

Healy Canyon Stabilization

Project Description

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) proposes a series of right-of-way stabilization projects in Healy Canyon, which lies between Denali Park (ARRC Milepost 344) and Healy Access Road (ARRC MP 361). Railroad tracks follow the Nenana River along the canyon corridor.

Purpose and Need

Planning and engineering efforts will prepare for final design and project construction in subsequent years. The purpose for pursuing stabilization projects is to:

- Locate and survey critical track structures within the canyon corridor, to include (but not limited to): track, culverts and drainage structures, walls and retaining structures, and bridges.
- Conduct an engineering evaluation of the identified structures.
- Propose a prioritized list of future maintenance and capital projects within the corridor.
- Assess maintenance issues around ARRC Milepost 357, just south of the Healy Siding. This assessment includes:
 - Survey area drainage features and topographic details.
 - Evaluate existing geotechnical reports.
 - Pursue preliminary engineering to develop an alternatives analysis.
 - Develop 30% engineering plans for an identified preferred alternative.

Project Benefits

- Enhanced safety – Stabilization design will produce plans to address maintenance issues at MP 357.

- Enhance reliability – Solutions will help ensure infrastructure can meet current and future demands for passenger and freight rail business.
- Fiscal accountability – well-researched planning will best allocate limited resources to address maintenance items with the potential to negatively impact rail operations.

Cost and Funding

The project budget is \$500,000 funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant money from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).



Several areas along the Healy Canyon corridor need to be stabilized to address erosion within the right-of-way.

More Information

For more project information, email the Alaska Railroad at Public_Comment@akrr.com. The 2021 ARRC Bridge Program fact sheet is available at AlaskaRailroad.com > Corporate > Projects (look under *Systemwide Projects*).

Healy Canyon - Examples of areas requiring additional stabilization efforts



Several areas within Healy Canyon include timber structures that were installed to stabilize the track bed and to mitigate erosion. Replacing such aging structures is one of several potential capital maintenance and capital projects to be identified and prioritized following planning and engineering efforts in 2021.



Examples of previous stabilization efforts in Healy Canyon



The track retaining wall at MP 354.1 was replaced in 2009-2010.



In 2009-2011, the track at MP 357 was moved further from the river.