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**Reading and Northern Railroad to Donate \$10,000.00 to Downtown Pittston Partnership**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 18, 2023 – Port Clinton, PA** – The Reading & Northern Railroad met with Pittston Mayor Mike Lombardo last week and agreed to donate \$10,000.00 to Downtown Pittston Partnership, a non-profit organization advancing the revitalization of downtown Pittston. The group promotes activities and programs that benefit local businesses, residents, and visitors.

Matt Fisher, General Manager of the railroad’s Passenger Department said, “It is enjoyable to work with people like Mayor Lombardo and Pittston city officials. The Reading & Northern is delighted to donate money to a cause that will continue to build up the downtown.”

Mayor Lombardo stated, “I would like to thank the owners (the Muller family) and administration of the Reading & Northern Railroad for not only their significant capital investment in the north section of our city (the Junction) but for being true partners with the city and making this extremely generous donation to our Downtown Partnership.”

The Reading & Northern Railroad decided to use its own money to completely fund a new station to bring passenger trains back to the city of Pittston. The plans by the railroad to open this new station were well-received by local officials. Railroad management has met and discussed the reintroduction of passenger service with city officials for several months. Following a grand opening on May 27, 2023, the station will host passenger trains every weekend. The scenic all-day excursions will operate between Pittston and Jim Thorpe. According to Fisher, “The new rail service will greatly impact not only Pittston, but the entire Wyoming Valley by bringing many visitors to the area.”

Construction of the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Regional Railroad Station at Pittston is well underway. The Reading & Northern Railroad aims to support local communities while continuing to improve passenger services to keep history alive. For more information on Pittston train rides, and other future excursions, please visit the railroad at [www.rbnrr-passenger.com](http://www.rbnrr-passenger.com) or call the passenger office at 610-562-2102.

Reading & Northern Railroad, with its corporate headquarters in Port Clinton, is a privately held railroad company serving over 70 customers in nine eastern Pennsylvania counties (Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Wyoming). It has expanded its operations over the last 40 years and now handles over 34,000 carloads of freight and 250,000 excursion riders annually over 400 miles of track. Reading & Northern operates both freight services and steam- and diesel-powered excursion passenger services, owns over 1,700 freight cars, and employs nearly 300 dedicated people. Reading & Northern has been repeatedly honored as one of the premier railroads in the nation, including being named Regional Railroad of the Year in 2020 by *Railway Age* magazine.