

2006 ECONOMIC SUMMARY

FREIGHT RAILROAD SYSTEM OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

In Wisconsin, 160+ industries in 20 counties currently ship freight by rail utilizing the public freight railroad system operated by the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. Shipping freight by rail provides industries with a low cost, efficient alternative to shipping by truck or other means.

PARTICIPATING COUNTIES:

COLUMBIA	GREEN	RICHLAND	WAUKESHA
CRAWFORD	GREEN LAKE	ROCK	WINNEBAGO
DANE	IOWA	SAUK	
DODGE	JEFFERSON	SHEBOYGAN	
FOND DU LAC	MILWAUKEE	WALWORTH	
GRANT	OZAUKEE	WASHINGTON	

2006 Economic Benefits From Industries Utilizing Freight Rail System

2006 Employees (Includes Seasonal)	Total Property Taxes Paid	Property Tax to all Counties	Property Tax to State of Wisconsin	Ad Valorem Tax (All Railroads - 2006)	Total Railcar Loads
19,594	\$23,394,283.92	\$2,581,004.91	\$101,404.97	\$15,782,627.04	61,905

- With the public railroad system in place today, over **\$12 million** is being saved in highway maintenance costs on an annual basis in Wisconsin.
- Freight rail service preserves existing highway infrastructure. There were **223,000 fewer trucks** on Wisconsin highways in 2006 due directly to utilization of the public freight railroad system. WSOR handled **9%** more railcars in Wisconsin in 2006 than in the previous year.
- Property taxes paid to Wisconsin counties by freight rail shippers were up by **7%** in 2006.
- Employment of rail served industries increased by nearly **150 new employees** over the previous year. Most of the employees working at these rail served industries live less than 25 miles from where they work.
- There are **250+ employees** working for the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. with average wages of \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year with full range of fringe benefits including excellent health care program.
- Commodities carried by the public railroad system include: Grain, Steel, Oil, Grease, Aggregates, Fertilizer, Lumber, Cardboard, Pulp Board, Papers, Coal, Plastics, Ethanol and food products, chemicals.
- Rail service to industries in Wisconsin provides a vital transportation resource linking these businesses to thousands of other businesses in national and international markets.
- Railroads today provide a very high level of customer service to industries in Wisconsin. This efficient service helps industries save thousands of dollars in transportation costs annually. Many of these industries could not operate profitably today without these cost savings.

In order to further facilitate savings to these industries in Wisconsin, 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.

