

NCDOT Rail Division

# The Rail Report



@NC\_By\_Train



NCByTrain

ncbytrain.org

919-707-4700

March 2021

## Passenger Train Service Resuming Full Schedule on April 5

*Spring sale offering 50% off fares during April*



Photo: Adam Schultz

For the first time in a year, those using the state's passenger train services will have eight daily trains to choose from as full service resumes on April 5.

As pandemic safety restrictions were put in place last March, the N.C. Department of Transportation halted most of its daily schedule, operating just one train to provide an option for essential travel. Over the last few months, additional daily trips have been restored as ridership increases.

"With pandemic restrictions slowly easing, we're seeing increased demand for safe travel options," said Jason Orthner, director of NCDOT's Rail Division. "Passengers can travel with peace of mind as they get out and safely begin rediscovering all that North Carolina has to offer."

To celebrate full train service resuming, starting on April 2 passengers can purchase tickets for 50% off regular priced fares during April. Travel is valid within North Carolina for a limited time.



For sale details, tickets and schedules visit [ncbytrain.org](http://ncbytrain.org).

*For traveler safety, COVID-19 precautions are still in place on board trains and in stations. Face coverings are required and enhanced cleaning is occurring regularly.*

## NC By Train Schedules

73 Piedmont	75 Piedmont	77 Piedmont	79 Carolinian		80 Carolinian	74 Piedmont	76 Piedmont	78 Piedmont
6:30 AM	10:00 AM	3:00 PM	5:30 PM	RALEIGH, NC	10:05 AM	1:41 PM	6:26 PM	10:11 PM
6:42 AM	10:12 AM	3:12 PM	5:43 PM	CARY, NC	9:47 AM	1:23 PM	6:08 PM	9:53 PM
7:02 AM	10:32 AM	3:32 PM	6:09 PM	DURHAM, NC	9:27 AM	1:03 PM	5:48 PM	9:33 PM
7:38 AM	11:08 AM	4:08 PM	6:46 PM	BURLINGTON, NC	8:46 AM	12:24 PM	5:09 PM	8:54 PM
8:03 AM	11:33 AM	4:33 PM	7:19 PM	GREENSBORO, NC	8:24 AM	12:03 PM	4:48 PM	8:33 PM
8:19 AM	11:49 AM	4:49 PM	7:32 PM	HIGH POINT, NC	8:02 AM	11:44 AM	4:29 PM	8:14 PM
8:53 AM	12:23 PM	5:23 PM	8:06 PM	SALISBURY, NC	7:28 AM	11:11 AM	3:56 PM	7:41 PM
9:09 AM	12:39 PM	5:39 PM	8:23 PM	KANNAPOLIS, NC	7:10 AM	10:55 AM	3:40 PM	7:25 PM
9:40 AM	1:10 PM	6:10 PM	8:56 PM	CHARLOTTE, NC	6:45 AM	10:30 AM	3:15 PM	7:00 PM



## 2021 Southeast Rail Forum a Success

On March 24-26, the Women's Transportation Seminar hosted the Southeast Rail Forum and accommodated more than 250 attendees on a virtual platform. This event featured live general sessions, pre-recorded rail segment sessions, and virtual tours and games. Attendees heard about topics related to the major developments in rail in Virginia and North Carolina, economic development around rail and ports, the impact of improved passenger stations, and the evolving governance of rail commissions in the south.

If you missed the event but would like to listen to the presentations, you can register and listen to the recordings "on-demand" from all three days of the conference. Please contact [2021SRF@gmail.com](mailto:2021SRF@gmail.com) with any questions.



*The Piedmont arriving in Greensboro*

## Traveling on NC By Train is a Great Way to See What N.C. Cities have to Offer

It's easy to take the train to explore North Carolina cities. Recently there were feature articles in *Our State* magazine about traveling to Durham and Greensboro by train along with ideas of fun things while spending the day exploring, eating and shopping.

