

# ALASKA

## RAILROAD

### *News Release*

**Date: Aug. 19, 2026**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **\$28.8 million federal grant supports rehabilitation of Alaska Railroad's longest and tallest bridge enhancing passenger journey**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Passengers traveling one of the Alaska Railroad's most traveled routes will benefit from a recently approved \$28.8 million grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to preserve the landmark Hurricane Gulch Bridge for generations to come.

Together with \$7.2 million in matching funds committed by the Alaska Railroad, the federal funding will support the \$36 million Hurricane Gulch Bridge rehabilitation project at Milepost 284.2, helping preserve reliable passenger service between Southcentral and Interior Alaska. The bridge is the longest and tallest on the Alaska Railroad and one of the railroad's most recognizable landmarks. The work will be phased so passenger and freight service can continue without interruption during rehabilitation.



"The Hurricane Gulch Bridge is an iconic and beautiful structure along one of the most scenic rail lines in the United States, and critical infrastructure for Alaska," said FRA Administrator David Fink. "Our investment in rehabilitating the bridge will provide the foundational strength and stability necessary to help ensure this magnificent structure will be around for another 100 years."

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“Investing in Alaska’s rail infrastructure means investing in the long-term strength and connectivity of our state,” said Alaska Railroad President and CEO Bill O’Leary. “FRA’s support will help us renew and upgrade a critical bridge, preserve reliable passenger service and ensure this essential transportation infrastructure continues serving Alaskans and visitors for generations.”



*Caption: FRA Administrator David Fink, ARRC Board Chair John Shively, ARRC President & CEO Bill O’Leary and ARRC Board Member Judy Petry at a press conference in Anchorage on Aug. 19, 2026*

The rehabilitation will strengthen the historic bridge so it can continue serving as a dependable link on the Alaska Railroad system. The rehabilitation will also allow for an increase from the current 10 mph speed restriction to up to 25 mph, and increase the weight restriction to 286,000-pound railcars, helping to align the Alaska Railroad’s freight service with the standard used across the Lower 48.

Administrator Fink announced the grant during a two-day tour of Alaska Railroad infrastructure that included a visit to the Hurricane Gulch Bridge.

FRA’s award is part of a [broader \\$5.3 billion program](#) of passenger rail investments nationwide. Those investments are intended to enhance safety, mobility, resilience and reliability while

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helping passenger rail providers respond to growing ridership and expectations for an improved customer experience.

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