

By Charlee Beasor

Madison Railroad Operations Manager Roger Fuehring and CEO Cathy Hale stand aboard “Legacy,” a 1912 business car the company has refurbished. It will transport torch bearers through Jefferson County during the Bicentennial Torch Relay in September.



Madison Railroad

PUTTING COMMUNITIES ON THE RIGHT TRACK

“We are here, ready to serve our communities. We are the only rail service to Madison, North Vernon, Jefferson County and Jennings County. Our mission is economic development. What we do and what we do best is provide tailor-made customer service.”

- Cathy Hale, CEO
www.madisonrailroad.com

Primarily a freight railroad – polyethylene plastic pellets are the main commodity – Madison Railroad also hosts a few community events throughout the year, including the Santa Express Train during the holidays.

Historical line

- Founded in 1978
- Operates 25 miles of track between Madison and North Vernon
- Exists on a portion of the state’s first railroad, dating back to 1836
- Seven employees operate the freight railroad
- City of Madison owns the railroad

“The reason that the community stepped in to save the railroad was for current and future economic development. ... Site selectors, if they look and see you are not rail served, they do not even look at your community.”

Hauling and storing

- Main commodity: Polyethylene plastic pellets
- Additional products: Steel coils, scrap, fertilizer, transformers and miscellaneous commodities
- Approximately 1,000 car loads annually
- Located in the former Jefferson Proving Grounds military base
- 1,200 rail cars in storage; 10 miles of storage track

Madison’s ‘Legacy’

- Offers a few special passenger events throughout the year, including the Santa Express Train during the holidays
- Two Bicentennial trains will haul torch bearers through Jennings and Jefferson counties on Sept. 16, as part of the Bicentennial Torch Relay
- Restoring a 1912 business car – to be renamed “Legacy” as a legacy project.

New bells and whistles

- Two new bridges were built in 2010 and 2011; in 2015 the company spent \$3.5 million to replace five miles of lightweight rail and rail ties
- Unique to many short lines is Madison Railroad’s “286 capable” designation – it can accommodate 286,000-pound loads. An additional section of track will be upgraded in the fall, making the entire line “286 capable”

