

# Grand Elk Railroad



## HIGHLIGHTS

Track Miles: 122.9  
Customers: 55  
Carloads: 22,000  
Employees: 58  
2009 Improvements: \$8.9 million  
Locomotives: 10

Western Michigan has an abundance of resources to draw from, long-standing businesses and hard working residents are two things that the Grand Elk Railroad looked at when deciding to petition the STB to operate the line running from Grand Rapids, Mich. to Elkhart, Ind.

The Grand Elk Railroad will operate 122.9 miles of track from Grand Rapids, Mich. to Elkhart, Ind. and plans to hire 58 people to help provide service to customers. Grand Elk would invest \$8.9 million dollars in start-up capital to improve railroad conditions and get track speed back up to 25 mph to best serve the 55 customers who now reside on or near the line. The Grand Elk is committed to providing improved service and plans to make the improvements detailed below.

Replacement of 20,000 ties between Kalamazoo, Mich. and Grand Rapids, Mich., bridge replacement in Portage, Mich. and rehabilitation of the Botsford and Hughart yards. The total dollar amount to be spent on these projects will be more than \$3 million.

Track equipment will be purchased in order to maintain and continually improve this line. Items to be purchased include a tamper to maintain the track beds, a regulator, a welding truck and a snow fighter. The total amount to be spent on track equipment is estimated at \$1.2 million.

A key to providing better service to the area is to assure that locomotive power is available and maintained. Ten locomotives will be purchased and a locomotive shop will be established to keep them in top condition. Total dollars to be spent on locomotives and maintaining locomotives is \$4,084,000.



The photo on the left show track in Botsford Yard in Kalamazoo, Mich. Ties will need to be replaced to keep the yard in operation. Between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids a total of 20,000 ties will be replaced. Total cost to replace ties and upgrade yard will be \$2.7 million. The photo on the right is the bridge near Portage, Mich. The entire structure needs to be replaced and the capital expenditure will be approximately \$300,000.