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## \$1.3M in support of A&A track relocation, Koike Aronson expansion announced

*NYS Governor David Paterson lauds state funding initiative during recent Arcade visit*

by Merilu O'Dell

With a railroad line running between two pieces of property it owns in Arcade, Koike Aronson Inc. officials were unsure how to proceed with a much-needed expansion at its Main Street plant. That problem was given a solution on September 10, with the announcement of a \$1.3 million New York State transportation funding initiative that will allow for relocation of the Arcade and Attica railroad lines.

The expansion, which will allow for between 40,000-60,000 square feet of new manufacturing space, will now be allowed to proceed. Twenty-two hundred feet of track, which now bisects the Koike Aronson land, will be relocated to the north, allowing the company full use of its property.

New York State Governor David Paterson came to Arcade on Tuesday, September 29, to make an official announcement of the funding during a press conference at

Koike Aronson. The governor also toured the plant, then left for John & Mary's Restaurant on Main Street to meet with local Democratic

The governor lauded the upcoming project as one that "will create other jobs, for construction workers, for carpenters, electricians, truck drivers, and for engineers."

"I just want to thank the County of Wyoming, the state Department of Transportation, the Industrial Development Corporation, and also the Arcade and Attica [railroad]," said Paterson, "as well as Aronson itself, who chose to stay in New York and expand this facility. A special thanks [goes] to the Village of Arcade. Had they not approved the rerouting of 2,200 feet of railroad track, right through what is going to be the enhanced manufacturing site that Koike Aronson is going to facilitate, then this project would not have gotten off the ground," he added.

Koike Aronson President Jerry Leary also praised the state initiative. "By November of this year, we will have four new product lines manufactured here in Arcade," he said, adding that the state funding will allow for the necessary expansion, and thanking the governor for his part in bringing the money to Western New York.



**New York State Governor David Paterson addresses a group of community leaders, invited guests, and members of the media, as he and Aronson president Jerry Leary (left) are surrounded by Aronson workers.**

According to Arcade Historian Jeffrey Mason, Paterson's time in Arcade was the fourth visit of a sitting governor to the town. Charles Evans Hughes came in 1909, Franklin D. Roosevelt was here in 1930, and Nelson Rockefeller visited in 1960.



**Machinist Tony Martina pointed out a machine to the governor, as he toured the Aronson plant.**

Photo by Merilu O'Dell