

**Contact:** David Farlow  
Whitewater Valley Railroad

[HUDSON.INDUSTRIES@ATT.NET](mailto:HUDSON.INDUSTRIES@ATT.NET)  
765) 646-6581

## **WHITEWATER VALLEY RAILROAD**

455 Market Street  
Connersville, Indiana 47331

### **B&O DEPOT TO MOVE TO THE WHITEWATER VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM**

February 7, 2008

Connersville, IN – The development of the Whitewater Valley Railroad's planned railroad museum display area continues with the movement of the Rushville, Indiana passenger depot. The depot will be moved on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, scheduled to leave Rushville at 8:00am. A new foundation has already been poured on the museum site located on the corner of SR121 and Veteran's Memorial Parkway, south of Connersville. The depot will join the restored historic railroad interlocking tower already on the site. To provide for proper clearances the roof of the depot was removed and will be reinstalled once the building is secured to the new foundation. Partial funding for the project was provided through the Transportation Enhancements (TE) program of INDOT with the remainder paid by the non-profit Whitewater Valley Railroad. TE awards are for community projects that are transportation related, but can't be used for actual highway projects. The grant was awarded in 2003, but complex regulations on the use of Federal funds delayed the start of the project until late last year.

The depot was originally built by the Cincinnati, Hamilton, & Dayton Railroad (C.H.&D.) in 1911 to replace the original passenger depot destroyed in a train wreck in August of 1905. The railroad wanted to simply use the modified freight house instead of building a new passenger depot. In 1907, the Railroad Commission in Indianapolis finally ordered the railroad to build a replacement building within six months. The railroad delayed construction until 1911 when the present building was finally started. The C.H.&D. was taken over by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O) who continued to use the building as a passenger depot until the last B&O passenger train left Rushville in 1950. The building was then put into use for offices and maintenance equipment storage until 2002 when the building was closed due to substantial deterioration.

The depot will be restored as closely as possible to its appearance as it was in 1950 when the last passenger train left the depot. To do this the railroad is asking for assistance from anyone with photographs taken in an around this depot prior to 1972 that might help in the restoration program. The railroad is also interested in any stories or recollections about the building, especially while it was in use as a passenger depot. In addition the railroad is interested in donations of period office furniture and fittings, antique wall mounted cast iron sinks and toilets for the building restoration. While the costs of the move and new foundation of the building are covered, the restoration of the building will be done by area volunteers. Anyone interested in working on this project is encouraged to contact the railroad at (765) 825-2054.

Railroad training classes start this Saturday at 9:01am, continuing to March 29, 2008. Classes include both classroom and hand-on instruction in the operation of railroads including rules, safety, and operations. Class completion will allow students to volunteer as a student brakeman on the Whitewater Valley's trains.

The railroad will also be a running special Easter Bunny Train on March 22, 2008 and has signed on for another Day Out With Thomas fundraising event in June of 2008. Events like these provide the funds to keep projects like the Rushville depot moving forward along with the efforts of many volunteers. For more details on these events or information about the railroad in general please contact the Whitewater Valley Railroad at 765-825-2054 or visit the railroad's website at [www.whitewatervalleyrr.org](http://www.whitewatervalleyrr.org) .

The non-profit railroad was founded in late 1973 with the intention of providing historic train excursions along the Whitewater River to Metamora, Indiana. Trains started to run the spring of 1974. The Whitewater Valley Railroad is an operating railroad museum dedicated to the preservation of a historic branch line railroad, to the restoration of railroad equipment, and to the conduct of railroad educational programs.