

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/>

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CONTACT: Stu Nicholson
614-644-0513

Smoother Rides Across The Tracks: ORDC & CSX Team Up to Upgrade 17 Grade Crossing Surfaces

(Columbus) – The jolt that motorists once got as they crossed the railroad tracks will be felt no more as 17 grade crossings around Ohio will be re-surfaced for a smoother ride. The summer-long project is being done jointly through the Ohio Rail Development Commission Safety Section and the CSX railroad.

“This is the kind of public-private partnership that helps both the State of Ohio and the railroad to address important local transportation issues in the many communities where Ohio’s railroads and highways cross”, says ORDC Safety Section Manager Susan Kirkland. “This not only saves motorists the jarring impact of a bumpy crossing, but saves them wear and tear on their vehicles as well.”

All 17 crossings will get high grade rubber or concrete crossing surfaces, which last far longer than the traditional wooden or asphalt surfaces which don’t hold up as well to motor vehicle or rail traffic. Construction is expected to begin on the projects this summer with a hoped for completion by this Fall.

The 17 crossing surface projects include:

- US Route 224 Alvada Seneca County
- US Route 23 Carey Wyandot County
- State Route 67 Upper Sandusky Wyandot County
- Genoa Road/ SR 163 Pemberville Wood County
- Middletown Pike/SR582 Pemberville Wood County
- Louisiana Avenue/US 20 Perrysburg Wood County
- West Boundary Street/US25 Perrysburg Wood County
- Otsego Pike/SR235 Weston Wood County

- Amon Street/SR582 Bowling Green Wood County
- Ferry Street/SR 339 Beverly Washington County
- State Route 7 Cheshire Gallia County
- Main Street/SR 571 Tipp City Miami County
- State Route 122 Middletown Butler County
- Main Street/SR 613 Leipsic Putnam County
- State Route 83 Grafton Lorain County
- State Route 235 Quincy Logan County
- State Route 303 Valley City Medina County

The projects will be paid for through a combination of Federal Highway Safety Administration (FHWA) funds and in-kind contribution of labor by the railroads.

“We hope to be announcing more grade crossing surface projects with other Ohio railroads within the coming weeks”, says ORDC’s Kirkland. “In addition to improving safety with a smoother road surface, this is also a great way for the CSX and other railroads to be a good neighbor to Ohio’s communities.”

(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/>)