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# 2007 IN REVIEW

## OPERATIONS

- RailAmerica, Inc., the parent corporation of the Indiana & Ohio Railway (IORY), was acquired by an affiliate of the Fortress Investment Group LLC and is now a privately held company. See their website at <http://www.railamerica.com> for information about rail service.

## INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

- The rehabilitation and enhancement of the 77' bridge #115.99 over Miami Street (US 36) in Urbana was completed. The total project cost was \$1,150,000. Earmarked federal funds received through Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) were \$481,189. Federal transportation enhancement funds received through ODOT were \$144,680. The remainder of the cost was partly financed with a loan from ODOT's State Infrastructure Bank.
- The replacement of the 122' bridge #224.7 over Sugar Creek in Fayette County was completed. The total cost was \$605,000. The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) provided a \$207,000 grant. WESTCO's share of the cost was partly financed with a loan from the ORDC. Cooperation by the Fayette County Engineer and the IORY resulted in project savings.
- The Bloomingburg-New Holland Road crossing surface in Fayette County was reconstructed and 1,100' of track was realigned. The total cost project cost was \$170,616. Some additional track work outside the project limits was added at a cost of \$4,540.
- The 134' bridge #1.41 over Buck Creek in Clark County was repaired. The total cost was \$165,000.
- The 124' bridge #222.22 over Sugar Creek at Jeffersonville in Fayette County was repaired. The total cost was \$54,000. The process was started to eventually replace the bridge. Letters of Interest and Statements of Qualifications were solicited from consulting engineers for both design services as well as construction management and inspection services. The estimated total replacement cost is \$700,000.
- The 216' bridge #107.43 over Mad River in Champaign County near West Liberty was repaired. The total project cost was \$83,000.

### West Central Ohio Port Authority

#### Board of Directors

Jim Agle  
Gordon Conn, Chair  
Jerry Damewood  
Richard Henry, PhD, PE  
Betty Mowery  
Dale Ritenour  
Alan Thompson, Vice Chair

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Larry Himes

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- Minor maintenance was performed on the 35' bridge #105.90 over SR 245 at West Liberty in Logan County and the 24' bridge #119.14 over Hickory Grove Road in Champaign County. The total cost was \$12,850.
  - The IORY maintained grade crossing warning devices, conducted track and bridge inspections and performed routine maintenance activities.

## **SAFETY**

- Grade crossing safety upgrades (gates and flashers) were completed at the SR 56 crossing in Champaign County and the SR 323 crossing in Madison County. The Bloomingburg-New Holland Road crossing in Fayette County will be completed in January, 2008. The estimated total cost is \$535,000. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) paid 80% of the costs. The North American Railway Foundation assisted with \$43,000. The Fayette County Engineer provided \$14,500. WESTCO's share of the cost will be about \$50,000.00, when finalized.
- WESTCO participated with Ohio chapter of Operation Lifesaver. Secretary-Treasurer Larry Himes was a speaker at the Mid-States Highway/Rail Safety Meeting and at the Ohio Chapter of the International Right-of-Way Association about safety.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Paygro and Southwest Landmark reached an agreement to share the trackage at South Charleston that will bring new rail traffic to their facilities. Southwest Landmark started construction on a new fertilizer hub facility and Paygro is making improvements to receive aggregates into their facility. WESTCO assisted the parties with the rehabilitation of the 1.9 mile track.
- WESTCO assisted development officials in Champaign, Clark and Fayette counties in providing information and working with prospects considering rail-served sites:
  - In Fayette County, WESTCO worked with the Martin Land Company and consultants in the preparation of a Master Plan for the Fayette County mega-site. With the completion of the plan, work continued with the stakeholders, including the Ohio Department of Development and the Ohio Rail Development Commission for advancing the Phase I Rail project which includes new rail service for the Precision Seed and Grain Company.
  - In Champaign and Clark Counties, WESTCO participated with local officials on providing three different alternative energy prospects with rail-served site information.
  - In Clark County, WESTCO joined with the Indiana & Ohio Railway Company in providing information to Norfolk Southern for proposed new service at International Truck and Engine Corporation. The WESTCO Board established rates for single level auto racks and flatcars in the Maintenance Fee Schedule. Funding for development of a site plan for the Glen Echo (Tremont City Road) area was requested of local development officials.

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- Neenah Paper announced the closing of the Fox River Paper plant in Urbana.

## **PLANNING**

- The WESTCO Board established a “Working Group” advisory committee of stakeholders to consider maintenance needs, funding and economic development. The planned publishing of the Rail Development Plan was delayed to 2008, pending recommendations of the “Working Group”. Directors Rich Henry and Alan Thompson are serving on the “Working Group”. Director Betty Mowery is their alternate.
- Director Alan Thompson was appointed to represent WESTCO on the Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC).

## **PROPERTY**

- WESTCO and the City of Urbana agreed to share expenses in the construction of a stormwater improvement on WESTCO property.
- WESTCO was assisted by the Clark County Engineer, the Clark County Sheriff and the Turner Foundation in the painting of the 47’ bridge #2.40 over Croft Road in Clark County to cover graffiti.
- Property leases and utility licenses were processed during the year.
- The WESTCO Board initiated an application fee for administrative review and processing of requests for right-of-way occupations and increased the document fee for the preparation of legal documents. Contracts were awarded for an inventory of railroad materials “not in the track” on WESTCO property and for an appraisal of track in Logan County and right-of-way between Urbana and Bellefontaine.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

- The WESTCO Board of Directors met ten times (nine regular meetings and one special meeting) in 2007.
- Director Jerry Damewood was re-appointed to a new four year term ending September 1, 2011 by the Champaign County Commissioners.
- Directors Gordon Conn (Fayette County) and Alan Thompson (Clark County) were elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, for 2008.
- The budget was approved by the Board of Directors for 2008. The Budget/Finance Committee met three times in 2007.
- Clark Schaefer Hackett & Company was engaged to provide bookkeeping services for the port authority.

