

## INDOT Selects Corridor Capital Winning Bidder, Seeks Extended Community Funding

INDOT has selected Corridor Capital as the winning bidder in the RFP process to operate the *Hoosier State*, the four-day-a-week train between Indianapolis and Chicago.

Corridor Capital put out a press release, which stated:

*"The Indiana Department of Transportation on June 24, 2014 selected Corridor Capital as its preferred vendor to manage and operate the current Amtrak Hoosier State route between Indianapolis and Chicago. Indiana DOT and Corridor Capital are now in discussions towards an agreement for a changeover in operations commencing October 1, 2014."*

Robert Zier of INDOT told *All Aboard Indiana* that they will now meet with local communities along the route which are currently funding 50% of the cost of operating the line through September 30 to discuss the proposal and seek continued community funding:

*"...we are meeting with our partners along the route on July 2. This meeting is for them to hear about what the proposal from Corridor Capital entails and the costs associated with making the new service available."*

*We hope that our partners will commit to the 50% contribution that the Governor required when the state took over the responsibility of the Hoosier State."*

*The contract with Corridor Capital will be for three years and the funding is an issue that must be decided."*

More details on this developing story will be posted on our website and covered in the next newsletter. The website for Corridor Capital, which links to the INDOT RFP and describes the company's rail equipment, is [www.ccrail.com](http://www.ccrail.com).

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## IPRA To Meet With Cummins

Cummins – which is building new engines for new Amtrak locomotives for five states – has agreed to meet with IPRA officials. We plan to discuss seeking the company's support to promote passenger rail in the state. A meeting is scheduled with Cummins corporate communications and government relations officials. The company is the third largest publicly traded company in the state.

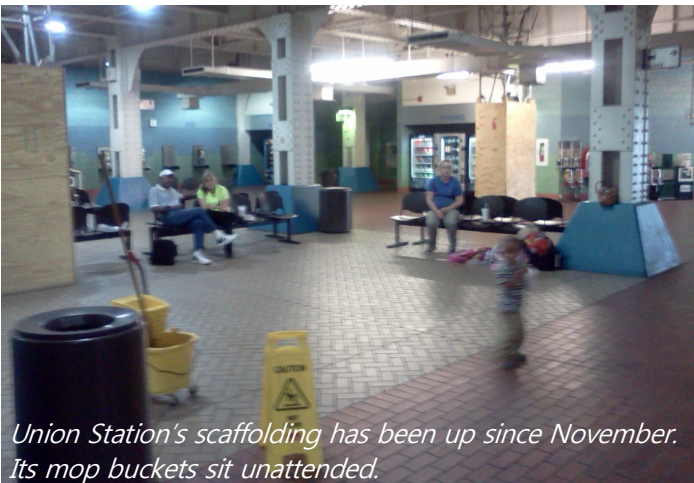
## Scaffolding Still Up at Indy's Union Station

The scaffolding is still up all around Union Station (see photos) and last month there was also new fencing and signage outside of the station along both sides of Illinois. The sign is still there but the fencing was gone as of this publication date. The entrance to the Amtrak/bus station was littered with cigarette butts and coffee cups. Cleaning mops (*continued*) (*Union Station, continued from page 1*) were prominently displayed throughout the station.

John Bartholomew of the City of Indianapolis instructed *All Aboard Indiana* to direct inquiries to him, so we did. Here are the answers he gave to our questions in early June:

### Q. When will the scaffolding be removed?

It depends on the work that needs to be done on the façade.



*Union Station's scaffolding has been up since November. Its mop buckets sit unattended.*



*Union Station's entrance still looked very dirty in June.*

### Q. Can the fluorescent lights be repaired? They make a loud buzz indicating a short.

We are looking into this. Electricians tell us buzzing is not indicative of a short.

### Q. When will the consultant study on Union Station (that the city is doing with CSX) be released? I was told it is 500 pages. It was due in February.

We are reviewing the report.

### Also, is the station for sale?

No.

Emails on June 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup> for an update were not returned as of press time.

## Ride the State Fair Train from Fishers

By Michelle Yerkeson

The Indiana Transportation Museum is excited to announce that the State Fair Train will once again be rolling into Fishers. The State Fair, which runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 17<sup>th</sup>, is a central Indiana tradition that has included Fair Train for the past 31 years. The train, which uses vintage 1930's - 1950's equipment, will depart Fishers nine times each day of the fair and deliver guests to 39<sup>th</sup> Street, just across from the fair entrance gate.

Guests can depart and return to Fishers on an open ticket so they can stay at the fair (*continued*)

*(State Fair Train, continued from page 2)* as long as they wish. You can take a break from the fair and ride the reverse state fair train trip and see all that Fishers has to offer.

Prices for round trip tickets are: Adults \$13, Children \$9 on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. (Discount Family Days are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and are one dollar off of the ticket prices above.) Children under two are free. New this year, you can purchase your tickets via [www.itm.org](http://www.itm.org). Take your ticket receipt to the "Will Call" and cut your "line time".

