

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

On November 9th, 2005 the State Senate passed AB512, requiring the installation of yield signs at all passive highway / railroad crossings in the State of Wisconsin. If signed into law by Governor Jim Doyle, railroads will be provided with yield signs by the state and the railroads will be responsible for installation and maintenance.

The Midwest Regional University Transportation Center, is conducting a study that will identify the additional incremental pavement maintenance costs that could be expected as a result of additional freight traffic moving over highways in the Midwest Region. As part of the study, a group of researchers from UW Superior, UI-Chicago & Michigan Tech will conduct case studies of particular short-lines in each state to evaluate the costs and benefits associated with the modal shift between rail and truck. The short-line case study here in WI will focus on the WSOR line between Monroe and Janesville, WI. This study is expected to be completed by August of 2006.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation, is currently analyzing the condition of its publicly-owned railroad bridges. The purpose of the study is to identify necessary improvements to bridges for compliancy to 286,000 pound rail cars. The cost of the study is estimated at \$100,000 and will be completed by summer of 2006.



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## WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD

### MAKING TRACKS

A Newsletter designed to inform interested people on new developments that are taking place on the Railroad that serves their Communities

#### SERVING THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES

Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago

### WSOR PRESIDENT BILL GARDNER PRESENTS 8TH ANNUAL STATE OF THE RAILROAD ADDRESS

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's 8th Annual State Of The Railroad Address was presented by President Bill Gardner to a crowd of nearly 100 people in Middleton, WI on September 9th, 2005. The purpose of this address was to inform state and county officials, Transit Commissioners and other interested people how the railroad is doing, and to illustrate the steps the railroad is taking to insure its infrastructure will meet future demands.

This year, there were special guests that attended the address, including Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, who was the keynote speaker. Governor Doyle remarked about how important a properly functioning state railroad system is to Wisconsin's economy. The Governor mentioned the new state budget that he signed on July 25th contained provisions for additional funding for the state owned railroad system.

Wisconsin Senator Jon Erpenbach of the 27th district followed the Governor in speaking about the many accomplishments of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad and presented Bill Gardner with a plaque commemorating these accomplishments.

President Bill Gardner reported an upswing in rail traffic demand over last year, while highlighting several of the challenges that lie ahead including capital projects, affordable employee healthcare and the growing cost of rail materials. Over the past year, the WSOR has made efforts to achieve efficiencies that solidifies its role in the state and national economy.



Governor Jim Doyle congratulating  
WSOR President Bill Gardner

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad wishes to thank everyone for coming!

### WSOR ACCEPTS DELIVERY OF WELDED RAIL



On November 5, 2005, the WSOR accepted delivery of 7.2 miles of 115# continuous welded rail to be installed in Hartford, WI and Orfordville, WI in the spring of 2006. As part of its commitment to upgrade its "backbone" rail infrastructure, WSOR began upgrading a 7-mile section of track between Hartford, WI and Slinger, WI in July of 2004 with the installation of over 6,000 ties and several public crossings & bridges being reconstructed. Taking delivery of welded rail begins phase two of this project.

Both projects, Hartford to Slinger and Orfordville Hill Rail Replacement are expected to be completed by June of 2006 and are being financed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, and 19 southern Wisconsin counties.

## WSOR CONDUCTS RAIL INSPECTION TRIPS

At its August meeting of the WSOR Advisory Board of Directors, the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad unveiled a newly renovated "Theatre Car" specially built for conducting rail inspection trips to locations throughout the publicly-owned railroad system. A theatre car is used to allow railroad officials and other persons the opportunity to view the railroad infrastructure like never before. The car contains large windows at the rear that allows passengers to look out and see close up the track, ties, bridges, and associated rail infrastructure. The car was named in the honor of WSOR President Bill Gardner's late wife Lucy Stone Gardner, who passed away last year.

Since its completion in August, the WSOR has conducted 4 rail inspection trips for railroad management as well as state and county officials. Each trip has been conducted over a critical segment of track that has been earmarked for capital rehabilitation for the next year. "Providing an opportunity for state and county officials to visually see the condition of our infrastructure is an invaluable tool for budgeting purposes", stated Bill Gardner.



## WSOR ENCOUNTERS MAJOR RAIL DEFECT WHILE INSPECTING TRACK INFRASTRUCTURE

During rail inspection trips, it is quite common to see defective ties, loosened tie bolts, insufficient drainage, etc. But discovering a "crushed" joint as you see in the picture provided tells another story. As a result of increased tonnage, industry standards, and the age of rail, the existing 90 year old rail is no longer capable of handling today's trains. This is a story that justifies the use of more modern 115# continuous welded rail, which the WSOR is installing at critical locations throughout its system. For the year 2006, the WSOR will install 7.2 miles of 115# continuous welded rail in Hartford, WI and Orfordville, WI, where we need it the most. And, provided that state funding levels allow, the WSOR encourages the state to invest in rail-related projects annually in order to respond to safety and industry demand.



Safety of the general public and our train crews is of utmost importance. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, WSOR Maintenance of Way crews will begin installing more than 24,000 ties on the Fox Lake Subdivision between Wheeler Pit and Walworth, WI. This project includes upgrading several bridges as well as reconstructing several railroad/highway grade crossings. In planning for future projects, WSOR will be installing ties between Madison and Milton as well as reconstructing several bridges that have critical conditions requiring repairs. This work constitutes an effort to make our railroad safer while continuing to serve our customers in a responsible manner.

## WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN PAINTS LOCOMOTIVE IN HONOR OF FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

In the summer of 2005, the Union Pacific Railroad commissioned Wisconsin & Southern Railroad to custom paint an SD70Ac locomotive as a tribute to Former President of the United States George Bush. The design incorporates the color scheme and elements of Air Force One, used during George Bush's presidency. The new locomotive is numbered 4141, in honor of the nation's 41st president.

After completion, the tarp covered locomotive began its trip from the WSOR paint shops in Horicon, Wisconsin to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas on October 11, 2005. It was revealed to the former president during a ceremony near the library on the Texas A&M University campus. The unveiling ceremony is part of the grand opening of "Trains: Tracks of the Iron Horse," on Nov. 7, 2005, at the Bush Library. "The railroad industry has played a tremendous role in the growth and prosperity of Wisconsin and across our great nation and we are happy that President Bush has chosen to showcase this great industry for the many visitors to the Bush Library and Museum," stated President Bill Gardner.

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad is proud to have been a part of making this commemorative locomotive possible. Its unique custom design is just an example of the excellent work that is done in the Horicon Paint Shop. The WSOR paint shop is known nation wide for their excellent workmanship and attention to detail.



## RANDOM LAKE OFFICIALLY DEDICATES RAIL LINE

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the 37-mile rail line between Saukville and Kiel, WI was officially dedicated as part of the Random Lake Community's Fall Festival. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony and press conference accompanied the traditional fall festival. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad had on hand its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Locomotive for static display.

In attendance at the ceremony was Village President Bob McDermott, State Senator Glenn Grothman, State Representative Dan LeMahieu, attorney Ed Ritger, Congressman Tom Petri, Ozaukee County Supervisor Rose Hass Leider, Wisconsin & Southern President Bill Gardner, Sheboygan County Board Chair Bill Goehring & Random Lake Area Chamber of Commerce President Jim Benson.

