



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON APRIL 5, 2023

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OPERATION UPDATES AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS HORSESHOE CURVE

[ALTOONA, PA, April 5—] The Railroaders Memorial Museum cordially welcomes visitors to its sister attraction, the World-Famous Horseshoe Curve, starting on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. The historic landmark will remain open Wednesday through Sunday, 10AM-5PM. On June 6, 2023, business hours will expand to six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday, 10AM-7PM. If you desire more information regarding business days and events, a detailed calendar is available for download on the museum's website: www.railroadcity.org/info.

FUNICULAR UPDATE - As most visitors know by now, the funicular (or incline) at the World-Famous Horseshoe Curve has not operated since late 2019. Until now, its lingering issues and overall status have not been publicly explained by the organization. Museum staff would like to review what work has been done and what is currently ongoing. In 2020, mechanical issues were identified, preventing inspection and operation. As COVID-19 disrupted the nonprofit sphere, the museum's survival took precedence, halting funicular maintenance. Not only was funding and staffing not available for such a project, but travel restrictions hindered out-of-state specialists from visiting the site to identify issues.

New staffing, professional assistance, and financial support would not arrive until later in 2021. Through the generosity of the North American Railway Foundation, work could finally recommence. Regardless, after \$50,000 worth of mechanical repairs and hundreds of man hours, the funicular still needed additional work. As new problems arose from old ones, the museum's sole maintenance supervisor worked diligently with outside contractors. In 2022, electrical issues were identified and repaired. Museum staff coordinated with state regulators to review maintenance logs and to develop daily inspection procedures. Several wheel bearings were also replaced, improving functionality and safety concerns.

In 2023, cabin door issues were identified and eventually repaired. Wire rope inspections were completed and passed. In early 2023, evaluations and trial runs took place, in preparation for state inspection. As a result, minor issues were identified and are in the process of being worked on. After now thousands of man hours, general servicing, additional test runs, and state inspection still remain. A return to service is contingent on these results. Until then, the funicular will continue to be unavailable for public use. A re-opening date will not be announced until the integrity of the is fully secured.

Please refrain from harassing employees concerning the funicular's unavailability. This sometimes aggressive behavior does not accelerate or improve the project and will not be tolerated. Museum staff encourages all visitors to be kind, understanding, and patient as this work nears its conclusion. The organization can proudly say, once work is complete, that the funicular will be in the best shape it has been in since it was first installed in 1992. The museum would like to thank the specialists and staff members who poured thousands of hours into getting this multi-million dollar piece of machinery back into service.

TRESPASSING NOTICE - It has become increasingly apparent to the staff at the Railroaders Memorial Museum that trespassing at the World-Famous Horseshoe Curve has become too widespread and uncontrollable. Over the past several years, intruders have broken into displays, pulled fire alarms, and destroyed light fixtures. More importantly, however, these trespassers have put themselves in harm's way by jumping fences, climbing icy steps, and walking on train tracks, all in an effort to avoid paying admission to an historic site that they seemingly care so much about. These unsafe practices must be stopped. As a result, violators of the trespassing rule will be documented, reported, and prosecuted moving forward. A more advanced security system and proper signage will be added to the property within the coming weeks. Please bear with us during these upgrades.

There is plenty of misinformation shared online about the property, some of which the staff wishes to address here. Despite its National Historic Landmark designation, the land is not federally owned or operated. It is leased to and managed by the Railroaders Memorial Museum. Appropriately, the organization not only has the responsibility to improve the site, but has the right to enforce guidelines and deny access to anyone illegally entering the property. These decisions do not fall on the City of Altoona, Norfolk Southern, or any other entity except the Railroaders Memorial Museum and its administration.

Anyone visiting the Horseshoe Curve must pay admission and visit on designated business days and during advertised hours. On June 6, 2023, business hours will expand to six days a week, Tuesday through Sunday, 10AM-7PM. This gives travelers and railfans plenty of opportunities to plan their trip accordingly, visiting the landmark during those designated times. Admission ultimately helps maintain and preserve not only the property, but the railroading history that has occurred there over the past 175 years.

TREE REMOVAL NOTICE - Some visitors may have noticed the cutting of some trees at the World-Famous Horseshoe Curve. This vegetation was deemed diseased and also blocked the view of the tracks. This shade will soon be replaced by a low-profile gazebo or some other type of covered structure. Please bear with us as we make these improvements.

UPDATED PET POLICY - Documented service dogs are the only animals allowed within the gated areas of the World-Famous Horseshoe Curve, effective April 5, 2023.

For project updates follow our social media and website.
For inquiries, please contact content@railroadcity.org or call (814) 946-0834 (Ext. 2104).

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