



On this day in Alaska's transportation history

July 15, 1923 Alaska Railroad's Golden Spike

On **July 15, 1923**, President Warren Harding drove the “Golden Spike” at Nenana, signifying the completion of the interior Alaska Railroad. Before arriving in Nenana, Harding stopped at McKinley Park Station and became the first—and only—sitting president in history to visit Denali National Park (then called Mount McKinley National Park).

The completion of the government-owned Alaska Railroad was no small engineering feat. The rail line between Seward and Fairbanks broke ground in 1915, and when it was finally finished in 1923, it spanned nearly 470 miles. The final two major projects needed to complete the railroad were the 900-foot-long bridge at Riley Creek, completed in February of 1922, and the 700-foot-long bridge at Nenana, completed in February of 1923.

Read more: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/dena-history-alaska-golden-spike.htm>