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- A Contracting Policy for construction projects where state prevailing wage regulations or federally-assisted projects requiring Davis-Bacon wage rates apply was adopted by the Board of Directors.
  - A Cost Allocation Plan and a Public Records Policy were adopted by the Board of Directors.
  - Director Jerry Damewood gave testimony before the Ohio Senate Finance Committee in support of the budget of the Ohio Rail Development Commission.
  - The audit was completed for 2006 by the Auditor of State. It is available for review on-line at <http://www.clarktcc.com/westco.htm> and <http://www.auditor.state.oh.us> .
  - WESTCO participated on the Ohio Ports Council. Secretary-Treasurer Larry Himes served as chair of the council's Education Committee which held a day-long training program for port authority board members. Directors Betty Mowery, Rich Henry and Gordon Conn attended the program. Secretary-Treasurer Larry Himes also participated in the legislative outreach event hosted by the council.
  - Administration services for the port authority are provided through a cooperative agreement among WESTCO, the Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Board of Commissioners of Clark County. Offices were moved during the year. The new location and contact information for the port authority is:

West Central Ohio Port Authority  
Springview Government Center  
3130 E. Main Street, Suite 2B  
Springfield, OH 45505

Phone: (937) 521-2134  
Fax: (937) 328-3940

E-mail: [lhimes@clarkcountyohio.gov](mailto:lhimes@clarkcountyohio.gov)  
Website: [www.clarktcc.com/westco](http://www.clarktcc.com/westco)

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# Railroad Bridge #115.99 over US 36 Urbana, Ohio

The railroad bridge over US 36 has provided a gateway to the City of Urbana since it was constructed in 1926. The existing structure was originally designed to support two rail lines but one line has since been abandoned. The structure was comprised of two parallel decks, each with three steel girder spans on common abutments and piers. This aging structure displayed heavy deterioration of the deck, loss of section from rust on the beams, and crushing of the bearing devices. It was determined that a major rehabilitation was needed. During preliminary development of the project, West Central Ohio Port Authority (WESTCO) was successful in obtaining federal transportation funds to partly finance the rehabilitation and enhancement of the structure.

## Completion Dates

Design: 2006

Construction: 2007

## Project Cost

\$1,150,000

WESTCO selected the design team of Michael Baker Jr., Cooke Consulting Group and MSI. Two main concerns were addressed throughout the design process: the replacement of structurally deficient members and aesthetic enhancements to provide a visual gateway to Urbana's historic downtown and nearby neighborhoods, including Urbana University. The final aesthetic components were determined with input from stakeholders.

Alterations to the existing structure included the removal and replacement of the old deck and railing. A section of the existing structure that supported the abandoned rail line was removed to optimize use of the structure. In addition, one girder line from the removed portion was relocated and reattached to the remaining pier caps to increase the supporting girder lines from 3 to 4 which brought the structure up to current AREMA specifications. All remaining structural steel was cleaned and painted. Existing abutments were repaired and sealed following an in-depth inspection. Additional enhancements included retrofitting the column encasements and adding new barrier along US 36 to protect the columns.

Armstrong Steel Erectors of Newark, Ohio was selected by WESTCO as the prime construction contractor. DLZ Ohio of Columbus, Ohio was selected by WESTCO to provide construction engineering and inspection services for the project. These two firms worked closely with the City of Urbana to minimize the impact to traffic in the project area. No detours were required for US 36 traffic. The track outage for the Indiana & Ohio Railway Company, the operator on the line, was only 43 days.

In addition to the federal transportation funds, WESTCO financed the rest of the construction phase with a loan from the State Infrastructure Bank at the Ohio Department of Transportation.



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# Railroad Bridge #224.7 over Sugar Creek Fayette County, Ohio

The West Central Ohio Port Authority (WESTCO) replaced the bridge carrying the former DT&I tracks over Sugar Creek near Creamer Road in Fayette County, Ohio with a new modern steel structure. The bridge inspection in 2005 noted that the aging timber structure, a ten-span bridge supported by timber piles driven into the ground and streambed, had developed problems and it had insufficient capacity for current loads. Preliminary analysis indicated that repair costs would be comparable to cost for a new bridge.

**Completion Dates**

Design: 2006

Construction: 2007

**Project Cost**

\$605,000

WESTCO selected Jones Stuckey Ltd., Inc., partnered with Cooke Consulting Group, to provide engineering and construction management services on the project. The design process was accelerated and the environmental permitting process was streamlined so that the project could take advantage of a more competitive bidding environment. The completed bridge complies with current AREMA specifications.

The new bridge is a five span steel structure with the same overall length, but shifted three feet south to avoid conflicts between new and existing foundations. The deck is supported by four stringers so that thickness of the superstructure can be minimized for passage of floodwaters beneath the bridge. Piles are galvanized for long life and the superstructure is constructed using weathering steel that develops a protective patina and does not need to be painted.

Complete General Construction Company, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio was selected by WESTCO as the prime construction contractor. With the cooperation of the Fayette County Engineer, construction was completed within a 30-day closure of Creamer Road to minimize impacts to area residents and avoid impacts to school bus routes. The track outage for the Indiana & Ohio Railway Company (IORY), the operator on the line, was only 30 days.

Replacement of this bridge provides a benefit to current and future rail users. This bridge is adjacent to 2,500+ acres, a portion of which is designated as a job ready mega-site by the Ohio Department of Development.

The project was partly financed with a grant of \$207,000 and a loan of \$308,000 from the Ohio Rail Development Commission. The IORY contributed their detour costs during the track outage to the project.

