



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2012



Contact: Tim Sullivan
Alaska Railroad Corporation
907-265-2357
sullivant@akrr.com

Alaska Railroad Announces Construction Deliveries **Caution Advised for North-bound Richardson Highway Travelers**

Anchorage, AK – The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) announces delivery of 165-foot steel girders to the Tanana River Crossing construction site near Salcha, Alaska. Over the next few months, 80 girders will be transported via slow-moving truck convoy along the Richardson Highway from Valdez to the Salcha site (highway milepost 332).

Each convoy will consist of three trucks plus support vehicles. Convoy speed is limited to 25 mph, and the one-way trip from Valdez may take 24 hours, depending on weather conditions. Traffic delays are expected along the Richardson Highway during convoy movements that will occur through June 2013. Travelers are advised to use **EXTREME CAUTION** along this route. ARRC will post weekly travel advisories on the project website, www.northernrailextension.com.

The girders represent significant construction material for the 3300-foot steel span bridge. Known as the Tanana River Crossing, the bridge and an associated levee comprise the first phase of the four-phase Northern Rail Extension (NRE) project. When complete, NRE will add approximately 80 miles of new rail line to the Alaska Railroad system, stretching from North Pole to Delta Junction. The Tanana River Crossing is scheduled for completion in July 2014. Levee construction concluded earlier this year, and six of the 19 bridge piers have been completed, with five more currently under construction.

The Alaska Railroad Corporation is a full-service railroad serving ports and communities from the Gulf of Alaska to Fairbanks. Owned by the State of Alaska since 1985, the Alaska Railroad is a self-sustaining corporation that operates without state subsidy, and provides year-round passenger, freight and real estate services. In 2011, the Alaska Railroad had 685 full-time employees and moved more than 6.2 million tons of freight over its 656 miles of track.

For more information, visit www.northernrailextension.com

###