



# OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JOHN R. KASICH, OHIO GOVERNOR    JAMES G. BRADLEY, ORDC CHAIRMAN

## Ohio Rail Development Commission • News Release

1980 West Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43223

Website: <http://www.rail.ohio.gov>

### Public Input Meetings Set for Proposed Long-Term Lease of State-Owned Panhandle Rail Line

**Columbus (October 28, 2011)** -- Communities and stakeholders along the state-owned Panhandle Line will get two opportunities to voice their opinions and suggestions about a proposed long-term lease of the rail line to the current operator, the Genesee & Wyoming (Ohio Central Railroad).

Public input meetings will be held at two locations:

**Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**10:30 a-m to 12:00 Noon**  
**At the Dennison Depot Museum**  
**400 Center Street**  
**Dennison, Ohio**

**And**

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**  
**At "The Works" Museum**  
**55 South First Street**  
**Newark, Ohio**

The meetings will include a review of the draft of the proposed 25-year lease of the rail line and allow for public comment. Copies of the proposed draft lease are available on request by contacting Julianne Kaercher at:

**[Julianne.kaercher@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:Julianne.kaercher@dot.state.oh.us)**

**Or by phone at 614-728-9497**

The State of Ohio has owned the 160-mile long Panhandle Line since the early 1990's, when it stepped in at the request of communities and shippers to save the line from partial abandonment by then-owner Conrail. The Ohio Central Railroad has been the operator of the line since 1992. The railroad company itself was bought by the Genesee & Wyoming in 2008. The railroad serves 33 companies on the line including two mines, a steel mill and paper mill.

*For more information contact:*

*Stu Nicholson*

*Public Information Officer*

*Ohio Rail Development Commission*

*614-644-0513*

*[stuart.nicholson@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:stuart.nicholson@dot.state.oh.us)*