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Reading & Northern Railroad opens new \$14 million bridge

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2020 – Port Clinton, PA - With the sound of a whistle Andy Muller, Jr, Reading & Northern's Owner and CEO, heralded the crossing of the Lehigh River on a brand new railroad bridge from the engineer's seat in locomotive #5033.

The product of over 20 years of work by Muller, the Nesquehoning Bridge Phase 2 connects the R&N's Reading and Lehigh Divisions allowing for a progressive, expedited move between Reading and the Scranton area.

The bridge was built with a combination of public funding and a 30% match by the railroad.

"This bridge represents a dream come true for me and the railroad." said Muller. "I began working on this project as soon as we purchased the Lehigh Line from Conrail in 1996. We are grateful for the support of Governor Wolf and the PennDOT team as well as our local legislators like Senators Dave Argall and John Yudichak. This bridge will improve the efficiency of rail transportation in our area of the state creating a stronger climate for sustaining and creating jobs by helping existing businesses grow and attracting new enterprises. This bridge was built on time and on budget and is testament to the great work of our Reading Northern employees and our primary contractor, J. D. Eckman."

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 30+ years and now handles over 34,000 carloads of freight and 140,000 excursion train riders over 400 miles of track. Reading and Northern operates both freight services and steam and diesel-powered excursion passenger services, owns almost 1,300 freight cars, and employs nearly 300 dedicated employees. Reading & Northern has repeatedly been honored as one of the premier railroads in the nation.