

The United State Department of Transportation has declared the week of September 14th to September 21st as “See Tracks Think Trains Week.” In the past, it was called “Rail Safety Week.”



I am writing to you as an Authorized Volunteer for Operation Life Saver, Inc (Sponsored by USDOT, MDOT, Michigan Railroads Association, and Association of American Railroads.) and hope you can join us. Our website is [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org) Our goal is to keep NON-RAILROAD people from getting injured or killed on railroad tracks or property.

1. Stop people trespassing on railroad rights of way
2. Concern about drivers not stopping at flashing lights or going around crossing gates
3. Build respect for people and railroads
4. Save lives and reduce injuries in the community
5. Promote awareness of the Blue Emergency Notification Signs (ENS) at crossings and how they can prevent incidents (Sign example above.)

Berrien County has many high-speed trains on two lines. Emphasis has been put on Berrien County because of the Lakeside Road Accident in November 2023, where a vehicle was stuck on the tracks and was hit (no personal injuries) by an Amtrak train. We need to find ways to keep that from happening in the future.

**Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 am to 8:10 am** Operation Lifesaver is sponsoring a recognition of “See Tracks Think Trains” Week Event at the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Amtrak Station, 410 1/2 Vine Street, St Joseph, MI 49085. We will have speakers and the arrival of Amtrak train 371.

The keynote speaker will be Michigan Representative Joey Andrews, who serves on the House Transportation Committee in Lansing. We will also have welcoming remarks from other political people and from Law Enforcement.

The schedule is shown below:

**7:30 -7:35 am:**

Welcome Remarks – Mayors Muhammad, Price, and Thomas

**7:35-7:40 am:**

Operation Lifesaver Briefing

**7:40-7:47 am:**

Law Enforcement Remarks (CSX Railroad Police, Amtrak Police, City Police, MSP, and Berrien County Sheriff Heit)

**7:47-7:55am:**

Local Leadership Acknowledgements (Township leaders, county commissioners, and Southwest Michigan Planning Commissioners)

**7:55-8:05am::**

State and Federal Remarks (Rep. Andrews, Sen. Nesbitt, and U.S. Rep. Huizenga are invited)

**8:05-8:10am:**

Photo Opportunity / Amtrak Train 371 arrival

**8:15-9:15am:**

Breakfast

This will be an opportunity to meet law enforcement and political representatives, as we all coordinate together to keep the General Public safe.

Please plan to join us for the event and breakfast at 8:10 am after Train 371 leaves.

A response would be appreciated.

Thanks,

*Tim Rogers*

Operation Lifesaver Authorized Volunteer

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*Your life is an occasion, rise to it.*