



WCIDC Approves \$2.36 Million Rail-Replacement Project

State Rail Transportation Assistance Program Grant to Cover 70 Percent of Cost to Improve More Than Four Miles of Rail of Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad

GREENSBURG, PA, April 23, 2020 — The Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation (WCIDC) Board of Directors — Chair Sean Kertes, Vice Chair Douglas Chew and Secretary Gina Cerilli — today approved a \$2,364,250.90 project with Frontier Railroad Services of New Stanton to replace more than four miles of rail of the WCIDC-owned Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad as part of regular infrastructure upgrades that ensure the continued safety and reliability of the 33-mile short-line railroad.

A Pennsylvania Rail Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) grant will cover 70 percent (\$1,654,975.63) of the project's cost. Carload Express — the Oakmont-based private company that operates the railroad — will provide the local matching funds (\$709,275.27). Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways, the RTAP grant will be used to improve the Radebaugh Rail Relay section from mile post 0 to mile post 4.24. The work zone will stretch from near the Greengate Centre shopping plaza in Hempfield in the north to Youngwood in the south. The work will be coordinated so as not to impact rail service to customers.

Frontier Railroad Services will install new welded rail. Work on the rail line is expected to be completed by September of this year.

"With the COVID-19 emergency, we're being reminded of just how crucial it is to have reliable, efficient transportation systems to move goods from Point A to Point B," said IDC Executive Director Jason Rigone. "Thanks to the ongoing support of the state RTAP program, the WCIDC has been able to regularly upgrade the Southwest Pennsylvania Railroad, which connects our local businesses to an international rail network."

This marks the fourth rail relay grant the WCIDC has received for the installation of new welded rail. The previous grants covered the installation of 8.76 miles of new rail. Other recent RTAP grants have provided for work such as surfacing, undercutting, installing ballast, ditching and roadbed work for more than 17 miles of rail.

In 1995, the WCIDC purchased the 33-mile railroad along with property in the county's New Stanton transportation hub that has since been developed into Westmoreland Logistics Park — Rail Freight Terminal. Located adjacent to RIDC Westmoreland (the former Sony facility), [Westmoreland Logistics Park](#) is a rail freight transload terminal designed to take advantage of the railroads for freight movement.

About Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation

Founded in 1983 by the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation implements a comprehensive economic development strategy to promote growth in terms of job creation, economic output and a stable tax base for Westmoreland County. Through the development of a county-wide industrial park system, a responsive Business Calling Program and involvement in public/private partnerships, WCIDC strives to foster business growth, resulting in job opportunities for the citizens of Westmoreland County.

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