



RIAP

Rail Industrial Access Program

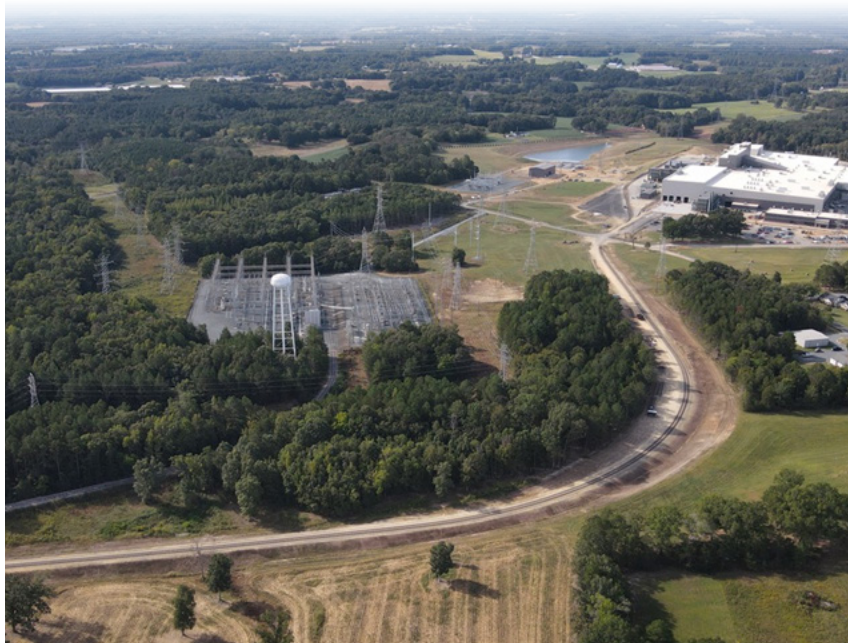


What is RIAP?

The **Rail Industrial Access Program (RIAP)** is a subprogram of the greater Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Program Improvement program.

The RIAP is an economic development program that provides up to 50% in matching funds to industries seeking to transport their products via railroad. RIAP funds may be used to build or upgrade industrial sidings, switches, or other on-site rail infrastructure.

In turn, industries commit to a total capital investment at the site, and a specific number of jobs created and annual rail car shipments over a two-year period.



Contact

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RAIL DIVISION RAIL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**



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FRRCSI AND RIAP

Established in 2013 under NCGS §124-5.1, the FRRCSI program provides matching funds for: the enhancement of freight rail service, short line infrastructure assistance, freight diversion from highway to rail, and railroad-roadway crossing safety.

The Rail Industrial Access Program (RIAP) is a subprogram of FRRCSI and seeks to connect industries to the freight rail network.



Scan for more info on FRRCSI
[connect.ncdot.gov/resources/
Rail-Division-Resources/
Pages/FRRCSI](https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Rail-Division-Resources/Pages/FRRCSI)



ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

A project that constructs and establishes rail service to a private industry is an eligible candidate for funding.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Engineering costs
- ✓ Site preparation
(including necessary grading to construct tracks)
- ✓ Track construction
- ✓ Switches
- ✓ Grade crossing surface
- ✓ Warning devices

INELIGIBLE COSTS ARE:

- ✗ Studies
- ✗ Buildings
- ✗ Utility relocations
- ✗ Mobile equipment
- ✗ Right-of-way acquisitions
- ✗ Rail docks
- ✗ Unloading facilities



ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Local governments, community development organizations, railroad companies, and industries are eligible for this program. Grant recipients shall be responsible for the ownership and assume maintenance and liability for the project.



FUNDING

Selected projects may receive state matching funds up to \$400,000 and/or up to 50% of eligible expenses, depending on the qualifying project score.

The RIAP is a reimbursement program. Upon project completion, eligible expenses may be requested for reimbursement from the N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division and are subject to review. Proof of active rail service must be documented as part of project close-out.



PRE-APPLICATION COORDINATION

The NCDOT Rail Division is available for engagement in early project coordination and recruitment efforts for potential economic development projects.

Before applying, interested parties should contact the NCDOT Rail Division to review a candidate project to determine preliminary eligibility. Further, early coordination is encouraged to identify essential support documentation needed to accompany the application and site development and environmental screening requirements.



APPLICATION PROCESS

RIAP candidate projects may be considered at any time, as available program funding allows. Grant applications are received through the Enterprise Business System (NC EBS grant portal). www.ebs.nc.gov

Prior to accessing the portal, applicants must be registered with the Department as a vendor. Contact your Rail Division representative for additional details.

Applicants are encouraged to submit shovel-ready projects to eliminate extensive delays between project awards and builds.



EVALUATION AND SELECTION

All applications are evaluated, scored, and ranked based on:

- ▶ Total capital investment
- ▶ Job creation
- ▶ County economic tier
- ▶ Rail carloads served

Projects are recommended for approval based on a minimal qualifying score. The project score determines the total state funding and matching funds required.

All recommended projects are subject to review and approval by the NCDOT Rail Division and N.C. Board of Transportation.



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Awarded projects are subject to a legal agreement between the grant recipient and the NCDOT Rail Division that governs the terms for project execution. In cases where improvements fall upon a leased property(ies), the owning party will be required to enter into a contingent interest agreement with the NCDOT Rail Division, to accompany the project agreement.

Applicants should prepare for the time needed between application submittal, project selection and funding, execution of the legal agreement(s), design and environmental reviews, and groundbreaking. Notice to proceed may be allowed as early as three months following project application; however, depending on the nature of the project, it may require six months or longer.

The NCDOT Rail Division must review and approve project plans, specifications and verify environmental compliance for all potential project impacts prior to project construction.

Project improvements must be built by the grant recipient within 18-months following the execution of the project agreement. Upon completion of project construction, a six-month closeout period is allowed for final project review and billing. Project goals are subject to monitoring and improvements must be maintained and remain in service for five years following completion of the project grant.