

NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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January 2018

Intertape Polymer Group Completes New Facility in Midland

Having recently completed its rail project, the Intertape Polymer Group (IPG) commenced rail operations at their new production facility in Midland, Cabarrus County. The global leader in packaging materials invested \$40 million in the facility and will create 49 new jobs. The rail spur was funded through the Rail Industrial Access Program (RIAP) which is part of the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Program (FRRCSI). The NCDOT Rail Division contributed \$200,000 towards the construction of the spur track that connects to the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway (ACWR) rail line. In addition, the NCDOT



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Division of Highways contributed an additional \$122,500 towards the spur track and \$800,000 for the improvements to McGee Road from Wallace Road (SR 1119) to the ACWR tracks and construction of a new road to the Intertape facility.

The arrival of IPG in North Carolina was made possible, in part, by Cabarrus County, the Cabarrus Economic Development

Corporation, the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, NCDOT, the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Community College System, Aberdeen Carolina Western Railway and Duke Energy.

Carolina Coastal Railway Completes Industrial Side Track in Plymouth

In June 2017, Carolina Coastal Railway (CLNA) completed an industrial side track for Quality Mats and Seaboard Timber in Plymouth.

Quality Mats manufactures crane mats for construction purposes. The construction of the 2,000-linear foot side track and concrete pit for the use of unloading bottom dump railcars, cost approximately \$418,000.

Through the Rail Industrial Access Program, which is funded by the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement fund, the project received \$170,000 in matching funds.

Since the opening of the side track, over 600 car loads of material have utilized the track. CLNA also used the new side track for the delivery of thousands of steel gas line pipes when building the Dominion Natural Gas line in North Carolina



Plymouth

January Railroad Trivia Question: On July 5, 1957 at 12:02a.m. the derailment of a freight train on the original Norfolk Southern Railway resulted in the drowning deaths of two train-service employees and severe injuries to the other three crew members. Where in NC did this accident occur? See answer on page 4.

NCDOT Rail Division Awards Short Line Railroad Grants for SFY 2018

The NCDOT Rail Division to date has programmed nearly \$6 million in matching funds to support 12 projects across the state through the Short Line Infrastructure Assistance Program (SIAP) for State Fiscal Year 2018. The NCDOT BOT approved the funds at the December 7, 2017 meeting. The total SIAP funding request was over \$15 million* and highlights the significant financial need that North Carolina's short line railroads have to continue providing safe and efficient service.

The SIAP is a component of the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement (FRRCSI) program which was established in 2013 by the General Assembly. The SIAP Program is supported by an allocation of \$13.75 million appropriation by the General Assembly and \$3.75 million in dividends distributed from the North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR) for the improvement of freight service and the safety of rail-highway crossings. Each approved project was allotted funding based on the needs of the railroad and impact of the proposed improvement.

**Portions of some submitted projects, such as buildings/building upfit, are ineligible for SIAP funding.*

Awarded projects:

RJ Corman Carolina Lines

- Joint elimination (MP ACH 310.65 – MP ACH 301.25) (MP AC 311.5 – MP AC 299.0)
- Signal upgrades
- Bridge upgrade (MP AC 300.3)

Port of Morehead City

- Demolish and repair West Lead Track
- Replace switch

Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway

- Upgrades to four bridges (MP 366 – MP 347)
- Upgrade switches
- Rail replacement and upgrade switch (MP 55)
- Facility improvements

Blue Ridge Southern Railroad

- Upgrades to five bridges (MP 15 – MP 44)

Piedmont & Northern Railway

- Construction of transload facility in Belmont

Piedmont & Northern Railway

- Upgrade of Statesville Yard Track and switches

Carolina Coastal Railway

- Upgrades to seven bridges along NS and BH line
- Rail replacement, cross ties, and surfacing (MP ABA 130 – MP ABA 132)

Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad

- Rail replacement (MP K 28 – MP K 29)

