



WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD

MAKING TRACKS

September 2008

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 RECEIVES NADO AWARD FOR ITS PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. in conjunction with three rail transit commissions and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has received National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO) 2008 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. The award was given to deserving public/private partnerships throughout the country that have demonstrated exceptional regional collaboration in the transportation industry and impact on communities throughout the nation. The three rail transit commissions named for their excellence in regional collaboration were: Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission, Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission, and the South Central Wisconsin Rail Transit Commission. All three commissions represent local and county governments that strive to preserve and enhance railroad corridors throughout Southern Wisconsin. A total of nine member counties are represented by the participating commissions and county board supervisors and citizen appointees serve as individual representatives.



This year's winning projects help meet their region's needs through various program areas, including: economic development impacts; long-range planning; transportation's connection to the environment or to land use; effective partnerships with stakeholders, officials, state agencies or neighboring regions; transit; freight planning; and many more areas. "This is a tremendous honor to accept an award from a nationally reputable organization such as NADO", stated Bill Gardner, President of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. "On behalf of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, I thank the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the participating commissions and their member counties for making this possible", he added.

←

WSOR HOSTS TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

For its second year in a row, the WSOR hosted the National Transportation Research Board's Sub-Committee on Local Freight, which conducted their 2008 Summer meetings in Milwaukee, WI. The TRB is a division of the National Research Council, serving as an independent advisor to the Federal Government on transportation issues of national significance. To conclude their summer meetings, the WSOR escorted the group from Milwaukee's Amtrak Station to WSOR's Horicon Terminal to learn more about Wisconsin's publicly-owned railroad system. Pictured at



Milwaukee's Amtrak Station is WSOR's Business fleet including the newly restored WSOR 102 – a B-Unit originally built for the Union Pacific as their UP 967B in September of 1955. WSOR 102 is now teamed up with WSORs two E9A's, which are now the only true fully operational E9 A-B-A set in the United States.

WSOR JOINS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ON “RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING SAFETY AWARENESS DAY”

On May 14th, 2008, Wisconsin & Southern joined forces with local law enforcement to commemorate “**Railroad Grade Crossing Safety Awareness Day**” here in the State of Wisconsin. In observation of this day, the WSOR hosted an officer ride-a-long in the cities of Madison and Middleton to spread awareness of railway safety at our at-grade rail crossings. Participating in the event were the following agencies: University of Wisconsin Police Dept., City of Madison PD, City of Middleton PD, Wisconsin State Patrol, & Wisconsin Chapter of Operation Lifesaver (see picture).

During the 2-hour trip from Madison to Middleton, law enforcement officers in the locomotive cab of a freight train observed more than 15 violations including bicyclists and motorists failing to yield to activated crossing signals. In the State of Wisconsin, failure to yield to trains and activated crossing signals can amount to a \$310.00 fine and carry a penalty of 6 points from a drivers license.



According to Operation Lifesaver, approximately every two hours a person or vehicle is hit by a train in the United States and each year more people are injured or killed while trespassing on railroad property *versus* being involved in a train-vehicle collision. For more information on Operation Lifesaver and how the nation’s railroads are forwarding this very important safety message to our general public, please see www.oli.org.

WSOR HOSTS DUPONT “TANK CAR TRAINING”

During the week June 9th, the City of Madison Fire Department and the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad co-hosted the DuPont Rail Training cars in the rail yard at East Johnson Street. The Dupont Company, represented by Ed Kozey and Joe Murabito, with 62 years of combined experience at Dupont led groups of local emergency responders through classroom training and hands-on sessions on specially built tank car with simulated leak situations.



Sessions were held each day in which local emergency responders and representatives of rail-served industries, and railroad employees participated either in awareness level classroom training or technician level. Representatives of the following organizations/agencies participated in the week long event: Madison Fire Department, Air Products, United Ethanol, Utica Energies, Abitec and Trans Environmental. Also in attendance were representatives from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Agri-Service Association. By assisting local, regional & state emergency responders in mock training exercises, the WSOR helps build understanding of emergency situations that will save lives in the future.