Read the stories at the links below:

[NC By Train: First Stop, Durham](#)

[NC By Train: Second Stop, Greensboro](#)



*The Piedmont arriving in Durham*



## Research Study Provides Tool to Access Cost of Rail Incidents

A recently completed study provides a tool to assess the monetary impact of railroad incidents. The tool evaluates costs associated with property damage, casualty, delays, rerouting and supply chain events. It also analyzes upstream effects, emissions costs, railroad operating costs and emergency responder costs.

The Rail Incident Comprehensive Cost Calculation Tool is a first of its kind and can be used to tabulate costs resulting from an individual rail incident or to aggregate costs over a specified time. The study was funded by NCDOT Research and Development and lead by North Carolina State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education.

Highway crashes rarely disrupt traffic flow beyond the state's borders or impact industries beyond the immediate collision area. These systems offer alternative emergency routes until traffic is re-opened. However, this is not the case with rail incidents. A single rail incident at a highway-rail crossing or a pedestrian incident on the tracks can cause the entire rail network to stop for several hours or longer. Rarely are there alternative routes for train traffic. The impact to the rail network is immediate and it comes to a complete stop.

Understanding the full costs associated with rail events can help put into perspective the social and economic importance of rail safety and provides a more equitable comparison of the far-reaching impacts of rail incidents.

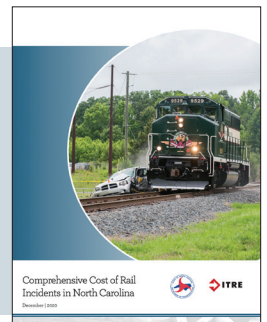
After an extensive literature and data review the research team found that there are six primary cost categories that should be appraised when evaluating the comprehensive cost of rail incidents in North Carolina.

The categories include:

- Physical Property Damage
- Monetized Cost of Injury and Fatality
- Delay, Rerouting and Supply Chain Costs
  - Value of Time (passenger and crew)
  - Shipper Costs (opportunity, spoilage, useful life)
  - Cargo Replacement Costs
  - Upstream and Downstream Delay Costs
- Additional Operating Costs
- Additional Emissions Costs
- Emergency Responder Costs

The cost calculation tool will help the Rail Division in planning and scoring projects. It can also be useful to metropolitan, regional and local planning organizations, as well as ancillary stakeholders in making informed decisions about return on investment with projects to 'engineer-out' anticipated rail safety impacts. Public safety and law enforcement officials can use the cost calculation results to justify rail enforcement and education efforts and as a resource for accurate budgeting of rail safety countermeasures and expanded training. NCDOT Research and Development is currently developing an Implementation Outreach Program that will identify additional users and applications.

Video tutorials explaining how to calculate property damage, injury, delay and rerouting, and emergency responder costs are [online here](#) as well as the complete report and the cost tool.



## CCX Construction Update, Rocky Mount



Construction is ongoing at the Carolina Connector (CCX) intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County. Work on assembling the large electric wide span cranes is underway.



## Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



*Trade Street looking south toward the block that will be the primary station area for the City's mixed-use development*



*Construction of south end platform foundations*

The Rail Division is leading the planning, design and construction of Charlotte Gateway Station Phase 1. The City of Charlotte is in charge of the effort for Phase 2 with developer Gateway Partners for the large mixed use development and station. The Phase I project is targeted for completion in 2023. The scope includes building bridges to support passenger rail tracks, a center island level-boarding platform, plus railroad track and signals. Track and signal construction is anticipated to begin this summer.



*Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update (continued)*



*Construction of concourse foundation*

**NCDOT and the Blue Ridge Southern Improve Jackson County Crossing**

Our featured crossing this month is on the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad. NCDOT Division 14 and Jackson County Maintenance assisted the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad and the Rail Division with improving the Cabin Flats Road crossing near Sylva. The original asphalt and timber crossing surface was deteriorating, leaving the lag bolts exposed and creating a safety hazard for drivers. The new asphalt and rubber rail seal crossing provides a smoother ride for drivers.



*Improved Cabin Flats Road crossing*