

Portage Station Improvements

A collaborative project will improve transportation and recreation facilities at Portage Station, about 10 miles south of Girdwood. The facility is situated along the Seward Highway and along the Alaska Railroad mainline at the juncture with the ARRC Whittier Branch track.

Purpose and Need

This project will construct new facilities and upgrade the existing infrastructure to allow for safer and more accessible travel, as well as provide access to United States Forest Service (USFS) public lands, including the USFS Portage Multimodal Connector Trail.

Project Scope

- Road, Parking and Pedestrian Improvements: Facility improvements include full-boarding platform, shelters, seating, restrooms, loading ramp and ticketing.
- Passenger amenities: the existing rail platform and station will be relocated south to facilitate construction of a full-level boarding platform. The project will add shelters with covered seating, a help desk, and vault (waterless) toilet restrooms. A forest trailhead kiosk will be added on the highway side of the facility.
- Track upgrade: the existing siding track will be improved and reconfigured as a gauntlet track to support a full-level passenger platform. Improve an existing at-

grade crossing at north end of project.

Status

In recent years, ARRC and USFS have been collaborating on concept development and preliminary engineering, while coordinating with ADOT&PF to avoid conflicts with nearby highway projects. Preliminary engineering, environmental work and documentation, and construction traffic



The Portage Siding will be upgraded into an interlaced (gauntlet) siding to accommodate a full-level passenger platform.



The existing passenger platform will be relocated south and expanded. Limited gravel parking areas will be expanded, paved and striped.

PROJECT FACTS

planning will continue through 2023 and into 2024. Final design will follow results of environmental studies and concept approval. Construction could begin as soon as 2025, and likely completed in 2026.

Cost and Funding

The project budget is about \$4 million. Preliminary engineering, environmental, track construction & traffic planning will be funded by \$1,435,240 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant money, which includes a 20% match (\$287,000) from ARRC as the grantee. Facility / Road design and construction will be funded by nearly \$2.75 million in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grants provided to ADOT&PF. Anticipated FHWA grant funding includes a 9% match (\$248,000) from ARRC as a grant sub-recipient.

More Information

For more project information or to comment, email Public_Comment@akrr.com.



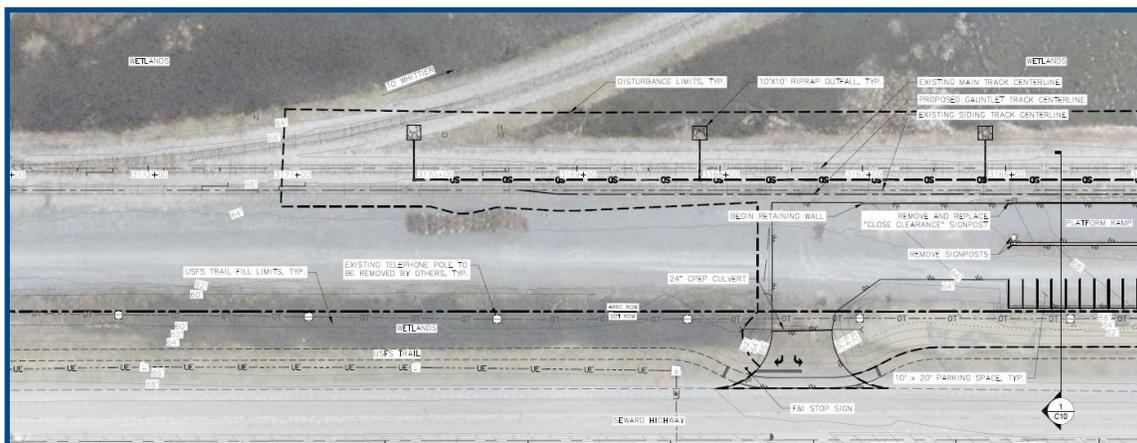
Track repair work underway near MP 64 at Portage.



Aerial view of MP 64 at Portage with improvements underway.



Portage station improvements north end.



Portage station improvements near center area.

