

NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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December 2019

FRRCSI Grant Assists Caldwell County Railroad to Streamline Operations

The Caldwell County Railroad (CWCY) is a North Carolina short line, hauling freight along 17 miles of track in Catawba, Burke and Caldwell counties. This historic line was first constructed in 1874 and supports truck to rail transload operations and moves construction materials and plastics.

As one of the smaller short line operations within North Carolina, CWCY works hard to meet the challenges of infrastructure upgrades, attracting new opportunities and adding value to current shipping customers. The N.C. Department of Transportation has partnered with CWCY on several Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement program grants to upgrade their infrastructure and operations. A 2019 Short Line Infrastructure Assistance Program (SIAP) project to construct a truck-rail transload facility has been completed and recently served its first rail cars. Truck-rail transload facilities provide companies who do not have their own rail siding with access to the rail network. The project provides immediate benefits for one CWCY customer by reducing their annual regional truck haul by approximately 3,000 miles. The improvements are expected to further increase demand for transloading operations and revenue for the CWCY line.



New truck-rail transload facility on the Caldwell County Railroad

The \$104,800 project received a \$52,400 SIAP grant to construct the transload facility in Granite Falls. "We would like to offer a special thanks to the NCDOT Rail Division's SIAP Grant Program for assistance in making this project possible," said Don McGrady, President of CWCY.

FRRCSI-funded SIAP projects serve a vital role in enhancing the viability and efficiency of the statewide short line network. NCDOT is pleased to partner with short lines on projects that enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of rail operations while supporting economic development across North Carolina.

The Rail Division Recognizes the Contributions of Jim Kessler in his Retirement



Jim Kessler and Rail Director Jason Orthner on a recent inspection trip

With his retirement this month, the Rail Division recognizes a long partnership with Jim Kessler, P.E., Vice President of Engineering for the North Carolina Railroad Company. During Jim's 47 year career he has been instrumental in the planning, design and construction of rail improvement projects in North Carolina and across the country. Over the past year he also has served as President of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association, the organization that sets recommended railroad engineering practice for the North American Continent. The Rail Division truly appreciates Jim's friendship and the contributions he has made to our rail program.



Apply now for the 2020 MOBI Awards!

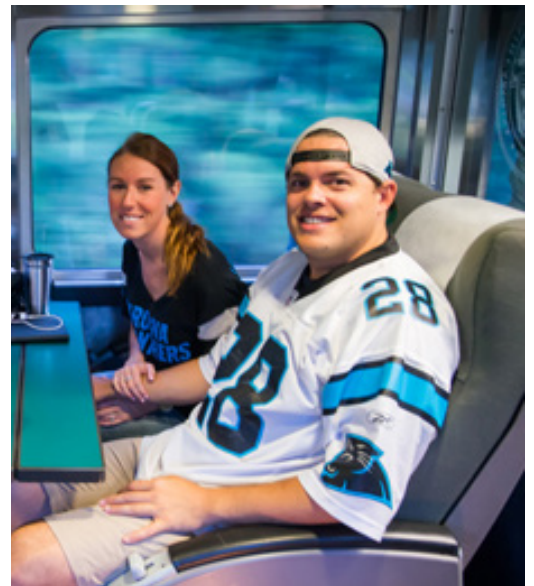
Applications are open until Jan. 10, 2020
Visit connect.ncdot.gov/Mobi

NCDOT is once again seeking nominations for the NCDOT Mobi Awards! The Mobi Awards recognize multimodal projects that make an impact in communities, showcasing the vital role that investments in aviation, bike and pedestrian facilities, ferries, public transportation and rail play in creating healthy, vibrant communities and spurring economic development.

At NCDOT, we see many projects across North Carolina that add great value to our state by connecting communities, creating jobs, sparking economic development, and enhancing everyone's quality of life. So, we figured it was about time North Carolina communities were recognized for all the great multimodal transportation projects they have completed in recent years. We have partnered on the awards with the Women's Transportation Seminars, the N.C. State University Institute for Transportation Research and Education, and NC Go!

Nominations can be made by any North Carolina city, town, county, metropolitan planning organization, rural planning organization, public transportation system/authority, airport authority, college, university, or council of government. Entries should describe a transportation project that was completed within the last five years (or put into operation/service within that time period). Projects must combine two or more of the following modes of transportation: transit, bicycle/pedestrian, rail, aviation, ferry or roadway.

Top multimodal projects and honorable mentions will be selected in six categories this year – Urban, Suburban, Rural, Tourism, Innovation, and (new!) Most Voted Project. The deadline for entries is Jan. 10, 2020. A high profile panel of judges from across North Carolina will select the winners and Secretary of Transportation James H. Trogdon will announce the winners at a luncheon in Raleigh on April 1, 2020. Board of Transportation members, elected officials, and many more will make up the audience in attendance to celebrate the winning projects. Interested in nominating a project? Visit our website link above to learn more and to access the application. If you have any questions, email theMobi@ncdot.gov and we'll respond shortly. We look forward to seeing your nominations. Thank you for everything you do to make North Carolina a great place to live, work, and do business.



Take NC By Train to the Panthers Games

Arrive in Charlotte on train 73 at 9:40 a.m. with plenty of time to enjoy the area around Bank of America Stadium before the 1 p.m. kickoff.

Take your time and enjoy some post-game fun as you make your way back to the Amtrak station for a 7 p.m. departure on train 78. Get tickets at ncbytrain.org.



Get to Bank of America Stadium with a Transit Pass

Request your pass from conductors while on the train. Good for one ride and in-route bus transfer the day of travel.