The Fishers station location for this year's Fair Train has moved to a temporary tent location just south of the Fishers Library, close to the original train station. Construction around the Municipal Plaza area in Fishers precipitated the move to the temporary location. Parking in the Municipal Plaza is still available during construction. Watch for directional signs to help you find the best parking spot. More information can be found at [itm.org](http://itm.org).



*The State Fair Train makes a stop in Fishers. (Photo courtesy IN Transportation Museum/Michelle Yerkeson.)*

## IPRA To Participate in Black Expo Summer Celebration

Stop by the Amtrak booth at Black Expo in Indianapolis this month and pick up some IPRA brochures and other rail material.

Staffed by Dorothy Brown-Johnson and other Amtrak Beech Grove officials, they kindly asked us to participate in their booth.

The event runs from July 16-18 at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Details at [www.indyblackexpo.com](http://www.indyblackexpo.com)

## President's Report: Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission Meeting News

By Steve Coxhead, President

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to represent the Alliance at the annual meeting of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC), in Kansas City, Missouri. The MIPRC is a 10-state interstate compact commission that promotes, coordinates and supports regional improvements to passenger rail service. Member states include Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Indiana's commissioners include State Representative Randy Truitt, State Senator Sue Landske, Karl Browning (INDOT Commissioner), and Fred Lanahan (private sector Governor's appointee). At the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, State Senator Landske was unable to attend, while INDOT was represented by Bob Zier.

Fred Lanahan is on both the IPRA board and the board of the Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA).

The MIPRC is an organization of state DOTs and legislators that works to promote the development of regional passenger services. Most of what is done is long range planning and activity that supports planning. All states in the compact face the problem of lack of funding. Some have been more successful than others in securing funding for development, but all are dealing with the current low level of state and federal support. Planning is important, because when federal funds become available (such as President Obama's ARRA initiative), states must compete for funding with "shovel ready projects". *(continued)*



*(President's Report, continued from page 3)* Our neighbor, Illinois, had several such plans available when the most recent round of federal funding became available, and thus, was able to secure funding for several projects (including a new passenger rail station in Normal, Illinois). Indiana had nothing in the pipeline except for the Porter Gateway Project (see story).

Currently, all that is in the Indiana pipeline is improved Fort Wayne – Chicago service (thank our friends in NIPRA for that). So planning is important. The political climate in either Indianapolis or Washington could change dramatically in any given election year, in such a way as to make funding available. If, and when, that happens, those who have done their homework (have plans at the ready) will be able to participate. Those who have not will be left at the gate.

Among the agenda items at the MIPRC meeting included:

- Recommendations from the MIPRC Committee on the Importance of Rail Suppliers to the Midwest's Economy – presented by State Representative Randy Truitt, Indiana, and Mr. Bob Guy, Illinois.

- How to connect the Midwest – presented by Kyle Grading, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). CONNECT is a computer based passenger rail corridor planning tool made available to state DOTs by the FRA.

The MIPRC planning meetings are important events, and we should support the DOT and State of Indiana in its efforts to become more active in planning for future passenger rail development. After all, that future could be only a couple of years away!

## Whistle Stop Restaurant in Monon a Gem

By Donald Yehle

Preservation is the recurrent theme of the Whistle Stop Restaurant and railroad museum one-and-a-

half miles north of Monon on Highway 421. Owners Dale and Anne Ward began their world class collection of railroad artifacts and memorabilia in 1993 by acquiring a railroad hopper car for the sign at the entrance to the stone quarry they owned in nearby Francisville.

While Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance members don't dwell too much on the "bygone era" of American railroading, it's helpful to take a glimpse at the past to see where trains can take us into the future, according to President Steve Coxhead of Hammond.

"Contrary to what some people think, passenger rail can be one of the most modern forms of transportation – not an obsolete form," cites Philip Streby, a longtime passenger rail advocate and Passenger Rail Alliance member. "Train sets around the world approach airline speeds. America needs to reach the conclusion that we want and need trains capable of moving people quickly, safely, and frequently as is done in Asia and Europe. It's all a matter of funding priorities," he said.



*A sampling of the artifacts at The Whistle Stop Restaurant and railroad museum in Monon.*

The Whistle Stop Restaurant is a good place to start to see what American railroading was like when passenger rail received appropriate funding. Venture to Monon and you'll see an "exquisite dining car exhibit of china and silver from many railroad lines." All told, the museum hosts 6,000 articles including hundreds of hand-held lanterns, 40 or more brass steam locomotive *(continued)*

*(Whistle Stop, continued from page 4)* bells, brass steam whistles, and a full-size and authentically furnished Illinois Central Depot.

Said owner Dale Ward, "We trust that everyone that visits here [the restaurant and Monon Connection Museum] leaves with a renewed sense of appreciation for the men and women that helped make the railroads great."

For more information about this passenger rail gem, call (219) 253-4100 or go to [www.mononconnection.com](http://www.mononconnection.com)

## Gateway Project Dedicated by Governor Pence

Governor Mike Pence joined representatives from Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, and Norfolk Southern to officially kick off the \$71.4 million Indiana Gateway project to improve rail lines between Porter, Indiana and the Illinois state line.

