

Right-of-Way Clearing Program

Project Description

The Alaska Railroad's (ARRC) right-of-way (ROW) Clearing Program seeks to clear brush and trees within the ROW that pose operational and safety risks. The program includes two projects, as follows:

- Sight Triangle Clearing - Clearing sight-distance-triangles within the ROW around at-grade roadway/rail crossings. The area of the sight triangles varies at each crossing based on vehicular and train speeds.
- ROW Clearing - Clearing a corridor of mainline ROW. Clearing occurs between the track centerline and the ROW boundary, which is typically 100 feet on both sides of the track.

Need, Purpose and Benefits

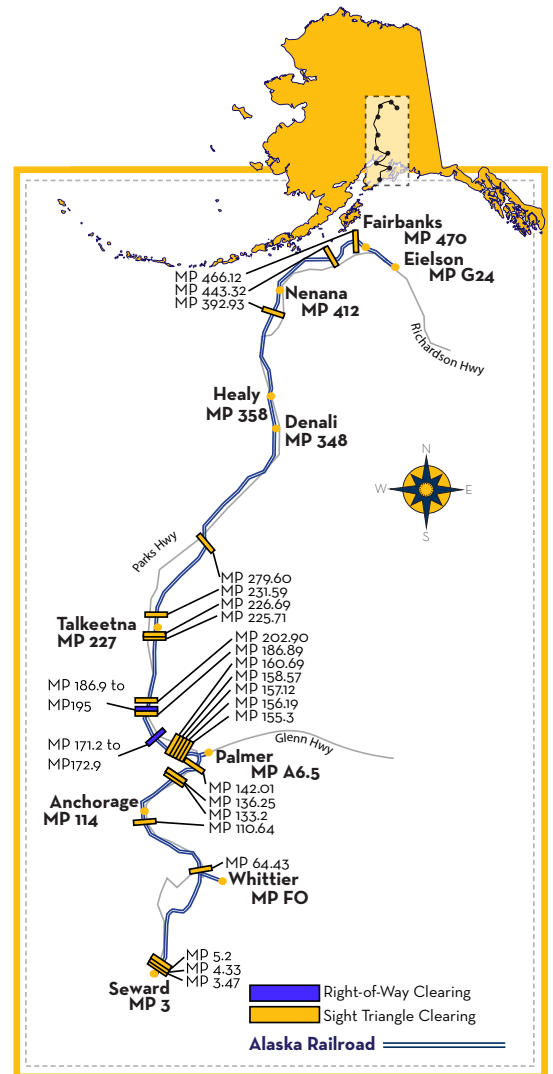
The ROW Clearing Program promotes ARRC's top strategic goal - Uphold a Culture of Safety and Excellence.

- Sight Triangle Clearing - There are over 200 at-grade roadway/rail crossings within ARRC's network. Sight-distance-triangles are established to ensure that operators of highway vehicles can identify an approaching train as they travel up to and across at-grade crossings. Keeping these sight-triangles free of obstructions is necessary to maintain safety for the public and train operations.
- ROW Clearing - ARRC has experienced significant wildfire activity in recent years resulting in train delays, putting transportation infrastructure at risk. Maintaining a ROW clear of trees and brush reduces the spread of fires and reduces the risk of trees falling on the tracks, which result in train delays, additional maintenance costs, and potential safety concerns. Additionally, creating a fire break will reduce the spread of wildfires and improve the safety of adjacent communities and home/property owners.

