

# FACT SHEET

## SAUK COUNTY

### INDUSTRIES SERVED BY PUBLIC FREIGHT RAILROAD SYSTEM

In Sauk County, there are 14 industries that ship freight via rail with the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. Shipping freight by rail provides these industries listed below a low cost, efficient alternative to shipping by truck or other means.

**CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM**  
Baraboo

**COOP COUNTRY PARTNERS**  
Baraboo

**COOP COUNTRY PARTNERS**  
Reedsburg

**COOP COUNTRY PARTNERS**  
Rock Springs

**COOP COUNTRY PARTNERS**  
Sauk City

**FRONTIER FARM SERVICES**  
Baraboo

**FLAMBEAU PLASTICS**  
Baraboo

**HARTJE LUMBER**  
LaValle

**LAKESIDE FOODS**  
Reedsburg

**MARTIN MARIETTA**  
Rock Springs

**MIDWEST HARDWOODS**  
Reedsburg

**PACE INDUSTRIES**  
Reedsburg

**PERRY / JUDDS**  
Baraboo

**SENGER LUMBER**  
Baraboo

#### 2003 Economic Benefits From Industries Utilizing Freight Rail Transit

2003 Employees <small>(Includes Seasonal)</small>	Total Property Taxes Paid	Property Tax to Sauk County	Property Tax to State of Wisconsin	Total Railcar Loads
<b>2,253</b>	<b>\$965,970.00</b>	<b>\$222,213.72</b>	<b>\$21,674.46</b>	<b>5,268</b>

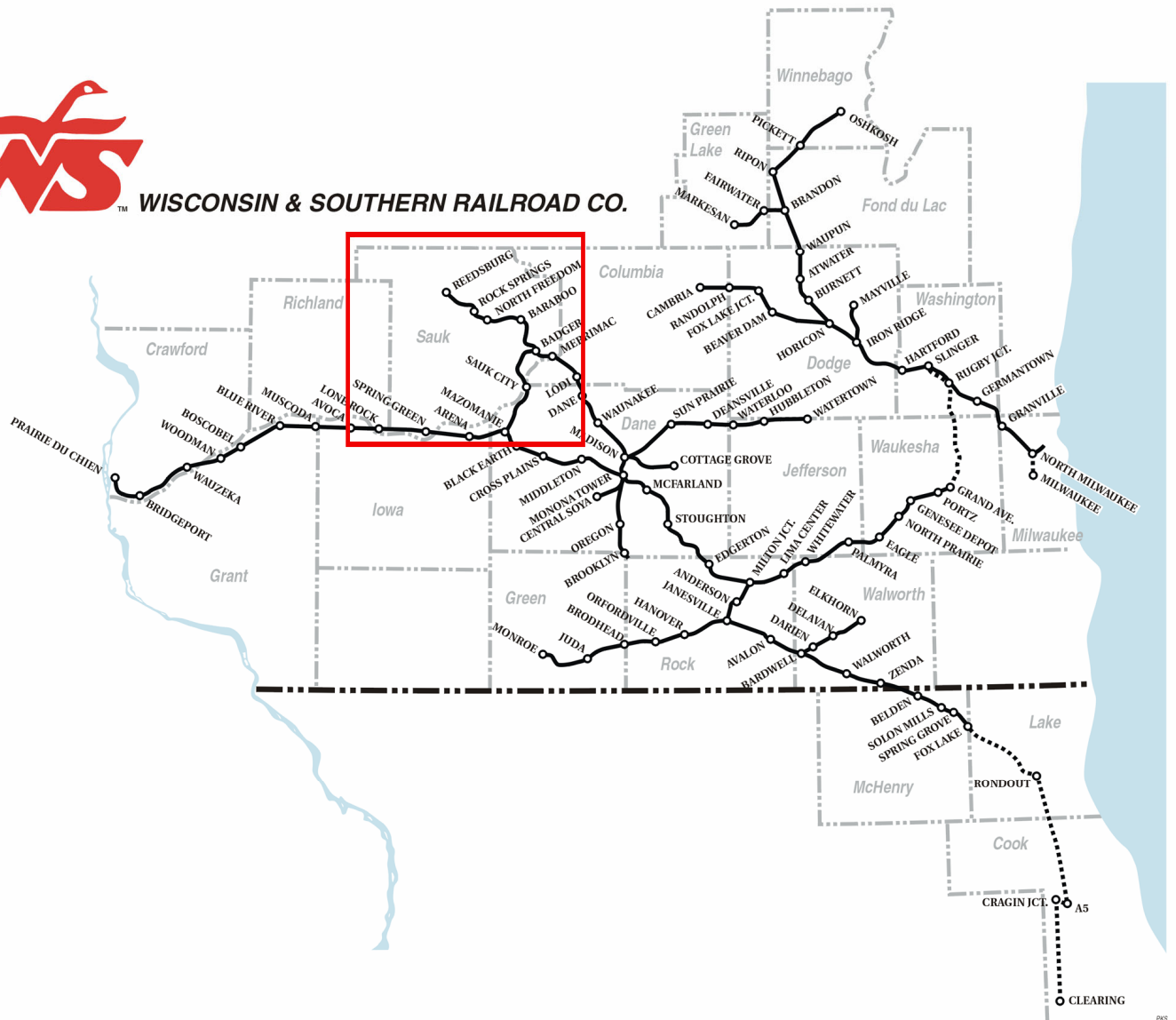
- Rail service to industries in Sauk County provides a vital transportation resource linking these businesses to thousands of other businesses in national and international markets.
- Most of the employees working at these rail served industries live within the county less than 25 miles from work.
- Rail service preserves existing highway infrastructure. There were a total of **18,965 less trucks** on the road in Sauk County in 2003 due directly to utilization of the railroad.
- With the public railroad system in place today, over **\$12 million** is being saved in highway maintenance costs on an annual basis in Wisconsin.
- Railroads today provide a very high level of customer service to Sauk County. This efficient service helps industries save thousands of dollars in transportation costs yearly. Many of these industries could not operate profitably today without these cost savings.

In order to further facilitate savings to Sauk County industries, it is imperative to improve rail efficiencies by providing larger capacity railcars on the system. This can be accomplished by improving the existing infrastructure to allow for 286,000 lb capacity – the industry standard.

# SAUK COUNTY



WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD CO.



## The 286k Issue

The national trend toward heavier railcars on large railroads - from 263,000 to 286,000 pounds per car (286k) - threatens short line and regional railroad viability. Failure to upgrade short line and regional railroad infrastructure to handle 286k railcars will force more rail traffic to be diverted to highways.

- 43% of short line and regional railroad track miles need upgrades in order to handle 286k.
- Without upgrades, short line and regional railroads face slower, partial loads or lost traffic.

## Transportation and Environmental Benefits

One 80,000 lb truck does highway damage equivalent to 9,600 automobiles. Each railcar carries approximately 3 – 4 truckloads, depending on the commodity. For example, a 40-car train equates to at least 120 truckloads and its diversion to trucks may result in roadway damage equal to the traffic of more than 1 *million* automobiles. Freight moved by rail improves highway safety and congestion, and reduces dependence on foreign oil by offering a more fuel-efficient alternative. Short line and regional railroads offer shippers a cost effective and environmentally favorable transportation option.