

NEWS

OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Marion Opens Major Intermodal Rail & Truck Center Funding Assisted by ORDC

(Marion) -- Congratulations to the City of Marion and the Marion Industrial Center (MIC) on this week's dedication of their new rail & truck intermodal yard and to the beginning of the first-ever scheduled container freight rail service between Marion and Kansas City, Missouri. A total of four non-stop container trains are always moving in this corridor.

Bottles of champagne were broken over the wheels of a huge CSX railroad locomotive as MIC and city officials joined with representatives of CSX, Kansas City Southern Railroad and their national trucking partner, Schneider National Inc., to officially inaugurate the new service. The service will benefit shippers both in Ohio and in the Western states by cutting up to a full day off of existing shipping times for their raw materials and products. These time savings are achieved by avoiding congested rail and highway corridors in and around Chicago, Illinois.

Later this year these transportation partners also plan to extend this rail service to Dallas, Texas and into Mexico. Extending service to the important sea ports of the Pacific Northwest is also being explored.

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) assisted in this effort with a grant that helped pay for a lift crane that loads and unloads the freight containers and trailers on and off the trains. MIC management also worked with private lenders to finance improvements to the rail yard itself including:

- Replacement of World War Two-era light-weight rails with modern 130 rail that accommodates heavier freight cars and locomotives
- New rail switches
- New on-site grade crossing equipment
- Reduction of sharp curves to better handle heavier and longer rail cars and locomotives

The project also creates ten new jobs at the MIC rail yard. More importantly, it helps a major employer and shipper at Maytag, which recently announced it is expanding both its manufacturing facility and jobs at its locations in Marion and in Clyde, Ohio. Maytag is a major customer of the new MIC intermodal facility.

(The Ohio Rail Development Commission is an independent agency operating within the Ohio Department of Transportation. ORDC is responsible for economic development through the improvement and expansion of passenger and freight rail service, railroad grade crossing safety and rail travel & tourism issues. For more information about what ORDC does for Ohio, visit our website at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/>)