

Success Stories in Rail Investment

**Mitchell–Rapid City
South Dakota**

The Mitchell–Rapid City (MRC) Railroad Reconstruction project from Mitchell to Chamberlain, South Dakota, improves the existing freight line, which was in poor condition, leading to a suspension of freight service and an economic loss. SDDOT worked with the MRC Regional Railroad Authority to upgrade the state-owned rail line.

The project, a recipient of a USDOT TIGER II grant, has revitalized the railroad, and has been successful in removing trucks from the road, reducing congestion for motorists, and helping farmers in the area deliver their goods in a cost- and time-effective way.

SDDOT now plans to build off of the success of TIGER II and rebuild a state-owned branch line from Chamberlain, SD to Presho, SD. The communities, railroads, and state of South Dakota are all supportive of continuing investment in rail infrastructure.



The first train to arrive at Liberty Grain Elevator after the MRC Railroad Reconstruction, November 2012.



Track conditions at milepost 4 in 2010 and 2012, before and after the completion of the USDOT TIGER II Project.



RESULTS

Jobs & Economic Impact

- At the peak of the project, more than 270 construction workers were on site
- During the years of construction, the local economy saw a boost with full motels, gas stations, restaurants, and other local stores
- The work at Liberty Grain employed 80 workers during 13 months of construction
- As a result of the railroad reconstruction there are now 20 full-time employees at the new Liberty Grain facility
- The railroad has moved over 6,000 cars of goods since the completion of the TIGER II project

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The new Liberty Grain Elevator reduces truck miles for farmers shipping crops, reducing congestion for motorists and saving farmers time and money, especially during harvest season.

FUNDING

- \$16m USDOT TIGER II Grant Funds
- \$13m match from the Dakota Southern Railroad, MRC Regional Railroad Authority, the South Dakota Railroad Board, and local sources

PARTNERS

U.S. Department of Transportation, South Dakota Department of Transportation, Dakota Southern Railroad, Mitchell–Rapid City Regional Railroad Authority