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## Industrial Center to receive \$1.5M

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MARION - The Marion Industrial Center will receive \$1.5 million in state funding, lawmakers announced Monday.

The State Controlling Board approved a \$1.5 million logistics and distribution stimulus loan for costs associated with expanding rail infrastructure and intermodal operations at 3007 Harding Highway East.

State Reps. Jeff McClain, R-Marion, and Dave Burke, R-Marysville, announced the release of funds, which it said will help the center create 17 new, full-time jobs and retain 12 existing full-time positions.

Ted Graham, MIC president, also is investing \$1.5 million in the \$3 million project, which will enable Marion Intermodal, located at the center, to handle up to 250,000 containers annually, more than triple its current capacity of 75,000 containers per year.

Graham said that center employees have been "getting prepared ... so that when the monies were released we could start using the money sooner than later." The expanded intermodal facility will be running by the end of the year.

The volume of shipments at the center, which opened in 2006, has increased by 20 to 40 percent from the comparable date a year ago, he estimated.

He said the expansion will allow Marion Intermodal, which MIC worked with Schneider National Inc. to establish, to double its employment of 12 workers, adding crane and truck operators and office personnel.

The project will include construction of two rail tracks, four rail turn-outs and 5,000 feet of crane runways; purchase of three spotter trucks; and installation of materials-handling equipment, he said.

MIC is a 400-acre manufacturing and distribution facility that moves approximately 75,000 containers through central Ohio annually. This modern distribution and manufacturing facility employs more than 1,000.

The loan would be forgiven and not have to be repaid if MIC meets the terms of the project, an Ohio Department of Development spokesman has said.