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The Rail Report

NCDOT Rail Division



January 2014



Thanksgiving Week Ridership on the *Piedmont & Carolinian* trains was more than 11,000.
November 25 – December 1, 2013



North Carolina Train Station Summit

The City of Raleigh and NCDOT Rail Division co-hosted the first ever NC Train Station summit on Nov. 20 in Raleigh. The summit brought together stakeholders from around the state to discuss train station improvements funding, maintenance, operations, and sustainability.

Attendees heard presentations on existing stations in Greensboro and Salisbury, as well as proposed stations in Raleigh, Charlotte, Lexington and Goldsboro. The list of attendees included representatives from towns and municipalities, consulting firms, Amtrak and NCDOT.



On December 12, 2013, the first of seven locomotives purchased from GO Transit in Canada arrived in Raleigh. Two of the locomotives will be rebuilt and five converted into cab control units using ARRA funds.

BeRailSafe Crossing Safety Blitzes

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Rail Division has been taking the message of rail safety to the streets to educate passing motorists on the importance of staying safe near the railroad tracks. In total, 2,800 safety tip cards in English and Spanish have been distributed to drivers since early November at blitzes held in Harrisburg, Raleigh and Faison.

Crossing blitzes have been held periodically across in an effort to combat the unusually high number of vehicular and trespasser deaths that have occurred on railroad tracks in 2013. Since January, 27 people have died on North Carolina's railways. The blitzes specifically target locations with the highest rates of train-car collisions as well as busy intersections.

Learn more about rail safety at NCDOT's BeRailSafe website, berailsafe.org.

Short Line Infrastructure Assistance

Through January 8, 2014, NCDOT will be accepting applications for Short Line Industrial Access (SIAP) grants, which provide funding to help short line railroads to upgrade and modernize their track infrastructure. The projects will be funded through the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund, which is allocated to NCDOT by the General Assembly and derived from dividends paid to the State through ownership of the North Carolina Railroad Company. Grant awards will be based on need and the project's economic and transportation benefits to North Carolina.

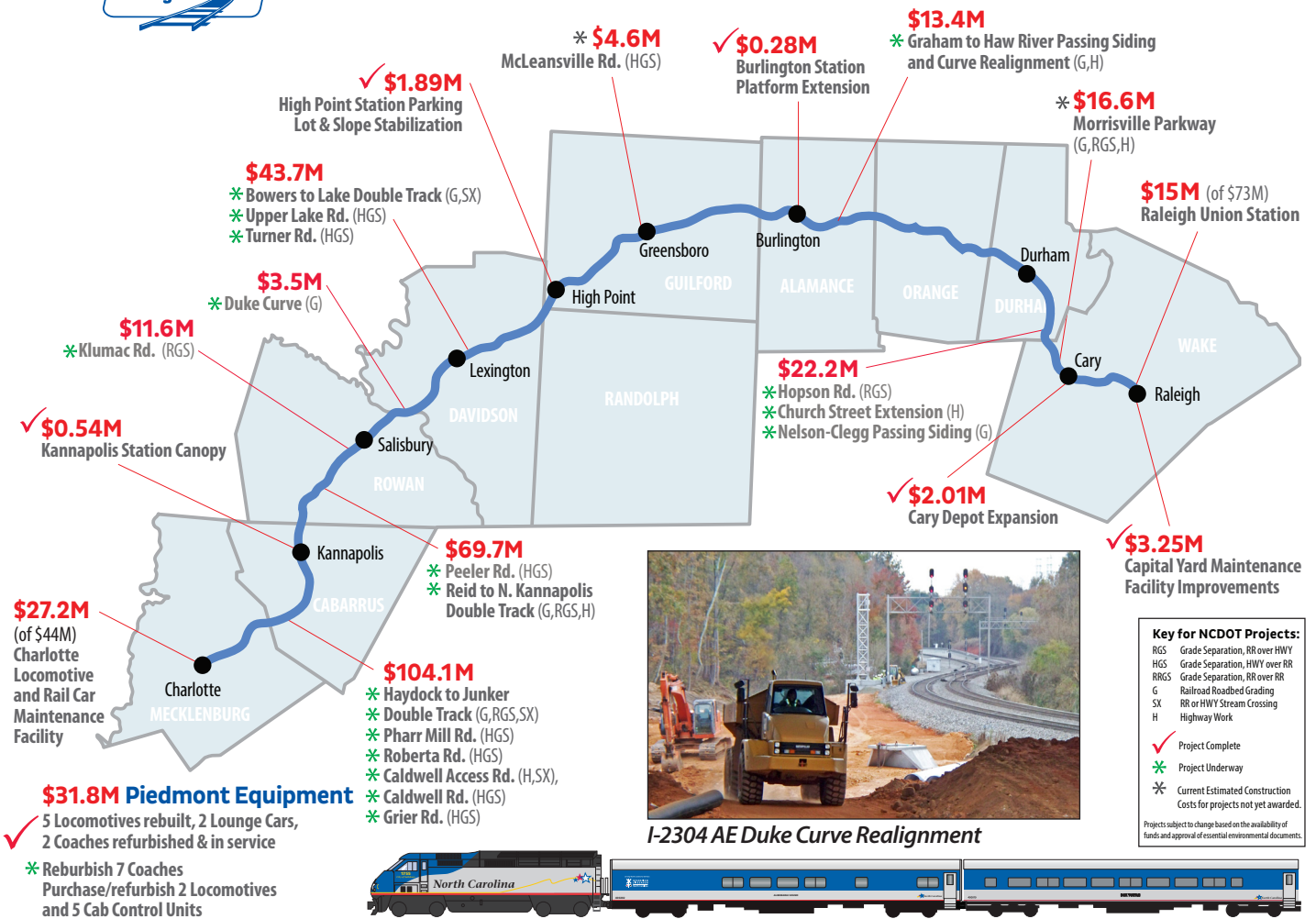
Twenty-one short lines currently operate about 930 miles or 29 percent of freight railroads in North Carolina.

Eastern Infrastructure Improvement Studies Underway

NCDOT Rail planners have begun data gathering and meetings with stakeholders. The study team had meetings with NCRR, Class I railroads, Global TransPark, NC Ports and departments of Commerce and Agriculture.



Current Status of PIP Projects



I-2304 AE Duke Curve Realignment



ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 11/30/2013)

Component	Amount
PD&A	\$ 30,414,709.05
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$ 21,866,715.14
Stations & Facilities	\$ 10,116,852.09
Track & Structures	\$ 40,794,321.37
CRISP	\$ 1,884,801.31
Program Totals	\$105,077,398.96 <i>of \$546,500,000 awarded FRA Grant Funds</i>

PIP Projects Update: Morrisville Parkway Project was let on December 17, 2013.

South End Main Line Forum

On November 26th, 2013 local government officials, NCR staff, NCDOT staff and community leaders gathered for the third quarterly South End Rail Forum at the Harrisburg Town Hall.

Harrisburg Mayor Tim Hagler and Rail Division Director Paul Worley opened the Forum. Project updates were given by Jason Orthner, PE, Rail Division Manager of Design and Construction. Harrisburg Town Engineer, Derek Slocum and Planning Director, Josh Watkins discussed best practices for state and local coordination.

Table discussions followed which identified current and future issues regarding PIP project construction.

The NCDOT initiated these periodic forums to inform communities about progress of PIP projects and to improve planning and coordination among all partners of the NC Railroad Company's rail corridor in the Salisbury to Charlotte region.