"By reducing congestion where Lake Michigan funnels rail traffic east of Chicago and improving the flow of goods and people by rail, the Indiana Gateway has the potential to grow Northwest Indiana's reputation as a manufacturing and distribution center and positively impact economic development in the Region," said Pence.

The Indiana Gateway project will improve seven locations on Norfolk Southern's Chicago Line and one on the Amtrak Michigan Line. Norfolk Southern will install universal crossovers at five locations and construct a third mainline track at three locations.

## Indiana Bicentennial Train Returns to the Rails this Fall

By Amy Lamb, Indiana Historical Society

History hits the rails as the Indiana Historical Society (IHS), in a unique collaboration with The Indiana Rail Road Company and Norfolk Southern

*The Bicentennial Train traverses beautiful Indiana. (Photo courtesy of the Indiana Historical Society.)*



Corporation, embarks on the second of a four-year run of the Indiana Bicentennial Train.

The Bicentennial Train will travel to four stops in the fall of 2014—Columbus (Sept. 18-20), Jasper (Sept. 25-27), Terre Haute (Oct. 2-4) and Bargersville (Oct. 9-11).

It consists of three 65-foot renovated Amtrak freight cars and features a free traveling exhibition, *The Next Indiana*. In addition to the exhibition, temporary "depots" are set up at each venue to provide an enjoyable, comprehensive experience.

For more information, visit [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org).

## Krause's Korner

By Joe Krause, Lafayette

Ridership in Lafayette is fairly typical of previous summers. We are starting to see larger numbers of Boy Scouts heading for National Camp in New Mexico.

## New Private Rail Service Between Madison and Chicago Studied; Wisconsin DOT Excluded

On June 21, Iowa Pacific offered All Aboard Wisconsin stakeholders a train ride in order to discuss new rail service between Madison, Wisconsin and Chicago. All Aboard Wisconsin is investigating having a private operator operate a train between Madison and Chicago. Interestingly, WisDOT is not included in the discussions, according to an All Aboard Wisconsin spokesman who appeared on June 22 on a public television program called "Here and Now". This is reportedly to keep politics out of the discussion.

In 2010, Wisconsin's Governor Walker cancelled a proposed train between Madison and Milwaukee and returned \$800 million in Federal funds for the project. The State of Wisconsin also refused delivery on new Talgo trains built in Milwaukee. The trains are in storage in Beech Grove and may be sold for use on Michigan Amtrak routes, according to an Amtrak spokesman and media reports.

## New Readers' Discount at Indianapolis Rail-Themed Hotel

Save 12% on your next stay at the Crowne Plaza Union Station in Indy. You can even stay in a passenger rail car. Just enter Corp ID#100329414.

Individuals can make reservations by calling the hotel directly (317-631-2221) or via their website ([www.crowneplaza.com/ind-downtown](http://www.crowneplaza.com/ind-downtown)). Individuals should type in the Corp ID# in the box "Have Corporate ID."

## Amtrak's New Dyer Station Debuts

The new Amtrak station in Dyer is almost completed. Jim Burd took this shot of the beautiful new station. (see photo)

## Coming in our August Edition...

- Ride the Train to the State Fair!
- Tour of Beech Grove
- More news about INDOT's RFP announcement
- Update on Indy's bus rail station City consultant study
- And more.....

## For More Information:

*All Aboard Indiana* is a monthly publication of the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (formerly Indiana High Speed Rail Association).

To learn more or to join IPRA go to [www.indianahighspeedrail.org](http://www.indianahighspeedrail.org)

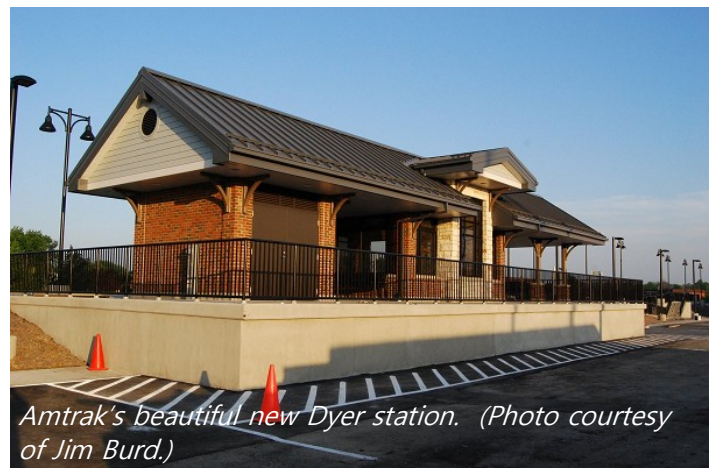
To follow rail news on Facebook go to Hoosiers for Passenger Rail and/or Hoosiers for the Hoosier State.

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Send news tips for the August edition by July 23 to [billmalcolm@gmail.com](mailto:billmalcolm@gmail.com).

Note:

This group is not affiliated with Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.



*Amtrak's beautiful new Dyer station. (Photo courtesy of Jim Burd.)*