

2006 IN REVIEW

WEST CENTRAL OHIO PORT AUTHORITY

OPERATIONS

- 7,196 railcars were served on WESTCO lines by the Indiana & Ohio Railway Company (IORY) in 2006 compared to 7,108 carloads in 2005.
- WESTCO and the IORY entered into a new Shortline Railroad Agreement retroactive to May 1, 2005.
- In November, 2006, RailAmerica, Inc., the parent corporation of the IORY, announced that it entered into a definitive merger agreement with an affiliate of Fortress Investment Group LLC. Upon completion of the transaction in the first quarter of 2007, RailAmerica will become a privately held company. See <http://www.railamerica.com> for information about rail service.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE

- Grade crossing safety upgrades were completed at the SR 41 and the SR 729 crossings in Fayette County and three crossings on SR 4 in Champaign County. The cost was \$615,978. An upgrade was also completed at the SR 41 crossing in Madison County. The estimated cost is \$130,000.
- Repairs were made to the abutments on the 40' bridge #109.55 located north of Lippencott Road in Champaign County. The cost for the project was \$72,900.
- Plans and specifications were prepared for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the 77' bridge over Miami Street (US 36) in Urbana. The project was advertised for bids in December, 2006. Construction is planned for mid-June to mid-August, 2007. The total estimated cost is \$1,100,000.
- Plans and specifications were prepared for the replacement of the 122' bridge #224.7 over Sugar Creek in Fayette County. The project was advertised for bids in December, 2006. Construction is planned for mid-June to mid-August, 2007. The total estimated cost is \$780,000.
- In cooperation with the Fayette County Engineer's Department, the Bloomingburg-New Holland Road crossing surface was extended to match the minor widening of the roadway. Complete reconstruction of the surface and improvements to approximately 2,000' of the track are planned for 2007. The preliminary cost estimate is \$75,000.

- A design report presenting alternates for abutment repairs to the 134' bridge #1.41 over Buck Creek was prepared. Estimated construction costs range from \$25,000 for a short term emergency repair to \$230,000 to put the bridge into good operating condition.

PROPERTY

- Two property matters such as parcel sales, utility licenses and other agreements were processed during the year.
- The Clark County Engineer's Department and "With a Grain of Salt" assisted with maintenance of the service drive to the Glen Echo bulk re-load facility.

PLANNING & MARKETING

- The 2007 Grade Crossing Safety Program was approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Ohio Rail Development Commission. The PUCO ordered installation of gates and flashers at SR 56 in Champaign County, SR 323 in Madison County and Bloomingburg-New Holland Road in Fayette County. The preliminary cost estimate for the project is \$430,000. The North American Railway Foundation is providing up to \$43,000 and the Fayette County Engineer's Department is providing up to \$14,500.
- The 2006 Rail Development Plan was published. Copies are available upon request or the plan may be viewed on-line at <http://clarktcc.com/westco.htm>.
- Keynes Bros. of Logan, Ohio acquired the elevator at Jeffersonville for use as a wheat facility.
- WESTCO and the IORY assisted the Paygro Division of Garick Corporation at South Charleston in preparing plans and specifications to rehabilitate 1.9 miles of track in 2007. The track is presently out of service. Initially, the company plans to receive aggregate materials for processing and distribution. The estimated project cost is \$250,000.
- WESTCO assisted development officials in Champaign, Clark and Fayette counties in providing information and working with prospects considering rail-served sites.

ADMINISTRATION

- The WESTCO Board of Directors met nine times in 2006.
- Dr. Richard Henry, P.E., PhD. was appointed by the Board of Clark County Commissioners to fulfill the unexpired term of Ed Everhart and to a new four year term ending September 1, 2010.

- Betty Mowrey was re-appointed by the Board of Champaign County Commissioners to a new four year term ending September 1, 2010.
- Gordon Conn (Fayette County) and Alan Thompson (Clark County) were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for 2007.
- The budget was approved for 2007.
- The audit was completed for 2005 by the Auditor of State. It is available for review on-line at <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/AuditSearch/detail.aspx?ReportID=55341> .
- WESTCO participated on the Ohio Ports Council.