

Media Contact:

Candace Winkler
President & CEO
907.334.6700
cwinkler@alaskacf.org

Dick Morris
Engine 557 Restoration Company
907.338.5338
rmorris@alaska.net

**FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR ENGINE 557 RESTORATION***Community Groups Continue To Invest In Major Historical Locomotive Renovation*

(ANCHORAGE) – The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) and Engine 557 Restoration Company proudly announce the receipt of two grants in support of the restoration of former Alaska Railroad steam locomotive #557.

The Alaska Community Foundation and Engine 557 thanks the [Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm Corridor Communities Association](#), which was established to recognize, preserve and interpret the historical resources and cultural landscapes of the Kenai Mountains – Turnagain Arm transportation corridor, for their generous grant of \$10,000.

We also thank the [National Railway Historical Society](#), the nation’s leading advocate for U.S. rail preservation and the largest rail preservation and historical society, for selecting Engine 557 as one of its 2014 National Railway Heritage grantees.

“Railroads have played such an important role in shaping Alaska,” states Candace Winkler, ACF President and CEO. “ACF is proud to sponsor this project as it restores locomotive #557 to working conditions. We are excited that Alaskans will soon have the opportunity to ride on a piece of our shared history.”

The Engine 557 Restoration Company was established in 2012 and is at the halfway point of a four-year-long major overhaul and restoration of the locomotive. Restoration efforts rely almost exclusively on a cadre of volunteers who have each donated hundreds of hours in dismantling, cleaning, inspecting and refurbishing each part of the 1944 steam locomotive. A number of businesses and individuals throughout the Anchorage and Mat-Su areas assist the Engine 557 Restoration Company with monetary and material support.

Special thanks to Rasmuson Foundation for generously matching donations to Engine 557.

For more information visit <http://www.alaskarails.org>.

Established in 1995, The Alaska Community Foundation is a statewide platform for philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. Holding over \$83 million in over 300 funds for the benefit of Alaskans, ACF grants \$5-6 million each year to charitable projects and nonprofit organizations across the state. Our mission is to cultivate, celebrate and sustain all forms of philanthropy to strengthen Alaska’s communities forever. For more information, visit www.alaskacf.org or call (907) 334-6700.

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