

## Wasilla Control Point

### Project Scope

The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) plans to upgrade an existing intermediate Control Signal (CS) to a complete Control Point (CP) at ARRC milepost 158.9 in Wasilla, Alaska. The upgrade will halve a 13-mile gap between control points within an especially active stretch along the rail system.

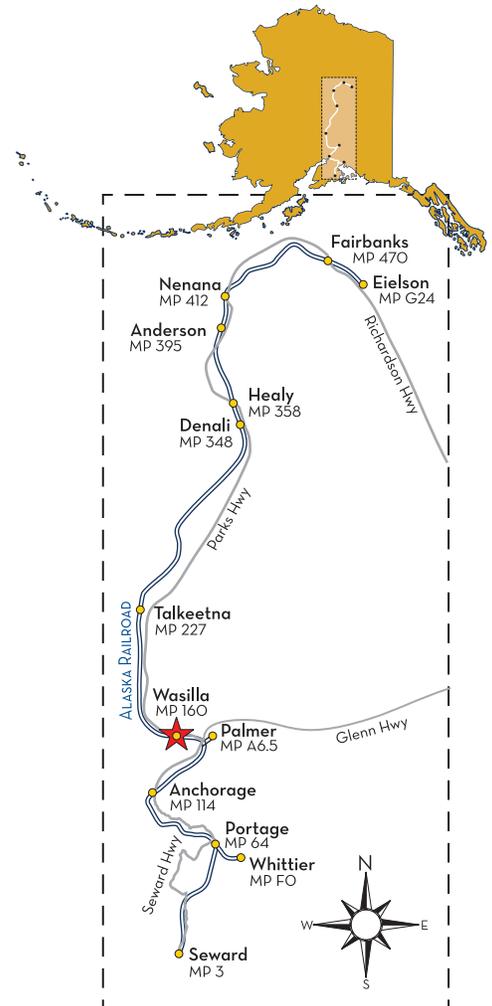
The project entails engineering and permitting, control point equipment purchase, protective enclosure (hut) for associated electronics, construction of a new gravel pad for the additional signal hut, and electrical power upgrades as needed.

Control points are locations along the railroad where switches and signals control (stop or pass through) trains traveling along the track. When more than one train or maintenance crew is operating on the same line, these points provide direction and control over the right-of-way. A CP is essentially a traffic light that stops or otherwise allows train movement. Each CP is preceded by an intermediate CS that provides an early indication of the status at the approaching CP miles in advance, thus allowing trains to slow down accordingly.



The existing control signal at ARRC milepost 158.9

### Project Locator Map



## Benefits

Upgrading the control signal to a control point will:

- provide ARRC Train Dispatch with more operational options, greatly improving flexibility in controlling train traffic to keep trains moving and workers working with fewer interruptions.
- reduce community disruptions due to delays and blockages at the 11 at-grade crossings along the 13-mile stretch between MP 151.5 and MP 164.4
- promote efficiencies throughout the entire main line for both freight and passenger traffic with positive impacts on train traffic north and south of this area.
- improve maintenance-of-way crew communications, allowing them to function more safely, efficiently and independently.

## Status

- Xorail was awarded the signal engineering work, to be completed by mid-summer 2021.

- Environmental analysis and documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – a categorical exclusion – was completed in spring 2021.
- Control point equipment procurement got underway late spring 2021, with delivery anticipated by fall 2021.
- Construction is scheduled to begin as early as fall 2021 with completion by summer 2022.

## Cost and Funding

The project budget is \$926,762. Two-thirds (66%) of the funding comes from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) and Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) – Special Transportation Circumstances (STC) programs. The remaining third (34%) is funded by the Alaska Railroad, as the cash match required by the FRA CRISI-STC grant.



## Control Points

*Left: The upgraded control point at ARRC milepost 158.9 will be installed about mid-way between existing control points at milepost 151.5 and milepost 164.4 For communications and power, cables will be trenched within the rail embankment to extend from the equipment to a new aluminum signal hut nearby.*

## Nearby Crossing

*Right: An at-grade road-rail crossing exists near the project, at East Wasilla Shops Circle. The control point project is independent and does not affect the normal crossing functions.*

