

# NEWS

## OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Ohio's First "4-Quad" Lights & Gates Operational At Loveland, Ohio

(Columbus) – It was not your traditional ribbon-cutting. The role of the “scissors” was played by an Indiana & Ohio Railroad locomotive rolling through the ribbon and officially activating Ohio’s first “4—Quad” grade crossing light and gate installation at Second Street in the City of Loveland in Clermont County.

The installation also involves coordinating the warning lights and gates at two other grade crossings to the traffic lights at a busy highway intersection near two of those grade crossings.

“It is important and significant not just for the obvious safety benefit to motorists and train crews”, said ORDC Commissioner Tom McOwen, “but also for the fact the choice of Loveland for Ohio’s first ‘4-Quad’ gate system demonstrates that the need to improve our rail systems is not just a big city issue. It’s a need that touches every community through which Ohio’s almost 6-thousand miles of track where railroads operate.”

The project grew from an original stand-alone light and gate project that was slated for the Loveland Avenue crossing. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio had ranked the crossing in its high-hazard index due to a traffic count of 13,000 motor vehicles per day, 5 trains per day and 2 car-train crashes in the past 5 years.

But upon a diagnostic inspection of the crossing by ORDC, the Indiana & Ohio Railroad and the City of Loveland, it was determined that more complex problems needed to be addressed at the two remaining grade crossings and the nearby intersection of Second Street and Loveland Avenue. Not the least of these problems was the heavy motor vehicle traffic that often backed up across the grade crossing during peak drive times.

A comprehensive safety solution resulted in the system dedicated on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, which was designed and installed by Railroad Controls Limited (RCL) of Benbrook, Texas. The new system will provide better warnings of approaching trains and prevent traffic back ups at the Loveland crossings. Additionally, at the Second Street “4-Quad” crossing, a sensor in the roadway will allow vehicles on the crossing to move off the tracks before the exit gates come down, preventing vehicles from being trapped.

Interestingly, according to RCL, the only other system like the one just installed in Loveland is along the L-A Metro light rail line in Los Angeles, California.

The Ohio Rail Development Commission administers an annual \$15-million dollar grade crossing safety program on behalf of the Ohio Department of Transportation, using Federal Highway Administration funds to upgrade warning devices, improve crossing surfaces conditions and close redundant crossings. ORDC has funded over 1,100 grade crossing improvements in the last 12 years, since the program began.

**(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/>)**