Yadkin Valley Railroad

- Rail replacement (MP K 73 – MP K 80)
- Cross tie replacement (MP K 37- MP K 100)
- Cross tie replacement (MP CF 0 – MP CF 31)

Great Smoky Mountain Railroad

- Rail replacement (MP 83 – MP 84)
- Cross tie replacement (MP 47 – MP 97)
- Return track to service (MP 88 – MP 89)

Port of Wilmington

- Rebuild intermodal Track 18
- Rebuild intermodal Track 1

Atlantic & Western Railway, LP

- Upgrade four turnouts at Sanford Yard

NCDOT and Blue Ridge Southern Railroad Make Safety Improvements at Crossings

The Carolina Coastal Railroad, NCDOT Division 2 and the NCDOT Rail Division worked to rehabilitate a rough crossing in Pitt County. This crossing is on Evans Street, SR 1702, in Greenville, NC. This crossing has two tracks, both consisting of asphalt and rubber rail surfaces. Much of the rail seal was missing and the asphalt was deteriorated, causing a rough ride for motorists. This surface in both tracks was replaced with a concrete tub. With the smooth paving approaches provided by NCDOT, this will give motorists in Greenville a smooth drive for many years to come.



Evans Road before improvements



Evans Road after improvements

2017 Service Awards

The Rail Division celebrated an early Thanksgiving on November 13. Julie White, Deputy Secretary for Multi-modal Transportation and Allan Paul, Acting Rail Division Director presented service awards to employees who had reached five year increment milestones. Also in attendance was Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard who thanked employees for their services. Branch managers recapped the year and recognized employees for a job well done.

Not pictured: Chika Madu, 15 years



Alison Boswell – 5 years



James Harris – 20 years



Allan Paul – 30 years



Matthew Simmons – 10 years



Christopher Bell – 25 years



Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard



Stephanie Branch – 20 years



Kevin Johnson – 25 years

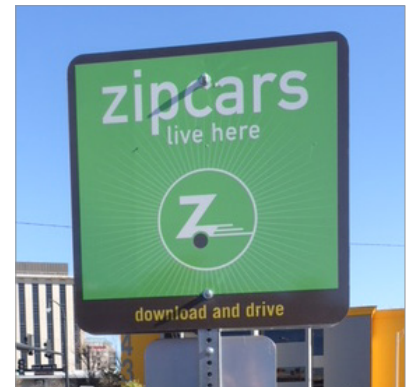


Rail Division Staff

Zipcar Service Now Available at the Durham Train Station

In late November, a Zipcar was placed at the Durham Amtrak station, making it the first station in the state to offer the service. Zipcar is a ridesharing company which helps customers reach their final destination and is an alternative to owning a personal vehicle.

NCDOT Rail Division worked with Zipcar to set up the service, install a sign and provide a parking space for the vehicle in the station parking lot. The Rail Division hopes to place cars at additional stations along the North Carolina Rail corridor, with the next station being Cary.



Ridership & Revenue on NC By Train Service – Oct. 2017 vs. 2016

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2017	2016	% +/-	2017	2016	% +/-
Piedmont	14,903	13,305	12%	\$334,991	\$281,851	+19%
Carolinian	24,483	24,928	-2%	\$1,401,906	\$1,380,087	+2%

906



Hours Volunteered by N.C. Train Hosts in October, supporting NC By Train onboard and at events

October 2017 service modifications impacted 15 *Piedmont* trains and eight *Carolinian* trains. On October 2 and 23, all *Piedmont* trains operated between Kannapolis and Raleigh, Train 79 operated between New York and Salisbury, and Train 80 operated between Kannapolis and New York. Additionally, on October 3 and 24, Train 80 operated between Salisbury and New York; these modifications were due to construction of the CATS Blue Line, and alternate transportation was provided for missed stations. On October 9, Train 74 was cancelled from Kannapolis to Raleigh due to wheel flat spots; passengers were either returned to their original station on Train 75 or rebooked on Train 76. On October 27, Trains 73 and 74 operated between Raleigh and Greensboro only due to a deer strike resulting in a broken brake pipe on Train 73; alternate transportation was provided. On October 31, all trains were cancelled due to NS track work at Raleigh. Average gasoline prices remained low in October 2017 but were \$0.30 per gallon higher than in October 2016.

