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From: Tom Nichols

To:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 2 Apr 2008 21:50:14 +0000

Subject: ITM landlocked (the diamonds are gone)

To all interested ITM members:

At about 4:45pm today I drove by the location of the Belt diamonds at CP-DX, at 21st & Massachusetts Avenue near Dearborn Street. **The interlocking diamonds were removed just today** and the double-track Indianapolis line has been straight-railed. CSX crews were on site tamping the just-laid panel track and checking it for proper gauge. So, our line is now permanently cut-off from the national rail network; likewise, the Indiana Rail Road is now prevented from accessing any potential freight customers in northern Marion, Hamilton, or Tipton counties.

This means ITM's only hope for an active connection to the national rail network is to lay new track south along the original LE&W / NKP right-of-way toward 10th Street and the former Mass. Ave. tower, to a switch on CSX track 2 somewhere east of Union Station. **I have no idea what HHPA and Don Seal have been up to since his March 17 e-mail ordering that no one from ITM is to do anything about this situation and that HHPA will handle it. They have obviously failed.**

I wonder if the just-released eGlobal report about ITM's future has anything to say about the issue of our now-permanent isolation from the national rail network.

Tom Nichols
ITM Co-supervisor of Conductor Training

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