Project Scope
More than 130,000 people and two million tons of freight move through the Alaska Railroad Corporation’s (ARRC) marine facilities in Seward, Alaska. The Seward Marine Terminal Expansion project, also known as Railport Seward, will consider the current and anticipated long-term needs at the ARRC’s Seward Marine Terminal. Three studies — Passenger Traffic, Freight Traffic and Transportation Connectivity — will result in a Master Plan that supports development strategies to ensure this regionally and nationally significant port continues to meet current and future demand.

The studies will gather input from stakeholders to identify efficiency and capacity improvement opportunities, to serve as the basis for the resulting development strategies presented in the Master Plan. The Master Plan is anticipated to include, but not be limited to, improvements or additions to existing and future marine and land-based infrastructure, mainline and/or yard rail configuration, road connectivity, and real estate utilization.

Project Purpose and Benefits
The purpose of the Master Plan is to ensure this regionally and nationally significant port:

• responds to the assessment that the west dock is nearing the end of its useful life
• continues to meet current and future demand
• identifies opportunities to improve efficiency and capacity
Project Status

In the last quarter of 2015, more than 100 stakeholder engagement meetings were held to set a course for each of the three studies funded in this planning project. Meetings with stakeholders will continue through the first quarter of 2016. Once the studies are complete, engineered design alternatives will be assembled for presentation at a public meeting in Seward in August of 2016.

Project Costs

Total project cost is $3 million. The Seward Marine Terminal Expansion Planning Project is funded by a generous TIGER VI (National Infrastructure Investments) grant from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Maritime Administration (MARAD). The MARAD-administered grant is in the amount of $2.5 million. The Alaska Railroad is providing the $500,000 required local match.