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RAILROADERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM BEGINS RAILYARD REHABILITATION

[ALTOONA, PA, MAY 27—] The Railroaders Memorial Museum has several significant projects underway during the 2022 season at its 1200 9th Avenue complex. Two of these phases include the relocation of rolling stock and an overhaul of railyard event space. This rehabilitation project is made possible from the generosity of a non-profit foundation. The nature of this work may affect visitor access to the Harry Bennett Memorial Roundhouse and railyard beginning the week of Memorial Day. This project will be ongoing throughout the rest of this year and possibly into spring of 2023, pending the availability of material.

The first phase of the railyard's rehabilitation is the relocation of several railcars and equipment. This includes the following: PRR D78 Dining Car, PRR N5 Cabin Car, PRR R50b Refrigerator Car, PRR X29 Boxcar, and the repositioning of a PRR Tender. In addition, the former Horseshoe Curve four track signal bridge will be moved beside the roundhouse. The PRR FD2 "Queen Mary" depressed center flat car will be restablized onto a new parallel display track. The repositioning of this equipment is also beneficial to the preservation of the rolling stock, now allowing them to be moved inside for restoration and proper storage.

This refurbished event space will include a new covered stage, concrete walkways, knee walls, outdoor lighting, landscaping, and later picnic tables. All of these features are designed to support educational initiatives and revenue generation through various events, festivals, and rentals. It is the organization's goal to create a unique and accessible venue to celebrate the industrial heritage of Central Pennsylvania. The new stage, especially, will complement the historic architecture of the museum's 1882 Master Mechanics Building.

While construction is ongoing the affected areas will be closed to the public. Limited, guided tours of the roundhouse and railyard will be offered to museum visitors, depending on staffing and railyard availability. For project updates follow our social media and website. For inquiries, please contact mfrederick@railroadcity.org or call (814) 946-0834 (Ext. 206).

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