

# CSX BUCKEYE YARD

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## WHAT IS IT, AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

CSX Buckeye Yard, located on the west side of Columbus is adjacent to the Norfolk Southern classification yard. Buckeye was built as a public/private partnership in 1985 between the state of Ohio and Conrail to move Conrail intermodal operations out of the then-proposed I-670 corridor. Buckeye currently operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to handle increased traffic. The facility itself was built to handle under 100,000 lifts a year, in 2010 it moved over 180,000 lifts. Buckeye's intermodal volumes have continued to exceed industry averages, including during the 2008 downturn. It is expected that this facility will continue to see growth as a result of traffic velocity increases created by CSX's investment in their North Baltimore facility and other National Gateway initiatives.



## CONSTRAINTS

Buckeye is located within the Westbelt Industrial Park, which means the facility is somewhat landlocked. In 1989, CSX built an intermodal yard adjoining the Honda Marysville site, reducing pressure on the facility. However, today as intermodal is an increasing popular freight transportation method pressures have again begun to build at the facility. This pressure will continue to build the Panama Canal improvements are

completed in 2014. As the east coast ports see increased traffic, projects like CSX's National Gateway will expedite container movement into yards like Buckeye. A second constraint to Buckeye intermodal operations is the access into and out of the yard; NS owns all of the tracks entering the yard, and CSX must "ask permission" each time it would like to make a movement external to the yard.

### NATIONAL GATEWAY

The National Gateway is a CSX project to create a more efficient rail route between Atlantic ports and the Midwest. Similar to the Norfolk Southern's Heartland Corridor, this involves upgrading of bridges and tunnels along an existing rail lines to accommodate trains carrying double-stack containers.

### NORTH BALTIMORE

CSX has built a larger intermodal and container classification yard in North Baltimore, Ohio. This facility is over 4 miles long and relocated CSX's intermodal center from Chicago to Ohio. This facility will increase the number and velocity that containers will reach Buckeye Yard.