

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: April 19, 2007

CONTACT: Stu Nicholson

614-644-0513

City of Loveland Gets Ohio's First "Four-Quad" Lights & Gates *Installation to be dedicated May 4th*

(Columbus) -- Four aces make a great poker hand. But four gates make a *safer* grade crossing. Motorists driving State Route 48 through Loveland, Ohio will soon experience that first-hand at the state's first, operational "four quad" light and gate installation.

"Four-quad" means there are four sets of lights and gates instead of the usual two, enabling the roadway to be completely blocked as a train passes and preventing a driver from going around the gates.

A special dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting is scheduled for:

Friday, May 4, 2007
10:30 AM
City of Loveland
State Route 48 / Second Street Crossing
at the Indiana & Ohio Railway Company tracks

A large number of state and local officials have been invited to witness this historic Ohio event, which will include an Indian & Ohio Railway Company train actually breaking the ribbon to activate the new lights and gates for the first time.

"We've been successful in reducing the toll from car-train crashes by working toward upgrading light and gate systems at Ohio's over 6,000 public grade crossings", says ORDC Acting Executive Director Matt Dietrich. "But what remains as a problem is the fact that

even though deaths and injuries have been reduced, over half of the accidents that still occur happen at crossings where the gates are down or the lights are working. We still see too many drivers and pedestrians who will go around the lights and gates, even though a train is approaching.”

Preliminary findings show that in 2006, Ohio experienced 105 grade crossing accidents resulting in 13 deaths and 30 people injured. While those are still historic lows, says Dietrich, it is still not good enough.

“We’re hoping that this four-quad installation in Loveland will be a model for more such installations at crossings with high volumes of motor vehicle traffic coupled with necessary long warning times”, Dietrich says.

Media Note: This should be a very visual ribbon-cutting and we will accommodate you in getting a good location for video and still-photos. But please remember that the area between and immediately alongside the tracks is private property and off-limits for safety purposes. We will also be glad to assist you in identifying and securing interviews.

(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/>)