

NEWS

OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORDC Panhandle Line Advisory Committee to Meet *Will Study Options for Long-Term Lease of the State-Owned Rail Line*

(Columbus) – Prompted by a staff proposal at their September 13th meeting to study a long-term lease of the state-owned Panhandle Line, ORDC Commissioners at that meeting approved formation of an advisory committee to conduct a study and report recommendations on whether a long-term lease is beneficial and, if so, what provisions should be detailed in such a lease.

An initial meeting of the Panhandle Advisory Committee has been scheduled for **11:30 AM, Friday, October 5, 2007 in the Conference Room at the Ohio Rail Development Commission Office at 50 West Broad Street (15th Floor).**

In addition to ORDC staff, the Advisory Committee will include ORDC Commissioners Tom McOwen (who will also serve as Committee Chairman), Kimberly Gibson, Solomon Jackson and Jim Hartung. The Committee has been asked to seek input from all interested parties including the Ohio Central Railroad, which is currently operating the state-owned portion of the Panhandle Line under an existing 5-year lease. Input will also be sought from communities, shippers and other interests along the line.

The full Commission also asked that a report and recommendation be presented to the Commissioners by the January 2008 regular meeting.

(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/>)