

# ***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**

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**CONTACT: Stu Nicholson**

**614-644-0513**

### **Freight Rail Improvements Get ORDC Okay *Projects in Allen, Cambridge & Marion County***

**(Columbus)** -- Rail projects important to economic development in Allen and Cambridge counties got approval from the Ohio Rail Development Commission, and a project in Marion County that is already succeeding beyond initial expectations also got a further boost from Commissioners.

Commissioners approved a \$450-thousand dollar grant and loan package for the Marion Industrial Center (MIC) Intermodal Facility for the purchase and rehabilitation of a second lift crane to expand the transfer of intermodal freight containers between trucks and trains. The facility, which opened last June, is the Eastern terminus for a dedicated high-speed container freight line between Marion and Kansas City, jointly operated by the CSX and Kansas City Southern Railroads and Schneider Trucking. It was predicted the facility would handle 60-thousand container loads in its first year. According to MIC officials, they have already surpassed that estimate and are on track to handle over 90-thousand freight container loads by their one-year anniversary. That also represents 90-thousand truck trips eliminated from our highways.

The second crane will improve the efficiency of the MIC Intermodal Facility and allow even more rail traffic to be handled. It will also enable the creation of an additional 5 jobs on top of the 10 jobs created when the facility first opened. More info about the facility can be found at <http://www.micwarehouse.com/>

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ORDC staff also approved two grants for rail projects:

- \$75,000 grant to fill a funding gap for the construction of a 2,300 foot lead track and a 400-foot rail spur for the Alpla Inc. plastics facility at Lima. Alpla makes plastic bottles for Proctor & Gamble detergent products and need to rail service for a facility close to P&G's Lima plant. The project will help create 50 new jobs and open up two sections of the Allen County Industrial Park for rail service that could attract more new business and jobs. Remaining funds in the \$930,000 project will come from Alpla Inc, the Allen County Port Authority and Allen County Commissioners.
- \$25,000 grant to Cambridge-Guernsey Community Improvement Corporation (CGCIC) to install a turnout switch and a short track for storage of the tourist train operated by the Byesville Scenic Railway (BSR). The project will open the main rail line for freight service by the Ohio Central Railroad, which currently must wait for the tourist train to be moved in order to service a local industry. It also allows the BSR to continue to generate dollars into the local economy from its growing tourist rail operations.

**(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/>)**