

KYTC Newsletter

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Volume 73



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Gov. Andy Beshear Announces \$7.4 Million Grant for Central Kentucky Railroad Modernization Project

Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced the award of a \$7.4 million federal grant for a railroad modernization project that will improve rail safety and efficiency while yielding environmental and traffic-mitigation benefits.

“This is great news for Kentucky and another boost to Kentucky’s rail infrastructure, which is a key part of a thriving economy and transportation system,” Gov. Beshear said. “This will make it possible for tens of thousands of truckloads of cargo to be diverted from the highway to a rail line. As a result, Kentuckians will benefit from reduced highway traffic and a greener environment due to reduced tailpipe emissions,” Gov. Beshear said.

The grant from the Federal Railroad Administration is to RJ Corman Railroad Co.’s Bluegrass Multimodal Freight Improvement Project.

The project is \$12 million in total. RJ Corman will provide a 40% match to the grant, which is from the federal Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. It is the first CRISI grant ever awarded in Kentucky.

The project is to include construction of a rail-to-truck transload facility at Frankfort, rehabilitation of track on the mainline between Frankfort and Lexington and improvements to the company’s main yard and transload facility in Lexington. The latter includes switch replacements, rehabilitated crossings and track, expanded transload storage pads and paving of truck and traffic areas.

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6 Steps for Establishing Employee Accountability & Empowerment

Are you a problem or a problem solver?

Do you find yourself answering calls from your team of supervisors all day, addressing questions and solving small problems? They continually ask you to make simple decisions for them. It seems like they won't do much of anything without first checking with you. Why? Are they afraid to make a mistake?

Supervisors keep calling you because you like helping to solve their problems. Unfortunately, you have trained them to not make decisions without your input. The more problems you solve for others, the more you are asked to solve their problems. And the cycle repeats itself. Because you can make these decisions quickly, they call you rather than do a little research and solve their own problems. And out of habit, you continually answer these calls, solve other people's problems and fix their issues. It's no wonder you can't find any accountable help — you won't let them be accountable or responsible for anything. You tell them they're empowered to get things done, but to check with you before making any decisions.

In a recent poll of field employees, 66% were asked to make decisions. But only 14% of them feel empowered and trusted to make the decision. They're afraid their boss will yell at them if they make mistakes or the wrong choices. So, rather than risk it, employees don't take on more than they are asked to.

The following are six steps to help your teams become more accountable and responsible, clearly understand expectations and feel empowered to get things done without your help or input.

1. Establish a clear understanding of expectations.

The first and most important step is to clearly explain what you expect of your employees. When asked, over 66% of employees didn't know specifically what they'd been asked to do, what the deadline was or what their boss wanted them to accomplish. Go ask your people the top three things you want them to accomplish both today and this week. Do you both agree on the answers?

About The KYTC

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on KYTC contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



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