

The Rail Report

NCDOT Rail Division



May 2014

Amtrak President visits North Carolina

Amtrak President Joe Boardman met with NCDOT officials on Wednesday, April 9th. Boardman and Secretary Tony Tata discussed Federal reauthorization and NC rail service and initiatives. After the meeting, Rail and Amtrak leaders did an inspection trip of the Piedmont Improvement Program projects on the rail corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte.



Amtrak President Joe Boardman (left) and Secretary Tony Tata (right)



Rail and Amtrak officials at Charlotte Amtrak Station after completion of Piedmont Improvement Program project inspections

FR&RCSI Funding and Project Updates

The Rail Division is presenting more than twenty projects for approval to the NCDOT Board of Transportation at the May meeting.

Projects include:

- Short line projects for replacement of rail, addition of sidings, and modernization of heavily-used track and structures
- Economic development projects to add thousands of carloads to the North Carolina rail network
- Safety projects to close existing crossings, eliminating rail-highway hazards at those locations permanently



The funds are authorized by the 2013 session of the General Assembly through Senate Bill 402 and utilizes dividends received from the North Carolina Railroad Company.

NCDOT and NCSU test biodiesel fuel blends in state-owned locomotives

The Rail Division recognizes the importance of "going green" and strives to embrace eco-friendly technology where available. For the past two years, they have been working with the North Carolina State University Environmental



Engineering (NCSU EE) Department to study the effects of operating *Piedmont* passenger locomotives on biodiesel fuel, with the intention of demonstrating that NCDOT's locomotives can be run on biodiesel fuel with no loss of performance and demonstrate that air quality is improved by reduced engine emissions when using biodiesel fuel. The Rail Division currently has six locomotives in service – four F59PH locomotives and two F59PHI locomotives. Both have been tested during standard operation along the corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte, NC on various blends of biodiesel fuel and standard ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel. Testing typically starts out with a blend of 10% biodiesel and 90% standard ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) fuel, biodiesel levels are then increased incrementally up to 100% pure biodiesel fuel.

NCDOT is one of very few rail service providers nationally to have operated a locomotive in standard passenger rail service using 100% biodiesel fuel and is the first organization to use this method of testing on a locomotive engine. This study has shown that NCDOT's locomotives can successfully operate using biodiesel fuel, and overall engine emissions are reduced by doing so. There is no loss of fuel economy when using biodiesel fuel, and the overall fuel costs are no different than the cost of standard diesel fuel typically used in locomotives.

The Rail Division hopes that by the end of 2014 the entire fleet of locomotives can be running on biodiesel fuel in order to improve air quality at no additional cost to the North Carolina taxpayers.

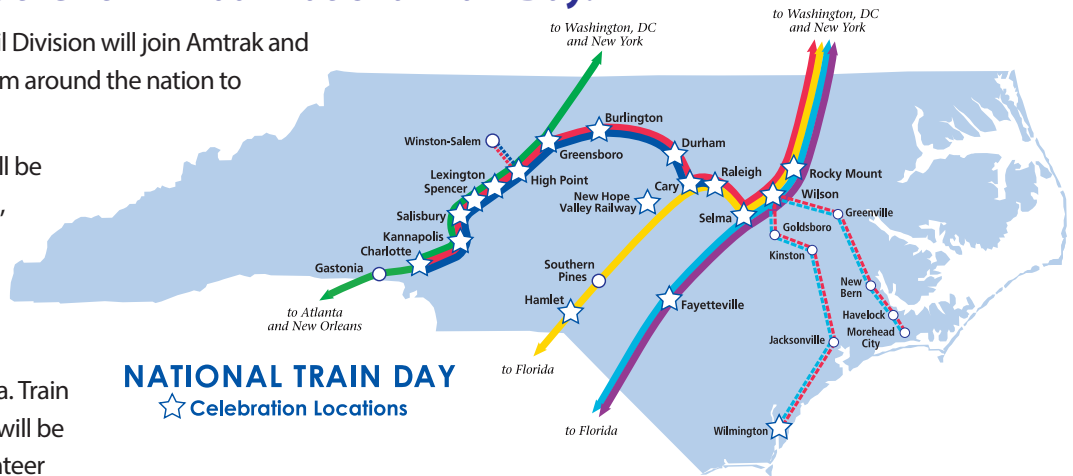


Join us as we celebrate the 7th Annual National Train Day!

