



# News Release

DATE: March 17, 2020  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tim Sullivan, 265-2357, 907-223-7372

## **Alaska Railroad Suspends Aurora Winter Train through April 30**

*Safety of passengers and crew is railroad's highest priority*

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Taking a cue from recent directives from national and international health agencies regarding the COVID-19 virus, the Alaska Railroad (ARRC) is suspending regularly scheduled *Aurora Winter Train* passenger service between Anchorage and Fairbanks starting March 19 and continuing through April 30. The Alaska Railroad will provide passenger service to the roadless area between Talkeetna and Hurricane via the *Hurricane Turn Train* on Thursday, April 2.

“With recent notifications that groupings of 10 or more people are discouraged to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 we felt it prudent to suspend our *Aurora Trains* for the next six weeks for the safety of our passengers, crew, and our community,” said ARRC President and CEO Bill O’Leary. “We recognize that this could be a significant inconvenience for many people, particularly those who have no other way to access their homes and properties along the rail belt, so we will still operate a limited service *Hurricane Turn Train*, as scheduled, for April 2 to make sure they are not stranded.”

This suspension will affect nine *Aurora Winter Train* round-trips. Freight service is not affected. Passenger service personnel are reaching out to notify and refund all passengers and tour operators with bookings on suspended trains. ARRC will regularly evaluate passenger service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the coming weeks, the ARRC will continue to work closely with the governor’s office and federal agencies in anticipation of the safe resumption of full passenger operations. To support customers during this period of uncertainty, the railroad is extending a flexible 24-hour cancellation policy through the summer 2020 season, in hopes that this policy offers some peace of mind for travelers with summer travel plans.

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, [zappasj@akrr.com](mailto:zappasj@akrr.com), (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats

- end-