

## **BUSINESS FACTS**

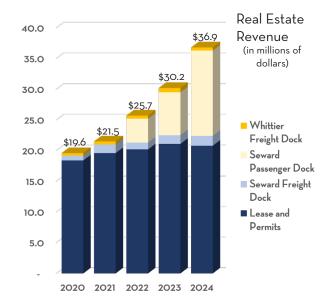
**REAL ESTATE 2024** 

The federal government transferred land reserves to the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) to provide the land base to build infrastructure for transportation services and to generate income.



#### **REVENUE**

- Revenues through leases and permits remained steady in 2024. Operations in Seward have provided additional revenues to help fund the building of the Seward Passenger Dock and Terminal set to open in spring 2026.
- In 2024, real estate revenues provided 15% of operating revenues and is a significant portion of corporate net income is derived from real estate. Proceeds from leasing and permitting affords a steady, reliable source of funds with which to invest in capital projects that do not qualify for federal funding, to fund employee retirement and medical trusts, and to provide a buffer for lean years when train operations revenue does not cover expenses.





### LAND USE

- ARRC owns the right-of-way (ROW) that typically extends 100 feet on either side of the track.
- Real estate holdings total about 36,000 acres from Seward to east of Fairbanks.
- Nearly 14,000 acres (38%) are devoted to the track bed and ROW and another 2,000 acres (6%) are used for railroad operations (such as rail yards in Seward, Anchorage, Whittier and Fairbanks).
   Remaining land is available for long-term lease or shorter-term permitted use.
- Outside of land reserves, the railroad corridor offers transmission opportunities. Numerous utilities are permitted to locate fiber, cable, pipe and other conduits within the 200-foot wide ROW.
- With board approval, ARRC may lease non-operating lands for up to 95 years as a source of funds
  for sustaining the railroad's transportation assets. Lease terms are intended to ensure that the
  railroad can meet and balance its changing transportation and land use needs over time.
- Land reserves in Anchorage and Fairbanks encompass many of ARRC's traditional industrial and commercial leases. Just north of Anchorage, industrial opportunities are available on the 16O-acre I-2SL-zoned rail-accessible Birchwood Industrial Park, located next to ARRC's Birchwood rail yard.
- A rail yard, rail-barge facility and cruise passenger dock make ARRC's Whittier Reserve an attractive lease location for transportation businesses in particular.
- Seward is another hotspot for transportation-related commerce, and ARRC is pursuing master
  plan-recommended improvements to ARRC freight and passenger intermodal facilities. This includes
  replacing the passenger dock and terminal, expanding the freight dock, and adding more rail
  infrastructure to enhance marine customer operations. The plan also proposes acreage for long
  term intermodal lease customers.
- While the majority of railroad real estate transactions involve land, ARRC does lease space in buildings located within the Ship Creek basin. Office space is leased in the Anchorage Historic Depot on 1st Avenue, a prime location just steps away from the downtown core district, Port of Anchorage, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and some of the best urban salmon fishing in the world.
- The Anchorage Historic Depot is a hub of activity, connected by rail and vehicle traffic. A block east
  of the depot, ARRC renovated an historic freight shed also on 1st Avenue. Developed to offer land

# ALASKA RAILROAD

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REAL ESTATE 2024 cont'd

a unique "green" office space alternative, the freight shed is Alaska's first historic building renovated to meet standards established under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

- The Bill Sheffield Alaska Railroad Depot is located at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. Beautiful and modern, the facility includes a spacious area for special gatherings.
- In Seward, the railroad's passenger terminal building
  is situated on the passenger dock, and this spacious
  high-ceiling facility can acommodate large community
  gatherings, such as the 2020 Summer Olympics
  community watch party focused on Seward resident
  and gold medal swimmer Lydia Jacoby. Real estate is
  very important to fulfilling ARRC's statutory mandate to
  remain self-sufficient.
- The Alaska Railroad Real Estate & Facilities Department is responsible for property development, land leases and permits, building lease and rentals, facilities maintenance and management, and use of dock facilities in Whittier, Seward and Seattle
- Department staff work hand-in-hand with the Alaska Railroad Board of Directors (ARRC Board) Real Estate Committee, which helps to develop real estate policy ultimately considered and approved by the ARRC Board of Directors.



