

Depot Drive Access Improvements

Project Scope

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is enhancing vehicle access and pedestrian safety by constructing a new roadway, Depot Drive. The project area is fully within the ARRC land reserve, and is located between Christensen Drive to the south, the main line track to the north, the Anchorage Historic Depot to the east and the 49th State Brewing Company facility to the west.

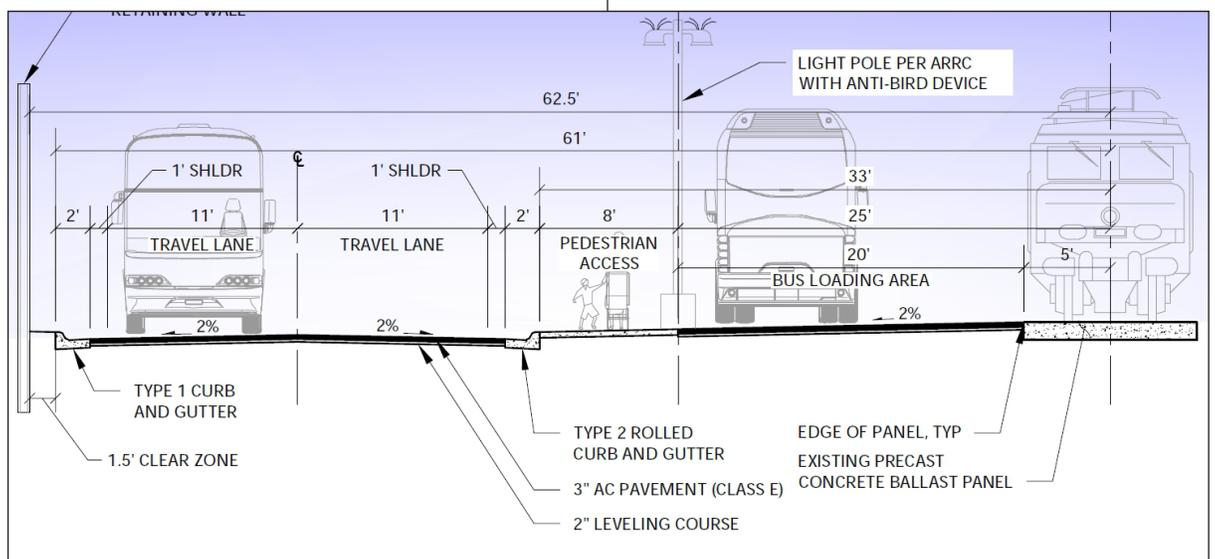
The project will enhance access by improving the intersection between the depot's west-end access roadway (the beginning of Depot Drive), and West 1st Avenue where it turns into Christensen Drive. The project replaces an existing retaining wall along Christensen Drive with a new 250-foot-long sheet pile retaining wall placed closer to the Christensen Drive roadway. Land between existing

and new retaining walls will be cleared and leveled, making room to straighten the intersection.

The project will also widen the Depot Drive transportation corridor to support upgrading about 1,500 feet of the gravel access road into a paved commercial-industrial secondary street. Roadway improvements include an 8-foot wide pedestrian walkway, new street lighting and trespass mitigation involving a safety barrier and fencing.

Purpose and Need

The project will expand space to accommodate continued growth in rail passenger operations. Bus access is currently hampered by the gravel access roadway's pinched and curved intersection, which makes bus maneuvering difficult.



ROADWAY AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Typical cross-section of commercial-industrial secondary street along the retaining wall area.

The project is in line with master community development planning for the Ship Creek area. It supports future roadway improvements that promote commercial development through better vehicle and pedestrian connectivity. Upgraded lighting and a pedestrian walkway address pedestrian safety.

Project Goals

- Provide vehicle and pedestrian connectivity within the Ship Creek area
- Promote Ship Creek area development
- Increase safety and discourage trespass onto railroad operating areas
- Improve and define passenger operations areas next to the track

Status

Corridor Expansion (Retaining Wall)

In 2018, LCG Lantech Inc. provided conceptual and preliminary engineering work in support of widening the corridor. ARRC also obtained permitting to install a new retaining wall, remove the old retaining wall, and perform earth work. Contractors installed the new retaining wall during spring / summer 2019.

Roadway Construction

CRW Engineering conducted an *Alternatives Analysis* for roadway and intersection construction. ARRC approved the preferred alternative in late 2019. Design considers landscaping, snow storage,



Above: A new retaining wall is installed during summer 2019. The 49th State Brewery is in the background.

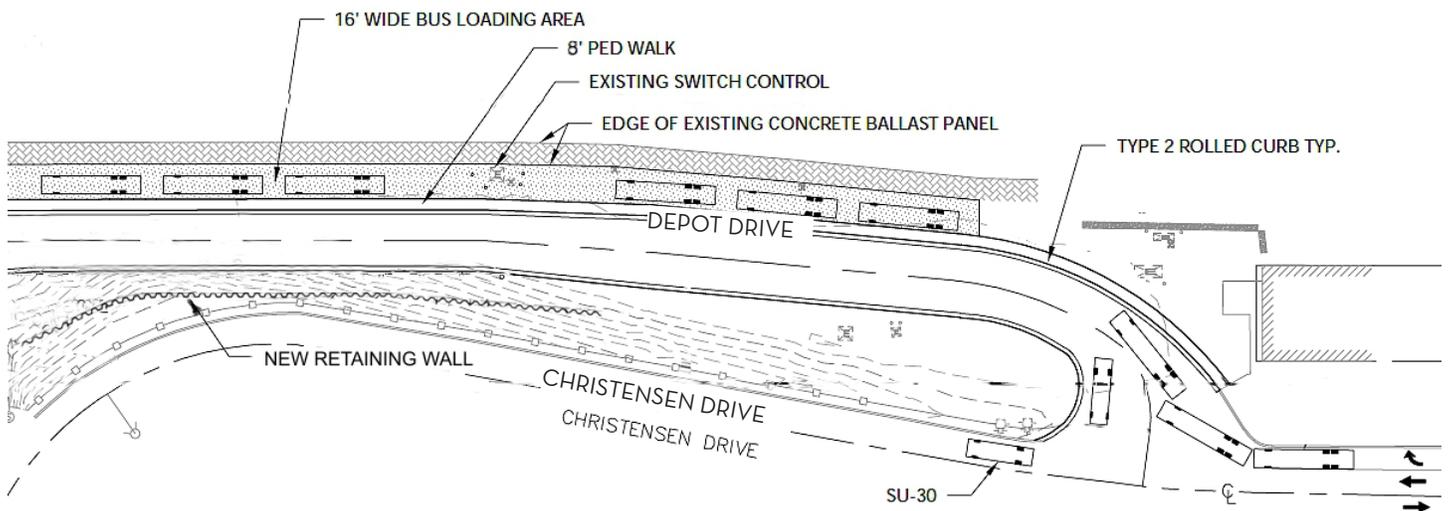
Right: The new retaining wall as seen from along Christensen Drive sidewalk. The depot is in the background.

Below: The retaining wall that was replaced.



fire access, commercial vehicle operations, private vehicle access, trespass and public safety factors.

A phased approach accommodates planned development by nearby railroad leaseholders, including the Downtown Edge condominium construction project, and improvements to the 49th State Brewery facility and parking areas.



CORRIDOR EXPANSION BEGINS WITH NEW RETAINING WALL

