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The Rail Report

NCDOT Rail Division



February 2014



**VIRGINIA-NORTH CAROLINA
INTERSTATE HIGH SPEED RAIL**

COMPACT

North Carolina and Virginia Compact Members meet

Members of the NC Delegation of the VA-NC Interstate High Speed Rail Compact Commission traveled to Richmond, VA on January 7, 2014 to meet with the Virginia members of the Compact. In the first meeting of both NC and VA delegations since 2012, Commission members heard speakers from FRA, Amtrak and the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, and discussed aligning Virginia and North Carolina's interests in the Southeast Corridor. The Commission's purpose is to coordinate development and implementation of higher speed rail from Charlotte to Washington, DC. Members agreed to meet again in July 2014.

Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund Update

The NCDOT Rail Division has received grant applications for the \$19.2M in available FR&RCSI funds for freight and safety programs.

Freight programs that have not received full funding in recent years, including the Short Line Infrastructure

Assistance Program and the Rail Industrial Access Program will be funded, in addition to safety projects identified in the past, that did not proceed due to funding constraints. Other freight projects are planned, including new rail access for railroad customers to divert shipments from trucks to rail.

The freight projects will proceed with at least 50 percent cost share from railroad or industry beneficiaries. FR&RCSI funds will leverage private investment to provide as much as \$30 million total investment in North Carolina. The funds are allocated to NCDOT by the General Assembly and are derived from dividends paid to the state through ownership of the North Carolina Railroad Company.



2013 Holiday ridership numbers in

Ridership on *Piedmont* trains 73, 74, 75 and 76 was 14,938 and 8,914 on *Carolinian* trains 79 and 80 for the period of December 20 –29, 2013.



Police/First Responder Training at NCDOT Capital Yard



2013 Activities Report

OUTREACH & TRAINING

General Public	214
Police/First Responder Training	223
Fire and EMS/First Responder Training	306
BRS Safety train for law enforcement, judges and district attorneys	55
Safety Crossing Blitzes	5,730
Safety Fairs and Festivals	6,082