On Saturday, May 10th, NCDOT's Rail Division will join Amtrak and train enthusiasts and supporters from around the nation to celebrate National Train Day.

At stations across the state, there will be activities for children such as games, sing alongs and storytimes by local libraries. There will be food, snacks, NTD cake and lots of fun. Local bands will entertain NTD participants in Burlington and Selma. Train schedules and marketing materials will be available and station staff and volunteer train hosts will be on hand to answer questions about train travel.

To find out more about National Train Day activities in your community, visit ncbytrain.org or nationaltrainday.com.



NATIONAL TRAIN DAY
Celebration Locations

The Kids Ride for \$5 promotion is available on National Train Day for travel anywhere within North Carolina.

KIDS RIDE FOR \$5

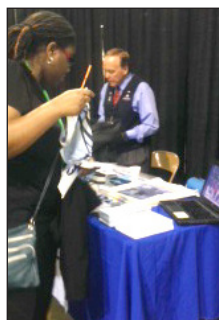
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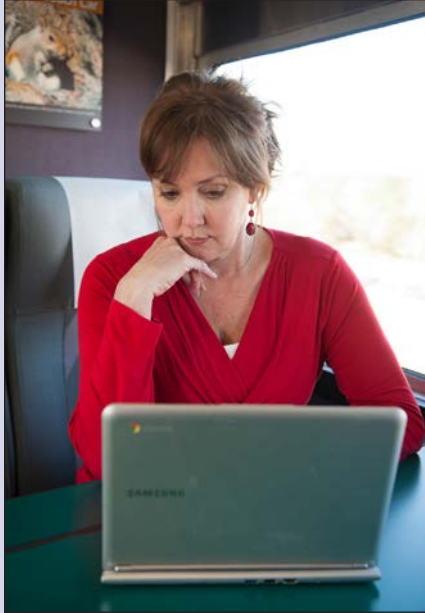
NCDOT Rail Division participates in Charlotte Career Discovery Day

Charlotte Neighborhood and Business Services held its first student career day event on April 9th. More than three thousand students and parents attended. The Amtrak and Rail Division booth garnered much interest with a rail career powerpoint. Train schedules, marketing and BeRailSafe materials were distributed. A special thank you to NC Train Host Ken Davis who helped staff the booth and talk with students and parents.



Left: Booth set up and ready for visitors. Right: Student watches Rail Careers in North Carolina presentation.





The Piedmont and Carolinian Passenger Survey data collection concluded in April. In total, more than 2,000 surveys were completed. Data from the surveys will be available early June.

NCDOT Rail Passenger Equipment to be on display at NC Transportation Museum Streamliner Days – May 29 to June 1

This four-day festival at the NC Transportation Museum attracts rail fans from all over North Carolina and as far away as Alaska and Canada. *Piedmont* equipment will be on display to market North Carolina's Amtrak passenger service. BeRailSafe staff will be on hand to promote rail safety.

NCDOT and Amtrak are partnering with the museum to promote taking the train to this event with brochures in the stations and train seatbacks. Amtrak tickets are 10% off. Ask for fare code V563.