Status and Upcoming Work

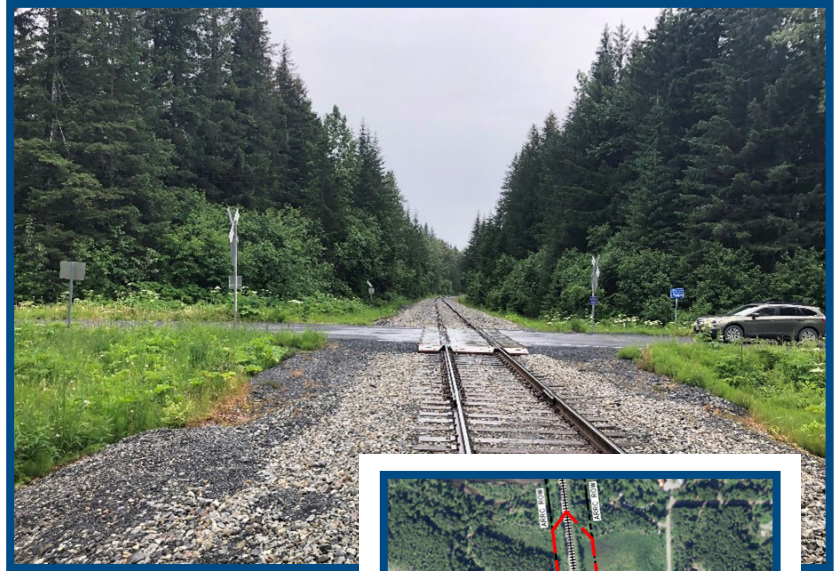
Sight Triangle Clearing - ARRC intends to clear sight triangles at the following crossings, listed by mileposts (MP), roadway, and nearest community, in the summer of 2025:

- MP 3.5 - Nash Road, Seward
- MP 4.3 - Moat Way, Seward
- MP 5.2 - Fairweather Avenue, Seward
- MP 64.4 - ATT Access, Portage
- MP 110.7 - Tudor Road, Anchorage
- MP 133.2 - Beach Lake Road, Birchwood

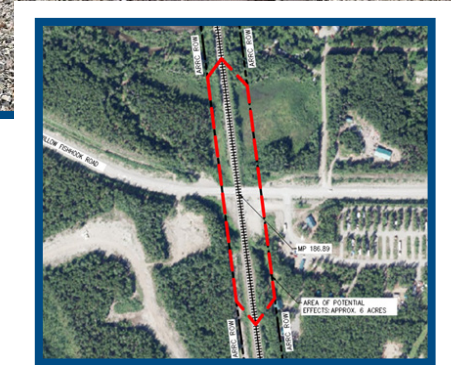


PROJECT FACTS

- MP 136.3 - Birchwood Airport, Birchwood
- MP 142.0 - Eklutna Village Road, Eklutna
- MP 155.3 - Abby Boulevard, Wasilla/Palmer
- MP 156.2 - Fairview Loop, Wasilla
- MP 157.1 - Jude Drive, Wasilla
- MP 158.6 - Glenwood Avenue, Wasilla
- MP 160.7 - Snyder Crossing, Wasilla
- MP 186.9 - Willow Fishhook Road, Willow
- MP 202.9 - Hidden Hills Road, Willow
- MP 225.7 - Talkeetna Spur Road, Talkeetna
- MP 226.6 - 2nd Street FAA Road, Talkeetna
- MP 231.6 - Chase Trail, Talkeetna
- MP 279.6 - Parks Highway, Hurricane
- MP 392.9 - Clear Access Road, Clear AFB
- MP 443.3 - Standard Creek Road, Fairbanks/Ester
- MP 466.1 - Old Chena Pump Road, Fairbanks



Above: MP 4.3 Moat Way Crossing - crossing with some overgrowth to be cleared.



Above: MP 186.9 Example ROW Sight Triangle Clearing.

ROW Clearing is planned between the following ARRC MPs between 2025 and 2030:

- MP 171.2 and MP 172.9
- MP 186.9 and MP 195

Cost and Funding

This program is expected to be funded 80% by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with formula funds with the required 20% match by ARRC.

For More Information

For more project information, email the Alaska Railroad at Public_Comment@akrr.com. Additional project fact sheets are available online at AlaskaRailroad.com > Corporate > Projects (look under System Wide Projects).



Above: December 2023 vegetation clearing activities in ROW.



Above: MP 5.2 Fairweather Avenue Crossing (2017) - Perspective from a passenger vehicle from right hand side