

MP 138-140 Repair Earthquake Embankment Damage



The 2018 earthquake caused shoulder and sub-structure damage along a stretch of track about 25 miles north of Anchorage.

Purpose

On Nov. 30, 2018 Southcentral Alaska was struck by a magnitude 7.1 earthquake. The aftermath led to the discovery of extensive infrastructure damage throughout the affected areas. This project addresses the length of damaged mainline track located 25-35 miles north of Anchorage. Repairs will restore track to stable operational condition.

Project Scope

The earthquake caused massive landslides along the north-facing track embankment between Birchwood and Eklutna (ARRC milepost 138-140). This includes a total loss of shoulder and subgrade materials that support the track bed sub-structure.

ARRC is evaluating repair options, including realigning the mainline track and improving underlying soils. Once final design, permitting and engineering is complete, repairs will be made to restore this segment of track.

Project Benefits

Repaired embankment and associated drainage structures will:

- improve overall track stability and operating safety;
- reduce ongoing cost to maintain transit facilities; and
- improve slope stability and mitigate seismic impacts.

Project Status

- Track embankment received temporary repairs to meet current rail operation requirements.
- Environmental review, project design and permitting is underway.
- Once project design is accepted and permitting accomplished, ARRC will solicit a construction contractor to complete the work.
- Construction is anticipated to begin during 2026.
- Project completion is expected by summer 2028.

Cost and Funding

The project budget is \$5.4 million.

After the earthquake disaster, ARRC originally requested assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Project funding has since moved from FEMA to funding 80% by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants with a 20% match by ARRC (to be reimbursed by the State of Alaska).

More Information

For more project information, email the Alaska Railroad at Public_Comment@akrr.com. Additional project fact sheets are available online at AlaskaRailroad.com > Corporate > Projects.



The 2018 earthquake caused extensive shoulder and sub-structure damage to track infrastructure.

The project area is along the Alaska Railroad mainline track between ARRC's Birchwood Yard and Eklutna, about 25 miles north of Anchorage.