Looking for Holiday Gift Ideas?

NC Multi-Ride passes are an excellent gift for frequent riders on your gift list. Visit ncbytrain.org to learn more or purchase tickets! These are great stocking stuffers for college students!



Give the Gift of a Multi-Ride Pass and **SAVE 15%**

- * GOOD FOR 10 RIDES (5 ROUND TRIPS)
- * NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

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December Trivia Question: What year was the Railroading Merit Badge added to Scouts BSA Curriculum? What do scouts learn to earn the badge? What historic location in North Carolina provides training for the badge? See answer on page 7.



Piedmont Locomotive 1810 dashing through the snow in January 2018

Photo by Andrew B. Futrell

Historic Photo Recreation Wins 2019 NADO Photo Contest

The Rail Division's modern day recreation of the May 10, 1869 iconic photo celebrating the completion of the first transcontinental railroad at Promontory, Utah proved to be a winner in the National Association of Development Organizations annual photo contest. The Rail Division photo, taken on the 150th anniversary of the original photo, featured the *Piedmont* passenger equipment and employees staged in a similar lineup to the historic photograph, including officials shaking hands and the celebratory toast.

NCDOT Photographer Katy Warner and Rail Division Deputy Director Allan Paul are credited with carefully staging the modern recreation.



Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



Greyhound station moved



4th Street bridge work



Retaining wall work



Retaining wall work

CCX Construction Update

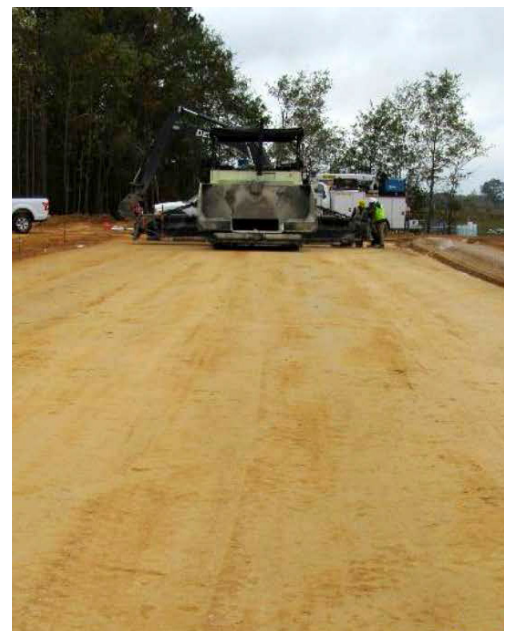
The Rocky Mount CCX Intermodal Terminal Site preparation and surveying is ongoing. Significant grading operations are underway for the wheeled parking area, transfer staging area and the south lead tracks.



Aerial view of north half of site



Aerial view of south lead track



Crews preparing to start Cement Treated Base

NCDOT and the Carolina Coastal Railroad Improve Crossings

Our crossings highlighted this month are both in Beaufort County on the Carolina Coastal Railroad. The NCDOT Rail Division partnered with Division Two Beaufort County Maintenance and the Carolina Coastal Railroad to make these improvements.

The first crossing was Terrapin Track Road near Washington. This crossing had an asphalt surface with no flangeway material. The asphalt around both rails was deteriorating badly and potholes were beginning to form. This was replaced with an asphalt and rubber rail seal surface, making a much smoother surface.

The second crossing improved was Old 97 Road near Pantego. This crossing also consisted of an asphalt surface with no flangeway material. Potholes had formed along the rails. This surface was replaced with asphalt and rubber rail seal, eliminating the potholes and providing a better crossing surface for drivers.



Terrapin Track Road crossing before improvements


Old 97 crossing before improvements



Terrapin Track Road crossing after improvements

Old 97 crossing after improvements

Ridership & Revenue on NC By Train Service – September 2019 vs. 2018

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2019	2018	% +/-	2019	2018	% +/-
Piedmont	17,098	13,773	24%	\$408,379	\$336,681	21%
Carolinian	16,601	14,305	16%	\$1,036,376	\$931,179	11%

951



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

September 2019 – Service modifications affected 10 Piedmont and six Carolinian trains.



BSA Rail Camp and the Norfolk & Western No. 611 steam locomotive, NC Transportation Museum, Spencer

Photo: Ron King

December Railroad Trivia Answer:

The Railroad Merit Badge was created in 1952. In the 1990s badge requirements expanded to include more information on rail safety and how trains are an integral part of the American economy. The research required to earn this badge helps scouts interested in a career in transportation understand the various options available to them in the field of railroading. In Feb. 2019 membership in the Scouts BSA expanded to include girls, opening the door for more of America's youth to earn the Railroading Merit Badge.

In the curriculum, scouts learn about freight train classifications, how commodities are transported efficiently, details on how locomotives are powered and the braking mechanisms work. The functions of different types of rail cars are also covered. Scouts hear about the history of passenger train service and ways to plan a trip using timetables.

Each year two camps are held at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer to help scouts earn their Railroading Merit Badge. For more information about the camps, contact Tyler Trahan at Tyler.Trahan@ncdcr.gov or 919-636-2889.

2019 Rail Division Service Awards



Rail Division Service Awards were presented on Nov. 18 by Director Jason Orthner to employees reaching employment milestones. Those receiving awards, left to right, are Andy Miller, Facilities and Property Manager, for five years of service and Pon Phongsavath, Rail Planning Engineer, for 20 years of service.

Not pictured: Anamika Laad, Senior Rail Project Development Engineer, 5 years of service; Frank Cornett, Inventory Technician, 20 years of service; and Trent Carmon, Engineering Specialist, 25 years of service.