

320



*It's more than a number,
it's an **upgrade.***



L.B. Foster Developed and Delivered the First 320' Rail to Lake State Railway

L.B. Foster is proud to announce the successful development, delivery, and unloading of the first 320' rail train, also known as a consist, on Lake State Railway (LSRC) in Michigan. Rolled in 320' lengths by Steel Dynamics Inc. (SDI) in Columbia City, IN, the rail can be transported to customers via a five-car consist, that can hold sixty 320' long pieces of rail.

The 320' consist is a transformative advancement in the rail industry, redefining traditional supply models. The rail is currently loaded using overhead cranes. Previously, rail was delivered in shorter segments up to 80' requiring field welding or as 1,600' Continuous Welded Rail (CWR) strings, which demand large-scale installations and dedicated trainsets, all at a significant cost.

“The 320' rail completely removes field welds from crossing interiors as well as allows for curve patch rail to match project needs and can be easily distributed to the location.”
Tom Klemm, Chief Engineer, Lake State Railway Company.

Contact the L.B. Foster sales team to learn more about how our 320' rail can upgrade your track.



A key advantage to using 320' rail at crossings is the ability to position rail joints well beyond the transition zone, minimizing exposure to surface conditions that can compromise field weld performance. While conventional 80' stick rail often requires welds to be placed near crossing ends, the 320-foot rail solution allows for significantly greater flexibility—ensuring welds are located farther from high-stress areas for improved durability and reliability.

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