



**Tuesday Oct. 10, 2006-New Rochelle, NY** - State-of-the-art lights at a railroad crossing on Milwaukee Street in Boise will improve the safety of motorists and increase railroad efficiency for the Idaho Transportation Department and Ada County Highway District. This is the first crossing of its kind in Idaho. There are five similar crossings in Nebraska: a double crossing in Stromsburg, two in Shelby, one in Norfolk and one shipping to Freemont.

LED flashing red lights, built into the edge beams, are circular in design. They are located on the north and south approaches of the Idaho Northern Pacific Railroad's track, near Franklin Road. Activated on Friday October 6<sup>th</sup>, the lights were designed to warn drivers of approaching trains and to keep cars from stopping on the track.

"We're hoping to change driver behavior at that crossing," said Joe Peagler, Idaho Transportation Department rail-highway safety coordinator. "It's a very busy intersection and the trains slow down to five miles per hour because people stop on the tracks."

Peagler also stated that an average of two trains and 30,000 cars use the crossing each day. While trains are normally allowed to travel at twenty-five miles per hour, they have to reduce speed because of the many cars that sometimes block the crossing. Since 1991, there have been four collisions at the crossing when motorists failed to stop. Two of those collisions involved injuries. Peagler reported that there are hundreds of near misses annually. Overhead signal lights will remain on the site, because crossing gates on a 110 ft. wide street were deemed too impractical for use.

Idaho Northern is installing the BODAN<sup>®</sup> crossing panel system with technical help from the manufacturing company, Transpo Industries Inc. The polymer concrete used to manufacture the BODAN crossing surface panels has unique performance characteristics. It has a compressive strength of more than 14,000 psi - twice that of Portland cement concrete, used in traditional crossings. The BODAN<sup>®</sup> system utilizes a bridge design concept that transfers the axle loads of vehicles directly to the rails of the track. Unlike other crossing systems, there are no permanent attachments of the modular panels to the cross ties. This eliminates stress on the crossing surface and allows for easy access to perform routine maintenance. The durable polymer concrete panels are resistant to road salts and diesel fuel, thus further extending their long life. The BODAN<sup>®</sup> panels are the only crossing surface panels to incorporate a lifetime skid resistant surface, an additional safety feature for wet weather conditions.

For more information on this product, please phone 800-321-7870 and ask for Rich Brown at extension 635, or visit the company website at [www.transpo.com](http://www.transpo.com).

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