



# CSX gets \$98 million to upgrade line to Chambersburg

By **MARCUS RAUHUT** Staff writer

The rail corridor between Chambersburg and northwest Ohio was awarded \$98 million in federal stimulus money to expand its capacity.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced \$1.5 billion in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery funds on Wednesday.

As part of that announcement, the National Gateway, a rail corridor that links Mid-Atlantic ports with the Midwest, will receive \$98 million.

CSX, which opened an intermodal terminal in Chambersburg in 2007, wants to improve its rail lines to handle double-stacked containers. This would double the amount of freight that could be shipped on one train.

The stimulus money will help complete the first corridor of the project, from Chambersburg to northwest Ohio, traveling through West Virginia and Maryland.

"The rail corridor is already there. It's a matter of increasing the (bridge and tunnel) clearances so you can run a double-stack train," said CSX spokesperson Bob Sullivan.

Sullivan said a train with double-stack containers can carry the equivalent of 280 trucks.

The goal is to have the upgrades finished by the time the Panama Canal expansion is finished in 2015, which is expected to increase freight to East Coast ports, Sullivan said.

CSX said in a news release that improvements along the National Gateway corridor will create greater capacity for goods movement in and out of the Midwest, reduce transit times between coastal ports and major population centers by 24 to 48 hours, reduce highway congestion and transportation emissions, and create more than 50,000 jobs.

Norfolk Southern also received \$105 million in TIGER funds for improvements along the Crescent Corridor, a rail network that stretches from the Gulf Coast to the mid-Atlantic and through Franklin County.

The \$105 million will be used to construct new intermodal facilities in Memphis and Birmingham.

A new intermodal terminal is to be built in Greencastle as part of the Crescent Corridor initiative, but the TIGER money was not allocated for the Greencastle facility.

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