

## Progressive Railroading

Rail News: Short Lines & Regionals

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# Pioneer wins federal grant to replace ties, rail on NDW short line



Headquartered in Denver, Pioneer owns and operates 16 short lines and several other railroad-related businesses. Photo – pioneer-railcorp.com

Pioneer Railcorp will receive a \$4.1 million federal grant to help pay for a project to perform critical safety improvements at its Napoleon, Defiance & Western Railway (NDW) subsidiary, which operates along 58 miles between Woodburn, Indiana, and Liberty Center, Ohio.

The funds will be granted through the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2020 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program. The grant will cover 50 percent of the project's cost, with nearly \$3.9 million matched by the NDW and 3 percent, or \$250,000, by the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC), Pioneer officials said in a press release.

The project calls for replacing 10 miles of steel rail and 29,000 ties on 28 miles of rail line.

"The Napoleon Defiance and Western is strategically located for U.S. manufacturers in a key logistics corridor in Ohio and Indiana with tremendous growth potential but has been hamstrung for years by poor tie and rail conditions," said Alex Yeros, chief executive officer of Pioneer. "The CRISI grant, combined with funding from the ORDC and NDW, will dramatically improve safety and efficiency on NDW."

Headquartered in Denver, Pioneer owns and operates 16 short lines and several other railroad-related businesses. BRX Transportation Holdings acquired Pioneer last year.