Passenger Car Fleet and Locomotive Fleet

Project Scope

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) has a fleet of 45 passenger-related train vehicles including 30 coaches, six diners, six baggage cars, two business cars (charter groups) and one self-propelled diesel multiple unit (DMU).

The 53-strong locomotive fleet includes 28 SD70MACs, of which 12 are equipped with head-end-power (HEP) to supply electricity to passenger railcars. The fleet also includes eight GP38-2s, 15 GP40-2s and two power/cab cars. ARRC upgrades older equipment and buys newer equipment to expand passenger services. Upgrades include repainting, interior restoration, refurbishing power generation cars, rehabilitating railcar trucks, and overhauling locomotives.

2012 Project Costs/Status

- Several passenger cars will be upgraded per Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations to upgrade lighting and public address systems, batteries and signage. Upgrades also include new flooring, wall-covering and seat upholstery, as well as galley modifications, as required. The passenger car rehabilitation budget is $600,000, funded 100% ARRC.
- ARRC will overhaul four to five locomotives annually to meet fleet needs and comply with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements during each overhaul. Overhauls will typically include installation of engine idle-reduction systems. The Auto Engine Start/Stop (AESS) system shuts the locomotive engine off after a period of time without use, and re-starts the engine automatically when engine controls are used or if the temperature drops too low. During the overhaul, locomotives will have a Tier 0-plus kit installed to bring the engine into EPA compliance for lower emissions and increased fuel efficiency.
- ARRC will overhaul four SD70MAC locomotives in 2012 with $1.23 million budget funded 100% by ARRC.
- 2011-2013 four GP-40-2 locomotives will be overhauled with $1.4 million from a Federal Transit Administration “TIGGER II” grant, and $328,000 from ARRC.
- Each year, two to four locomotives will undergo truck (wheel assembly) overhauls to reduce future maintenance and increase reliability. Budget is $180,000, funded 100% by ARRC.