



the Evolution of the Alberta to Alaska Railway Project

The Alberta to Alaska Railway project is not a new idea. Today we benefit from the work of many others who have come before us.

Beginning with the original concept of a rail by Governor Wally Hickel's NORTH Commission in the 1960's, there were many studies conducted over the last 40+ years. Experts such as Kells Boland, an engineer, and Dr. Paul Metz, a geological engineering professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, have studied the feasibility of a rail since the 1970's and 1980's. Dr. Hal Cooper, a prominent American engineer and infrastructure expert, published a 1997 report on a transportation and communications corridor to link Alaska through Alberta to the lower 48 states. Later, in 2006, the State of Alaska and Yukon Government partnered to complete an Alcan Rail study.

The Van Horne Institute (VHI) built on the work of those before them, and commissioned a pre-feasibility study in 2013 to determine the economic and technical feasibility for a conventional rail project between Alberta and Alaska. This study employed various consultants, including AECOM, G7G, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Michigan Tech.

The Alberta to Alaska Railway Development Corporation (A2A) believes it is time to move beyond study. This requires a much greater set of skills. The A2A team brings together people and companies with a track record of permitting, financing, constructing and operating commercially viable infrastructure projects. This is particularly important if this large-scale \$10-20 billion project is to succeed.

The Van Horne Institute (VHI) published their pre-feasibility study, commissioned by Alberta Energy in 2016, on a rail project from Northern Alberta to Delta Junction. This study evaluated the economic and technical feasibility of a railway. AECOM was employed for the economic and technical study, and G7G participated with First Nations engagement. The University of Fairbanks (Dr. Paul Metz) contributed with assessment of the potential mineral freight. The Van Horne Institute then released the pre-feasibility study to the public domain in early 2016. VHI have clarified that neither they, nor Alberta Energy, claim ownership of the intellectual property contained therein.

Alberta to Alaska Railway Development Corp. (A2A) is a company formed in 2015 to combine a powerhouse of knowledge in infrastructure financing, international banking, railway operations, and construction to execute on this project in a timely fashion and to be a long-term partner in the region. We are currently engaging Alaska Natives and First Nations in Canada along the route to be full partners in the project.

While the members of the A2A team have fully executed and successfully completed multi-billion dollar projects in the past, this one is different. The project will transform the economies of Alaska and the Canadian North, and enrich the lives of Tribes and First Nations partners and many in the shipping community and enhance existing infrastructure companies such as the TAPS and the Alaska Railroad.

The vision for this Railway is very old, and began to take its current form in the 1990s – in large part due to the vision of Alaskan State leaders. The Alberta to Alaska Railway Development Corp. is striving to make that vision a reality.