

NEWS RELEASE

June 22, 2021

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Finger Lakes Railway Gets Dressed Up With A Steel Tie

Switch Replacement Project will include Steel Ties and Turnouts



June 22, 2021 – Geneva, NY

Locally based Finger Lakes Railway has become the first short-line railroad in New York State to upgrade key infrastructure using steel ties. As part of a project in its Geneva Yard, the 25-year-old carrier has installed approximately 700 steel ties and eight all steel switches. Steel ties have been used successfully by other railroads throughout the United States.

When it was decided to make upgrades to Geneva Yard, the decision to use steel ties was based upon long-term economics.

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[Rail crews layout steel ties in FGLK's Geneva Yard.]

“Steel ties are more expensive initially compared to the wood ties, but in an active railyard like our important Geneva Yard where we classify and supply customers with railcars, the steel ties have the potential to properly function for 50 plus years versus a 20-year lifespan for wood ties in this location,” states Mike Smith, President of Finger Lakes Railway.

The final decision to use steel ties was made after careful consideration of the location they would be installed. Factors like, daily track usage, traffic density, and future maintenance costs had an impact on the final decision.



“The steel tie is resistant to damage, corrosion and deterioration. It’s 100% recyclable making it the superior option for usage in a busy rail yard such as Geneva,” states Joann Armstrong-Bruch, General Manager of Finger Lakes Railway.

The project is expected to be fully completed by the end of June.

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About Finger Lakes Railway Corp.

Finger Lakes Railway Corp. (FGLK) is a short line railroad that owns and operates over 150 miles of track from its Geneva headquarters serving six counties in the Finger Lakes region - Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Yates, and Schuyler. FGLK connects with CSX, Norfolk Southern, and the New York, Susquehanna & Western railroads. FGLK owns 14 locomotives and leases 581 railcars to meet customer shipping needs. Since it began operations in 1995, FGLK has grown from 6 to over 55 full-time employees and from 5,500 carloads to over 19,000. For more information, visit www.fingerlakesrail.com

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