Salisbury Depot Number Four Nationwide for Overall Station Experience

Two North Carolina stations took top spots in Amtrak's annual ranking of stations nationwide. Rankings are based on input from passengers via Amtrak's Customer Satisfaction Surveys. The Cary Depot claimed the number one spot with the Salisbury Depot following closely behind, sharing the number four spot with five other stations. Passengers surveyed scored the stations on a range of categories from cleanliness to convenience to customer service. The station serves eight trains daily and is staffed by NCDOT station attendants who greet and assist passengers daily.

More about the Station

Designed by Frank Milburn, the depot was built in 1908 by Southern Railway, halfway between Atlanta and Washington on its mainline. In 1976, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places and purchased

by the Historic Salisbury Foundation in 1985. A restoration of the depot was completed in 1993 by the Foundation, NCDOT and Amtrak. Additional improvements were made to the passenger waiting room in 1999 when station attendants began staffing the waiting rooms. In 2009 a new platform and canopy were built by the City of Salisbury with a majority of the funding coming from NCDOT. The canopy was designed by North Carolina architect



Interior, waiting room

David Gall in keeping with the style of the original station building. Today, the depot serves many functions, housing the Historic Salisbury Foundation offices and the former "grand hall" of the depot which is a venue for community functions and private events. On the east side of the building is the waiting room serving *Piedmont*, *Carolinian* and *Crescent* passengers.

January Railroad Trivia Answer: On the NS Albemarle Sound trestle. Completed in 1910 the trestle was 5.05 miles long. The longest trestle ever constructed in NC and one of the longest continuous trestles ever built in the USA. Two NS diesel locomotives and one car fell through the trestle into 20' of water. The trestle was repaired and returned to service for another 30 years. The new NS closed the trestle on January 3, 1987 and removed the structure the next year.



1908 Historic Salisbury Depot with 2009 canopy addition

Murphy's Mayor Retires After 30 years of Service

Dan Fisher, Corridors and Properties Engineer with the NCDOT Rail Division, presented Bill Hughes, Mayor of Murphy, with a Certificate of Appreciation at the mayor's retirement reception from the division and thanked him for many years of support for railroad service in North Carolina.



Dan Fisher, left, presents Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Bill Hughes.

After Hughes' first retirement as a high school principal, he then served 30 years as mayor of Murphy. During that time, he rescued the historic L&N Depot in downtown Murphy, owned now by the town. It has been his longtime goal to restore the Murphy Branch to active use.

Mayor Hughes grew up in the Murphy area and has many fond childhood memories of the railroad. His father worked for the L&N Railroad, and it was that job that brought the Hughes family to Murphy. Although the mayor is retiring, the Hughes name will not leave Murphy Government completely. His wife, Barbara, recently made her first run at City Council and won.

2017 Santa Trains

A great time was had by all on the 2017 Santa Trains!

Passengers of all ages enjoyed an exciting time on the Raleigh and Charlotte Santa Trains. There were 291 passengers on board for the Raleigh to Greensboro Santa Train and 225 passengers on the Charlotte to High Point trip. Santa and Mrs. Claus visited each child and many memories were made. Children told Santa their wishes and had their picture taken with him, which they can treasure for many years. Everyone enjoyed goodies, caroling and spending time with their families.

A special thanks to the NC Train Host Association volunteers for helping the Rail Division and Amtrak staff make this day a success, both on the trains and at the stations.



