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RAILWAY AGE ANNOUNCES SHORT LINE AND REGIONAL RAILROADS OF THE YEAR

Railway Age magazine has named Nicholasville, Ky.-based R.J. Corman Railroad Group's West Virginia Line (RJCV) as 2007 Short Line Railroad of the Year. The award will be presented at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's annual meeting in Baltimore, Md., on April 23.

"This year's winners show the small-road industry what it takes to be a top performer" says Railway Age Publisher Robert P. DeMarco. "It's all about strong marketing efforts, first-class customer service, effective asset utilization, wise capital investments, teamwork within the organization and with connecting roads, and, above all, safe operations."

The West Virginia Line (one of nine R.J. Corman-owned short lines) is being honored for its spirit of innovation, demonstrated by a business development partnership with CSX Transportation. The winning entry was submitted by CSXT Director-Regional and Short Line Development Len Kellermann, on behalf of R.J. Corman Railroad Company President Pete Petree.

In July 2005, R.J. Corman acquired RJCV, a former switch carrier with limited freight traffic. In less than 90 days, R.J. Corman's construction company established a 125-person construction crew and its own town near Pax, W.Va., rehabilitated 12 miles of existing track, and completely reconstructed another four miles. Not only has the work opened up service to Georgia Pacific, Austin Powder, and Tanner Industries, R.J. Corman's construction company completely renewed a 1,100-foot tunnel providing access to Pioneer Fuel Co.'s new coal loading facility at Pax, W.Va. RJCV and CSXT created joint line freight rates and seamless interline services, generating more than 4,900 new carloads of coal business in the last five months of 2006 alone.

A combination of speed to market, cooperation, and an intense focus on delivering for mutual customers characterized both carriers' efforts, but especially R.J. Corman's, says Kellermann. "Collaboration with the origin coal shipper was similarly fast and effective, and led to new rail business immediately being accommodated. Customers are pleased with the existing service and will continue to ship long into the future."

The Short Line of the Year will be featured in Railway Age's April issue.

Railway Age is the transportation industry's oldest trade magazine, and celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2006. The monthly magazine is circulated at the management levels of North American freight and passenger railroads. Emphasis is placed on technology, operations, strategic planning, marketing, and other issues such as legislative and labor/management developments of interest to railway management, railway suppliers, and consultants.