

Planning to Reduce Rail Congestion

Indiana's economy relies greatly on its freight rail system to support the energy, agricultural, construction and manufacturing industries.

A recent comprehensive study by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) helped determine ways to increase rail efficiency and support future economic vitality.

The results of the study prompted a \$71.3 million grant from The Industrial Rail Service Fund to Norfolk Southern Corporation to implement a state rail plan to help eliminate congestion (add signal improvements, passing tracks, crossovers), along rail lines between Chicago and Porter, Ind. One of the goals is to enhance speeds to 110 miles per hour, as has been achieved from Porter to Kalamazoo, Mich.

"As the market continues to become more global, for both imports and exports, the need for rail to get traffic to the coast (ship to different countries) is very important," says Will Wingfield, media relations director at INDOT. "One of the important things about being The Crossroads of America is not only are we well-served by our highway network, but also



by the multitude of rail lines that pass through our state. That is a strategic asset for us."

Resource: INDOT State Rail Plan at www.in.gov/indot

Social Media Accounts Live On – Maybe

Social media has become a way of life for many. But what happens to Facebook, Twitter and other personal accounts when that individual passes away?

Amie Peele Carter, a partner in the Indianapolis office of Faegre Baker & Daniels, notes that Facebook recently clarified the options to include memorializing or deactivating the account. Some choose both, keeping a page live for a period of time and welcoming comments from family and friends before disabling it. But family members wishing to do so either must first demonstrate a legal right to "speak" for the deceased. That is not a simple process – and one that continues to evolve.



"I think this is going to become one of those things that people involved with social media need to talk with their families about," Peele Carter suggests. "In a sense, it is an asset or a personal effect that you would want to let your family know how you would like that handled after you pass away. Do you want it to be out there forever (for people to reference) or would you like it to pass away with you?"

Resource: Amie Peele Carter, Faegre Baker & Daniels at www.faegre.com

Grant County Assisting Recent Grads

Attracting and retaining young talent is a near universal challenge. Marion is among the communities offering incentives with the Grant County Economic Growth Council (GCEGC) reaching out to qualified recent graduates.

The Grants for Grads initiative is a housing assistance effort to keep current and potential employees in Grant County. If someone has worked at a full-time job for less than three years or has been offered a position, Grants for Grads can provide up to \$5,000 in a down payment or closing costs on a home. If the graduate is a renter, they can receive a 20% reduction in monthly payments. The maximum benefit is \$2,500 with a minimum lease agreement of 12 months.

According to a GCEGC press release, the community is benefitting from teachers, nurses, engineers, IT professionals and others who are part of the program. The outreach began in May 2012 and is a partnership with the Affordable Housing & Community Development Corporation.

Resource: Grant for Grads at www.grantcounty.com

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