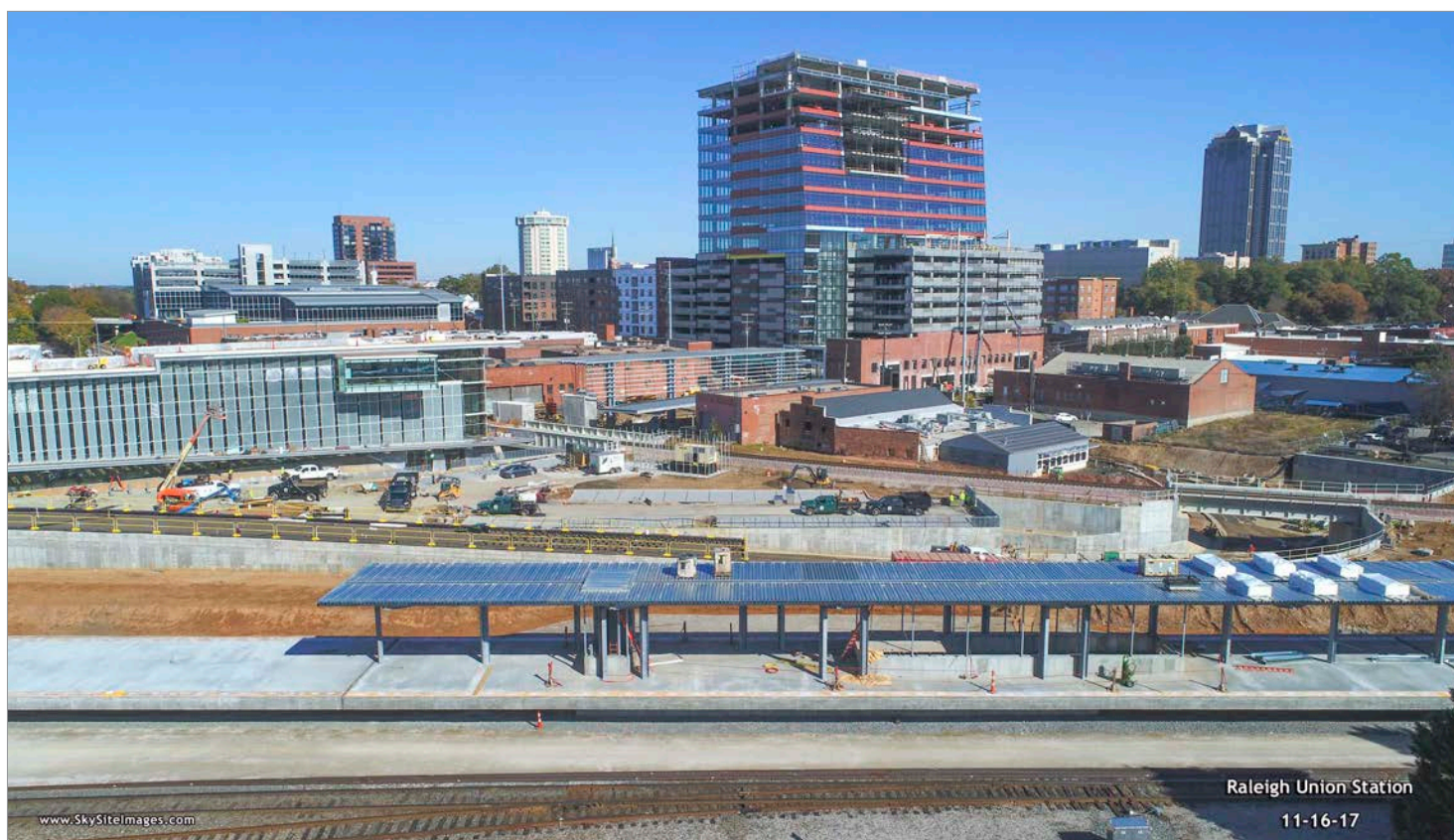
Raleigh Photos by Owen Jordan.

Charlotte Photos by Lisa Brigham.

Raleigh Union Station Update – November 2017



Drop off loop construction



Center Island High-Level Platform and Canopy construction