



Alaska Railroad Corporation

News Release

DATE: August 10, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upcoming events highlight Tanana River Bridge construction *August 23 public open house and September 28 ground-breaking*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Events that showcase the Tanana River bridge project have been scheduled as the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) prepares for construction to begin in Salcha.

- **August 23 (Tuesday) Public Open House** – Salcha School, 8530 Richardson Highway. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a presentation at 6:30 p.m. (Note: Salcha residents located next to the construction site have also been invited to an informational gathering on August 22. This meeting is designed specifically for neighboring property owners and is not a public event.)
- **September 28 (Wednesday) Ground-breaking Ceremony** – Beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the bridge construction staging area in Salcha. Access to – and space at – the staging area is limited, and vans will be on-hand to shuttle local dignitaries to the site.

The bridge is the first phase of the larger Northern Rail Extension (NRE) project that will eventually expand railroad track infrastructure from North Pole / Eielson 80 miles southeast to Delta Junction. Expected to be a three-year effort, NRE Phase One will construct a new bridge across the river and an associated levee near Salcha. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed in 2010.

The August open house will offer nearby residents and the interested public a project update to include construction phasing, traffic control, community impacts and EIS mitigation measures. The presentation will provide an overview of these topics, however, attendees can come at any time during the open house to review displays and ask questions. Members of the project team will be on-hand to answer questions and explain phases and stages of the project.

The ground-breaking ceremony will feature members of Alaska's congressional delegation, governor's office, local community dignitaries and railroad executives. The event will celebrate the start of the long-anticipated rail extension, which is expected to boost local and state economies with millions of dollars spent on local equipment, materials, supplies and lodging. More than 200 construction jobs are projected during the summer months and about two dozen year-round.

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Alaska Railroad Corporation Press Advisory

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The August 22 meeting for nearby property owners is not open to the public or media; rather, it offers a forum for dialogue with residents who will be closest to construction activity. The August 23 Open House is a public event and anyone interested is invited to attend. Media representatives are asked to distinguish between the purposes of the two August meetings.

Media interested in attending the September 28 Ground-breaking Ceremony are asked to park at the Salcha Fairgrounds, where shuttle transportation will be provided to the construction staging area. Shuttle transportation will be provided between 1:15 and 1:45 p.m. and immediately following the ground-breaking activities. Roads leading to the construction staging area are rough and narrow and unnecessary traffic is discouraged. After the ground-breaking media will have an opportunity to talk to project team members, Alaska Railroad executives and dignitaries who wish to comment.

