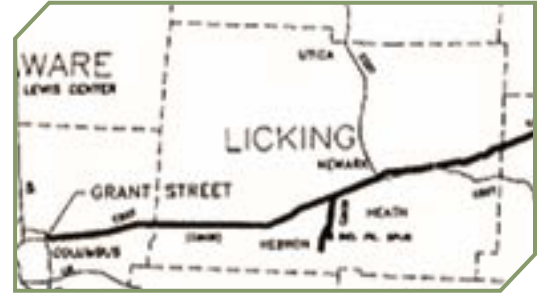


FACT SHEET: RAIL SERVICE

Licking Country is dissected by the state-owned Panhandle Rail Line, a line that has been operating for over 140 years. The line runs east-west through Pataskala, Heath, and Newark. Additionally, a state-owned branch line runs north-south from Heath to Hebron.



Open Access: Open access is maintained on state-owned rail lines by the Ohio Rail Development Commission. In every lease, the commission preserves the right to allow other freight railroad companies to use the Panhandle Rail line. Rail shippers should never have to worry about a monopoly on this or any other state-owned rail line.

Competition: Three railroad companies show service available along the main east-west line. The Ohio Central Railroad, a regional company, is the primary service provider. National companies, Norfolk Southern and CSXT, also demonstrate service availability in the area.

Reliability: Proximity, state ownership, and the presence of multiple rail service companies translates into stability for shippers along the Panhandle Rail line.

Niche: How important is rail service of this type? "If you have rail, you have a scarce resource. If you have dual rail service sites, you have a crown jewel resource." This statement was made by Mark Sweeney of McCallum Sweeney Consulting during a site selector panel held by the International Economic Development Council.

