

Alaska State Rail Plan

Fact Sheet



Alaska State Rail Plan

The State Rail Plan will define the State of Alaska's interest in and policy about the future of railroads in the state.

Plan Background

State rail plans are required by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. Plans generally look 20 years into the future and must be updated every 5 years. The State of Alaska's first rail plan, developed in 1985, has not been revised since 1990. Alaska must update its rail plan to be eligible for federal rail funding opportunities. The final Alaska State Rail Plan must be formally approved by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Plan Elements

The state rail plan develops state policy for freight and passenger rail, prioritizes potential projects, and provides a basis for future investment in the rail system. Key elements of the plan include:

- An inventory of the existing rail system, services, and facilities;
- An assessment of safety, freight rail, and passenger rail needs and transportation economics;
- Potential investment opportunities, projects, and services;
- A long-range service and capital investment program; and
- A forward looking Vision for the future of rail in Alaska.

Alaska State Rail Plan



Project Team

The **Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF)** is the project lead. ADOT&PF has responsibility to plan for all modes of transportation, including rail, under Alaska Statute 44.42. A five person **Steering Committee** is comprised of executives from the Alaska Railroad, the White Pass & Yukon Route, and Commissioners from the departments of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Public Facilities. The Steering Committee provides guidance on the plan's overall direction. Members of a 26-person **Technical Advisory Group** joined by 15 **Agency Advisors** provide geographic and subject matter advice to ADOT&PF and the **Consultant Team**, HDR Alaska. HDR is charged with developing the draft and final Alaska State Rail Plan.

Schedule

Work on the Alaska State Rail Plan started in January 2013 and a final plan will be completed by December 2013.

Public meetings will be held in Haines, Skagway, Seward, Anchorage, Wasilla, Fairbanks and Nome in Spring 2013. Two future meetings will be held as on-line open houses. These on-line formats allow participants to view PowerPoint presentations, documents, maps, and videos, and make direct comments on the plan's elements. The on-line open houses will be available for 24 hours a day, 30 days at a time and allow for even greater geographic participation.

Contact Us

For more information, to submit a comment, or to sign up for electronic updates, visit our website at www.dot.alaska.gov/railplan or contact Julie Jessen, HDR Senior Public Involvement Specialist at 907-644-2000 or julie.jessen@hdrinc.com.