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B&O Railroad Museum Receives Major Federal Grant for the
Restoration of the Historic
B&O #600 “J.C. Davis” Locomotive

Baltimore, MD – The Institute for Museum and Library Services announced today that the B&O Railroad Museum has been awarded an IMLS Museums for America grant in the amount of $135,000.00 Supporting the restoration of the B&O #600 J.C. Davis locomotive. This engine is the last of eight historically significant locomotives in need of major restoration resulting from damage caused by the 2003 Presidents’ Day blizzard and the collapse of the B&O’s Roundhouse roof. The B&O #600 is central to the Museum’s important collection and is its greatest conservation priority. Executive Director, Courtney Wilson stated “This important grant will enable us to restore and return this important locomotive to our visitors and members from around the world as a centerpiece of the Museum’s renown collection.”

Built in 1875, the B&O #600 is one of only two locomotives surviving from the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Its size, power, and stylistic beauty are considered high-water marks for the post-Civil War period of American railroading. Through this project, the B&O Railroad Museum will be able to restore this engine to its 1875 appearance through a restoration process that includes historical paint analysis, dismantling, the conversation and/or repair of original materials, the replacement of destroyed elements, reassembly, and finally the refinishing of the locomotive and tender to the 1875 paint and lettering scheme based on information from the B&O’s archives. Ultimately the goal of this project is to return the B&O #600 to its place in the Roundhouse, where it serves as a key component of the most important collection of early American steam locomotives in the world.

During the restoration, the museum will conduct tours that will allow guests to observe the restoration process by master craftspeople working on this unique object as well as the inner workings of a Victorian steam engine. In addition the entire restoration will be documented with results made available through a report that chronicles the project.

Public benefits include the preservation of this historically significant locomotive which will be returned to the Roundhouse for public display, opportunities to observe the restoration work at the B&O Railroad Museum Restoration Shop, and access to a report that will serve as a guiding framework for other restoration efforts focused on railroad equipment or other large, industrial artifacts.

About the B&O Railroad Museum: The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture, and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most important and comprehensive collection of American railroad artifacts in the world including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse, and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. For further information on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.borail.org.