

NEWS

OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

50 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 644-0306 telephone or fax (614) 728-4520
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 23, 2006

CONTACT: Stu Nicholson

614-644-0513

ORDC's Jim Seney Ends 38 Years of Government Service

***“Ohio Hub Plan will be his legacy for us to follow and
finish”.... ORDC Chairman James Betts***

(Columbus) – Ohio Rail Development Commission Chairman James E. Betts today announced that ORDC Executive Director James Seney will be leaving his position, ending a 38 year career in government service at the local and state level in Ohio.

“When you consider what Jim Seney has accomplished in just his time here at ORDC, you can begin to understand how much we regret his leaving”, says ORDC Chairman James E. Betts. “The fact that our Ohio Hub Plan to establish high-speed passenger rail and expanded freight rail capacity is so close to entering the important Environmental Impact Study phase is a tribute to Jim’s energy and leadership. The Ohio Hub Plan will be his legacy for us to follow and finish.”

Upon telling the Commissioners and staff of his intent to leave, Seney explained, “I feel I have done as much as I can with the limited resources that have been available to our Commission. We have a lot to show for it as a result, such as the Ohio Hub Plan, our Safety Corridor Program for grade crossing improvements, our contributions to the beginnings of the Rickenbacker Intermodal Hub and the Heartland Rail Corridor, and numerous projects around

the state where ORDC grants and loans have helped attract or expand businesses and retain or create good jobs. We have also forged important partnerships with Ohio's railroads, especially with the major freight carriers Norfolk Southern and CSX. Clearly there is a need to do much more and I'm confident ORDC will keep this effort on track."

It is also noteworthy that the Rail Corridor Safety Program begun during Mr. Seney's administration has resulted in a significant reduction in grade crossing fatalities from a high of 60 in 1990 to a record low in 2004 of 11. Total car-train crashes have gone from 879 in 1979 to 112 in 2004. Those numbers stayed around those levels in 2005. In addition over 1,200 grade crossings around Ohio have been upgraded with new, state-of-the-art lights and gates, especially in Ohio's most heavily travel rail corridors.

He has also overseen the management and operation of three state-owned railroad lines, including the Panhandle Line between Columbus and the Ohio River at Mingo Junction. In his ten years as ORDC Executive Director, Mr. Seney has been involved in rail-related economic development projects in virtually every county in Ohio.

Prior to serving as ORDC's Executive Director, Mr. Seney already had an extensive and productive career in Ohio government.

During the administration of the Governor George Voinovich:

- Served as a statewide and regional business development representative for the Ohio Department of Development and as the Department's liaison on transportation issues.
- Responsible for Governor Voinovich's successful Hanover Trade Fair trip and escorted the Governor while on the ground in Germany through the Ohio-hosted event.

During the administration of Governor Bob Taft:

- Northwest Ohio Regional Representative for the Ohio Department of Development.
- Helped implement incentives to keep and expand Daimler-Chrysler's Jeep Plant in Toledo.
- Helped bring a major engineering firm headquarters into Toledo, fulfilling a campaign pledge by Governor Taft.
- Instigated the State of Ohio's Purchase and preservation of Middle Bass Island on Lake Erie.
- Represented the Governor in organizing an offer to purchase and preserve the Fallen Timbers Battlefield Site in Lucas County

Mr. Seney is also a founder of the Ohio Port Authorities Council and served as co-chairman of the modernization of the Ohio Port Authorities Act, which granted sweeping economic development powers to Ohio's port authorities and was

signed into law by Governor Taft. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Inland River Ports & Terminals Association.

Mr. Seney also served as Mayor of Sylvania, Ohio for 19 years, prior to his service with the State of Ohio. He also served with and was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Reserves.

(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/>)