WSOR HONORS ROBERT HOESLY

On September 4, 2008, the WSOR unveiled WSOR 4078 to honor the late Robert Hoesly. Robert Hoesly served as Chairman of the Green County Board of Supervisors for over 25 years and Chairman of the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission for 28 years working on behalf of Green County communities and businesses who rely upon the railroad for their transportation needs. *“It was Bob’s dedication to preserving the branch line rail system in South Central Wisconsin that today serves as a economic development tool for communities throughout Green and Rock Counties,* stated Bill Gardner, President of Wisconsin & Southern.



WSOR DEDICATES 4053 TO STATE'S "GROW WISCONSIN" INITIATIVE

One of the last locomotives to be repainted in WSOR's fleet, WSOR 4053 has received a special "Grow Wisconsin" paint scheme featuring the route map of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. The locomotive was dedicated to State of Wisconsin efforts to encourage greater investment in statewide transportation infrastructure – an initiative set forth by Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle to nurture the states economy. The State's "Grow Wisconsin" Initiative calls for building a world-class transportation system that supports job growth and business development – a priority that WSOR shares as well. WSOR 4053 debuted on a special train operated August 26, 2008 between Whitewater and Milton, WI where local officials from Sheboygan and Lafayette Counties were given a glimpse of how rail transportation can benefit local and regional economies.



WSOR AWARDED \$7.6 MILLION IN CAPITAL GRANTS

This past July, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation awarded WSOR two grants to be used towards capital improvements to the publicly-owned railroad system. One grant, in the amount of \$2.8 Million will be used to conduct a "phase one" tie replacement program on WSOR's Madison Subdivision between Milton and Madison, WI (see picture to right). This project includes replacement of 30,000 ties and installation of 42,000 tons of hard granite rock ballast. Funding for this project came from the following sources: WisDOT \$2.8 Million or 80%, WSOR and the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission \$560,000 or 20%. Following this project will be "phase two" rail replacement where WSOR proposes to replace 90# jointed rail that is near 90 years of age with new 115# continuous welded rail. Phase two rail replacement could begin as early as July 2009 but is contingent upon availability of state funding.



A second grant, in the amount of \$4.8 Million will be used to install 115# continuous welded rail between Hartford and Horicon, WI, a distance of 14 miles. A first rail train containing seven miles of rail was delivered in early July of this year with the second rail train (see picture to right) delivered in early September. Both rail trains delivered quarter mile sections of 115# rail that was unloaded on site. Field welding and installation began mid summer and is expected to continue into mid October. It is anticipated that by mid October, WSOR crews will be completed with rail installation and will be surfacing and conducting quality control measures into the late fall. Once completed, these projects will enhance public safety in Wisconsin Communities and will provide for a stronger and more competitive rail system for Wisconsin businesses.



Photo to right shows the rail extending from the rear of the train is held stationary using available machinery. On this day, WSOR crews are using a backhoe and a track crane to pull the rail off the "threader" car. The track is attached to the anchor vehicles using cables and bolts. The new rail is held in place while the locomotive proceeds slowly ahead allowing the rail to be pulled out of the cars and laid on the ground next to the existing railroad infrastructure. This project will be funded in part by the State of Wisconsin, WSOR & the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium.



RAILWAY NEWS

MAZOMANIE, WI, August 2008— WSOR and Mid Continent Railroad Museum hosted the 2008 Gandy Dancer Festival, attracting over 2,500 people for the one day event. As part of the festivities were free train rides to members of the public as well as other attractions such as musical performances, art exhibits & food vendors. The event was held to raise money for on-going operations of the Mid Continent Railroad Museum.

HARTFORD, WI, November 8, 2008— WSOR and 1003 Steam Locomotive Operations will escort Santa Claus to town for a fun filled day of Holiday festivities. Santa Claus will be in town to meet children and adults of all ages for a limited time. Further details can be found on our website at www.wsorrailroad.com

EDGERTON, WI, December 6, 2008— WSOR and 1003 Steam Locomotive Operations will bring Santa Claus to town as part of Edgerton's Annual "Christmas in the Community" event. Once again, Santa Claus will be on hand to meet people for a limited time during the day. If you missed Santa Claus here, you can visit him on December 13th, as he travels to Plymouth, WI for a short visit. Further details can be found on our website closer to the date.



VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

www.wsorrailroad.com

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.

PO Box 90229

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-0229

Phone: (414) 438-8820

Fax: (414) 438-8826

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.

PO Box 90229

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-0229

Phone: (414) 438-8820

Fax: (414) 438-8826