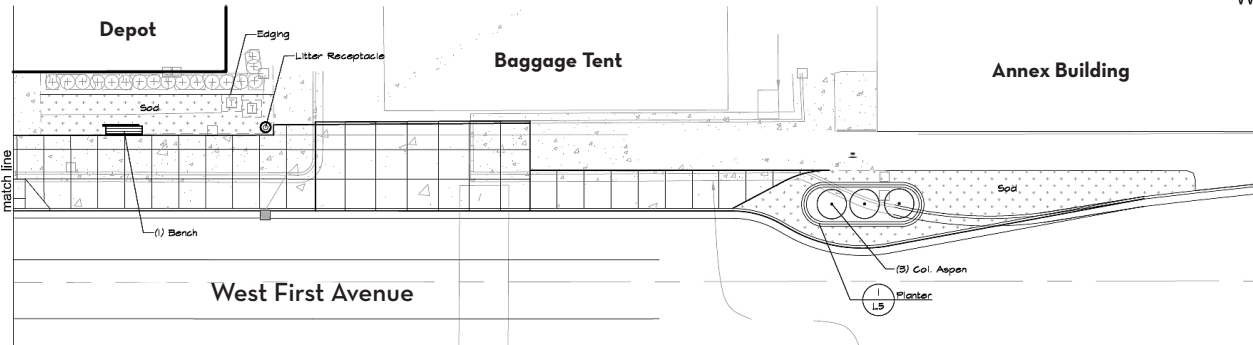
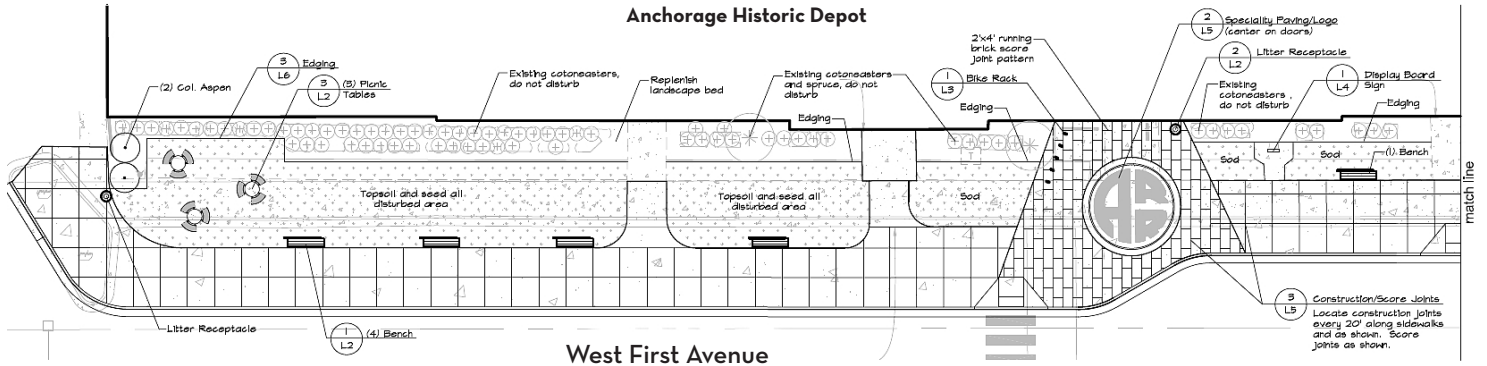
First Phase - Sidwalk, Curbing and Roadside



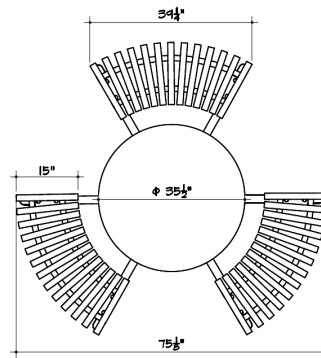
Sign and Street Striping Plan



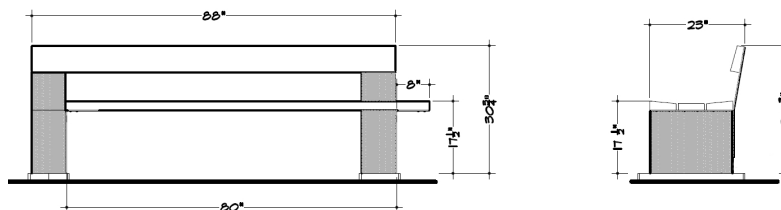
Second Phase - Landscaping and Enhancements



Trash Receptacle



Picnic Table



Bench Seating