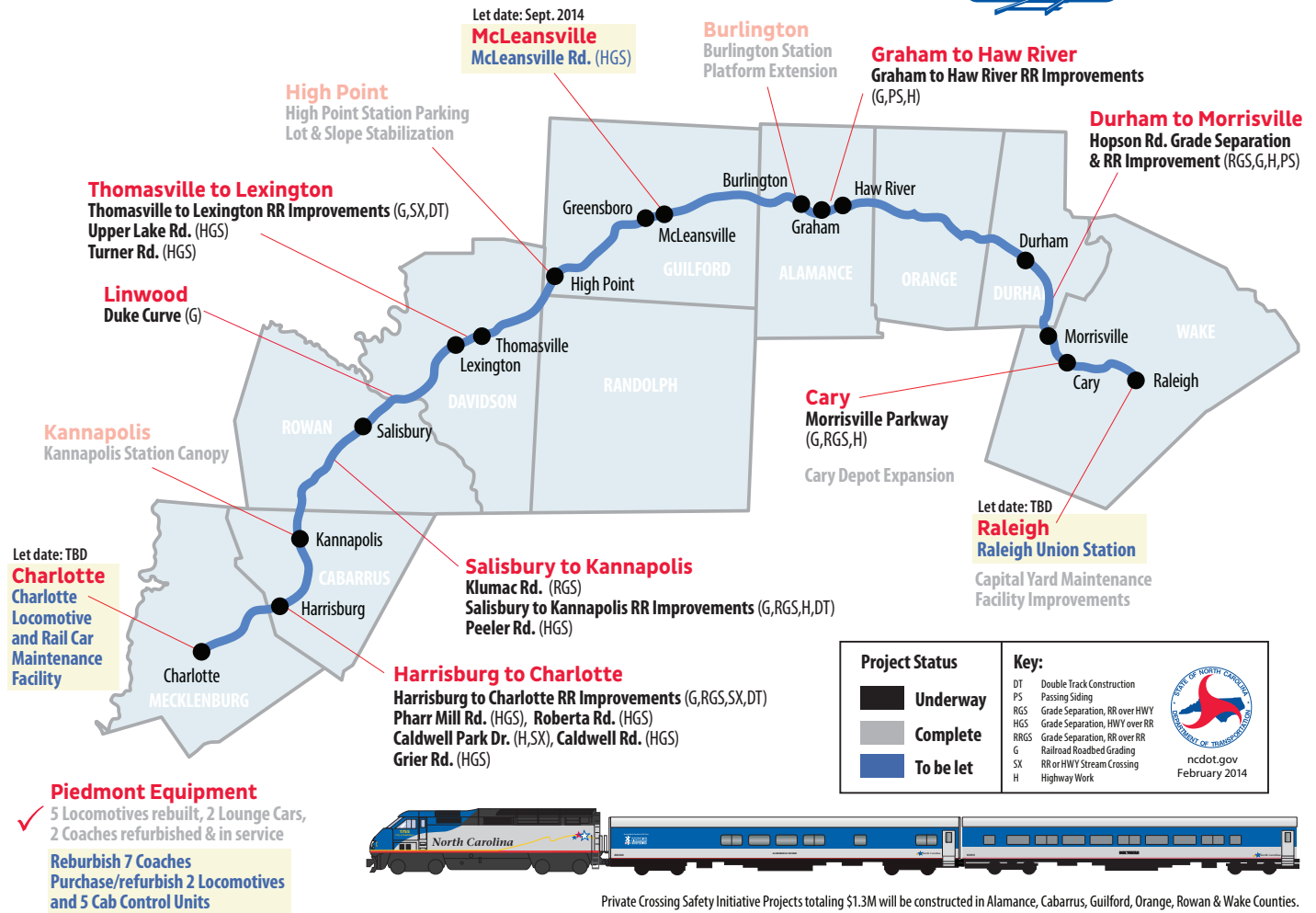
To learn more about this event, visit nctrans.org.

Ridership & Revenue on NC's Amtrak Service – February 2014 vs. 2013

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2014	2013	% +/-	2014	2013	% +/-
Piedmont	12,303	12,750	-3.5%	\$246,646	\$254,455	+3.1%
Carolinian	18,147	21,207	-14.4%	\$1,018,447	\$1,140,145	-10.7%

Service was annulled for 12 frequencies between February 12 and 14 as a result of winter weather conditions. This impacted ridership numbers for both the *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* trains.

Piedmont Improvement Program Projects



ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 3/31/2014)

Component	
PD&A	\$ 35,365,803
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$23,366,055
Stations & Facilities	\$10,464,532
Track & Structures	\$61,018,847
CRISP	\$2,174,323
Program Totals	\$132,389,561 of \$520M awarded FRA Grant Funds

South End Main Line Forum held in China Grove

On April 9, NCDOT met with local government and community leaders from Harrisburg to Salisbury regarding the PIP Projects in their areas. Rail staff provided project updates. Roundtable discussions followed the presentations.



Detour cut in at Klumac Road

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – late March through April, 2014



U-4716 Hopson Rd./Nelson-Clegg



U-4716 Hopson Rd./Nelson-Clegg



U-4716 Hopson Rd./Nelson-Clegg Structural materials



U-4716 Hopson Rd./Nelson-Clegg



I-2304 Duke Curve Realignment - Complete Roadbed



I-2304 Duke Curve Realignment - Ballast Pad

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – late February through March, 2014



P-5206 Reid to N. Kannapolis – Peeler Road Overpass



C-4901 Bowers to Lake - Upper Lake Road overpass



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Bridge girder delivery



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Bridge girder delivery



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Bridge prep



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Bridge Girder Delivery