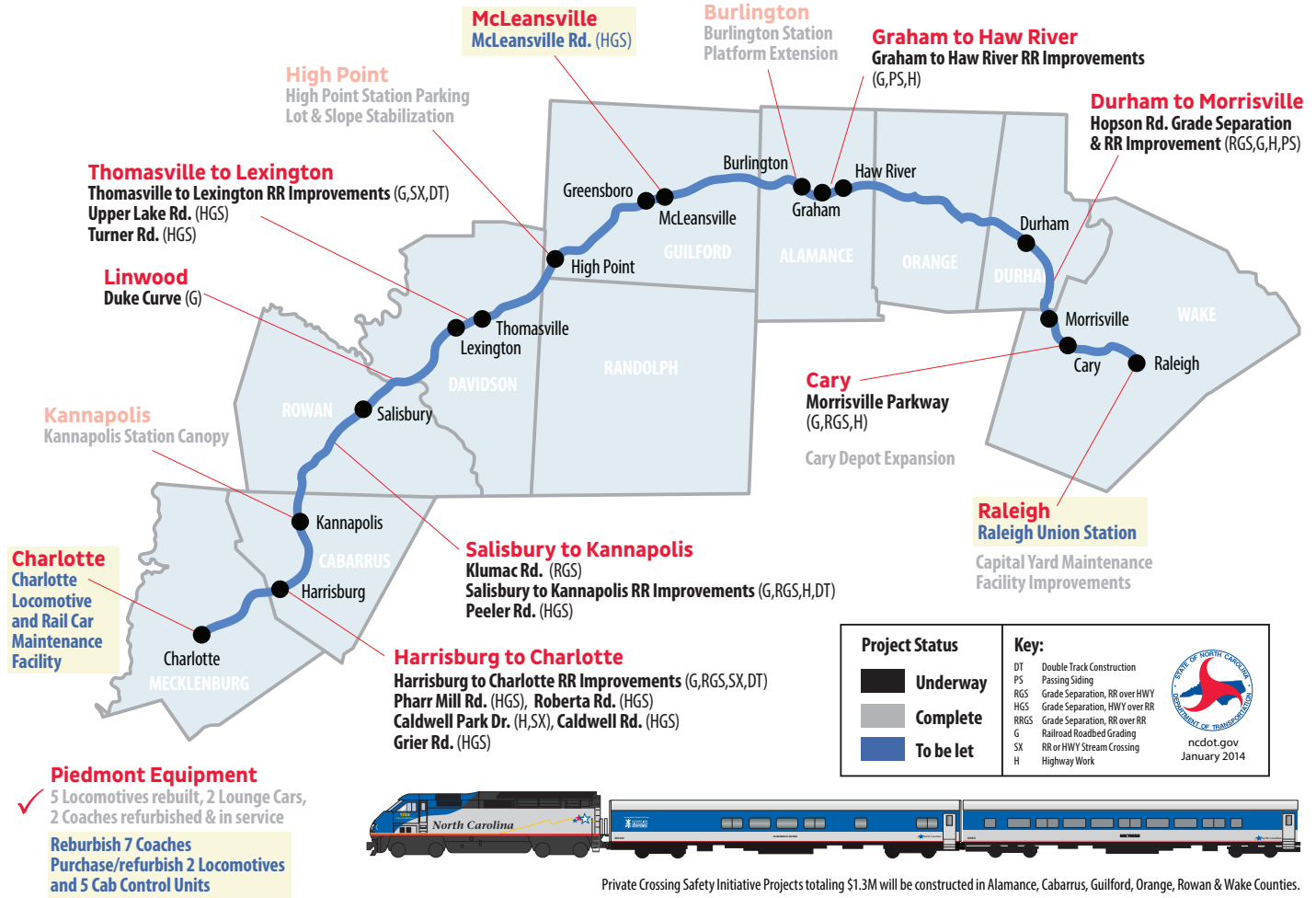
Estimate of People Reached with BRS Safety Message: 12,610

ACTIVITIES

- Crossing Blitzes held in Faison, Charlotte, Harrisburg, Raleigh, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Jamestown and Dunn—stopping cars at high-incident or busy at-grade crossings to hand out safety tips.
- BRS Trespass Blitzes held in Burlington, Durham and Greensboro—placing BRS posters in view of public and talking to people in close proximity of track. (No way of estimating number)
- Placed BRS posters in convenience stores – Raleigh, Cary, Morrisville, Durham, Hillsborough, Mebane, Graham, Burlington, Greensboro and Jamestown.
- Delivered BRS safety posters to campus police in Greenville, Pembroke for placement on campus.
- Maintained BRS website (berailsafe.org)



Piedmont Improvement Program Projects



ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 1/10/2014)

Component	
PD&A	\$ 33,743,261.41
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$ 22,108,825.88
Stations & Facilities	\$ 10,132,524.83
Track & Structures	\$ 46,292,422.99
CRISP	\$ 1,884,245.72
Program Totals	\$112,164,280.83 <i>of \$520M awarded FRA Grant Funds</i>

Rail Division to appear before Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee

Rail Division staff present financial and program updates to the JLTOC on February 7, 2013.

Rail Plan Update

Work is underway to collect data, begin coordination with stakeholders, and establish vision and goals for the plan. The Executive Summary will be complete fall 2015 and the first public draft of the full plan will be available for public comment early 2015.

Eastern Infrastructure Improvements Studies

Progress is being made on the EII. Staff is reviewing past studies and evaluating existing conditions. Meetings with stakeholders continue and conceptual infrastructure improvements are being reviewed. Preparations are underway for work on market demand.

On March 1, 2014, an interim report will be presented to the legislature with the final report due on January 1, 2015.

