

# **Lake State Railway**

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Lake State Railway Company receives \$27 million grant for infrastructure improvements between Pinconning and Alpena**

SAGINAW, Mich.—Lake State Railway Company (LSRC), a Michigan-based regional freight railroad, has been awarded a major infrastructure improvement grant from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The grant, worth up to \$27.1 million, is administered through the agency’s Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program (CRISI). LSRC’s grant is part of \$2.4 billion awarded for short line and regional railroad projects nationwide.

LSRC applied for the grant to improve infrastructure for the railroad’s Huron Subdivision, which the company has worked to revitalize throughout its 32-year history. The project plan calls for extensive track and road crossing maintenance and improvements between Pinconning and Alpena. The FRA cited the grant application’s alignment with the agency’s selection criteria of enhancing safety and ensuring reliable transportation for Michigan communities and businesses. The project includes a required non-federal match of 51 percent, which will be contributed by LSRC and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

LSRC executive vice president and chief financial officer Kevin Mitrzyk noted the support offered by the railroad’s customers and Michigan’s congressional delegation in securing the award.

“I’ve worked for Lake State Railway for almost 31 years,” said Mitrzyk, “and I’m happy to see so much bipartisan support for not only for LSRC’s growth and safety but for the whole railroad industry. We especially value the support of our customers, which has grown exponentially throughout the years. We also owe special thanks to District 8 Congressman Dan Kildee and District 1 Congressman Jack Bergman for their instrumental work in helping us get our application across the finish line.”



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LSRC president and CEO Mike Stickel says the grant will be transformative for the Huron Subdivision and its customers.

“This line was part of our startup acquisition in 1992,” noted Stickel, “and due to the condition of the track, it was originally restricted to 10 mph train speeds. We’ve made significant investments through the years to renovate the line, including work funded by a previous CRISI grant in 2019, which was completed nearly three years ahead of schedule. This latest round of CRISI funding will allow us to continue moving forward with more essential improvements that will enable us to serve customers better.”

Commodities shipped over the line include stone, cement, wood products, chemicals and fertilizer, which contribute to the railroad’s annual freight volume of more than 60,000 carloads.

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*Lake State Railway Company (LSRC) is an award-winning regional railroad, providing innovative rail transportation solutions since 1992. LSRC operates on a route structure of approximately 375 miles of track with six connecting railroad interchanges. The company maintains headquarters and shop facilities in Saginaw and terminals in Plymouth, Flint, Midland, Bay City, Gaylord and Alpena. Annual freight volume is approximately 60,000 carloads and serves a diversified mix of end markets, including automotive, aggregates, cement, agriculture, forest products, metals, chemicals and others. Since 2022, the company has been owned by Antin Infrastructure Partners, a leading private equity firm focused on infrastructure investments in Europe and North America, with offices in New York, London and Paris.*

