

The Rail Report

NCDOT Rail Division



December 2014

Vertex Rail Brings Jobs to Wilmington



Secretary Tony Tata speaks at Vertex Rail Announcement

On November 13, Governor Pat McCrory announced that Vertex Rail will be adding 1,300 new jobs at the former Terex Crane facility in Wilmington. The company will manufacture rail tank cars which are in high demand to transport crude oil from North Dakota, Texas and other energy-producing areas of the United States.

Outdated tank cars have contributed to fires and leaks during derailments involving trains hauling crude oil. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) are finalizing a recommended specification for new tank cars which will be more resilient against derailment incidents and punctures. More than 70,000 tank cars will be needed to replace obsolete cars, which must be retired by October 1, 2017. Vertex Rail estimates they will be able to produce 1,400 cars in their first year of operations, 4,500 in their second year, and many more in the ensuing years.

At the announcement in Wilmington, Governor McCrory urged Vertex and all North Carolina companies to strongly consider hiring military veterans.

"Veterans can be a major asset for the Vertex workforce," Governor McCrory said. "They come to the work place highly trained and their leadership skills can strengthen communities in Brunswick, Columbus, and New Hanover and Pender counties."

Vertex will be hiring assemblers and fitters, welders, and painters as well as personnel with expertise in engineering, logistics, quality assurance, sales, safety and management. The company reports that salaries will average approximately \$40,000 annually.

Vertex will work with Cape Fear Community College on customized training programs and will hire graduates from the college's traditional degree and certificate programs.

The North Carolina Departments of Transportation and Commerce are contributing \$305,000 from the Economic Development Fund for the restoration of the River Road crossing and signals. The NCDOT Rail Division is contributing \$200,000 from the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund to improve the rail spur. This fund is funded through dividends received by the state from the NC Railroad Company.

Vertex and it's employees will play a significant role in making the railroads safer across North America and supporting our domestic energy industry.



Concord Bridge Project benefits Passenger and Freight Service

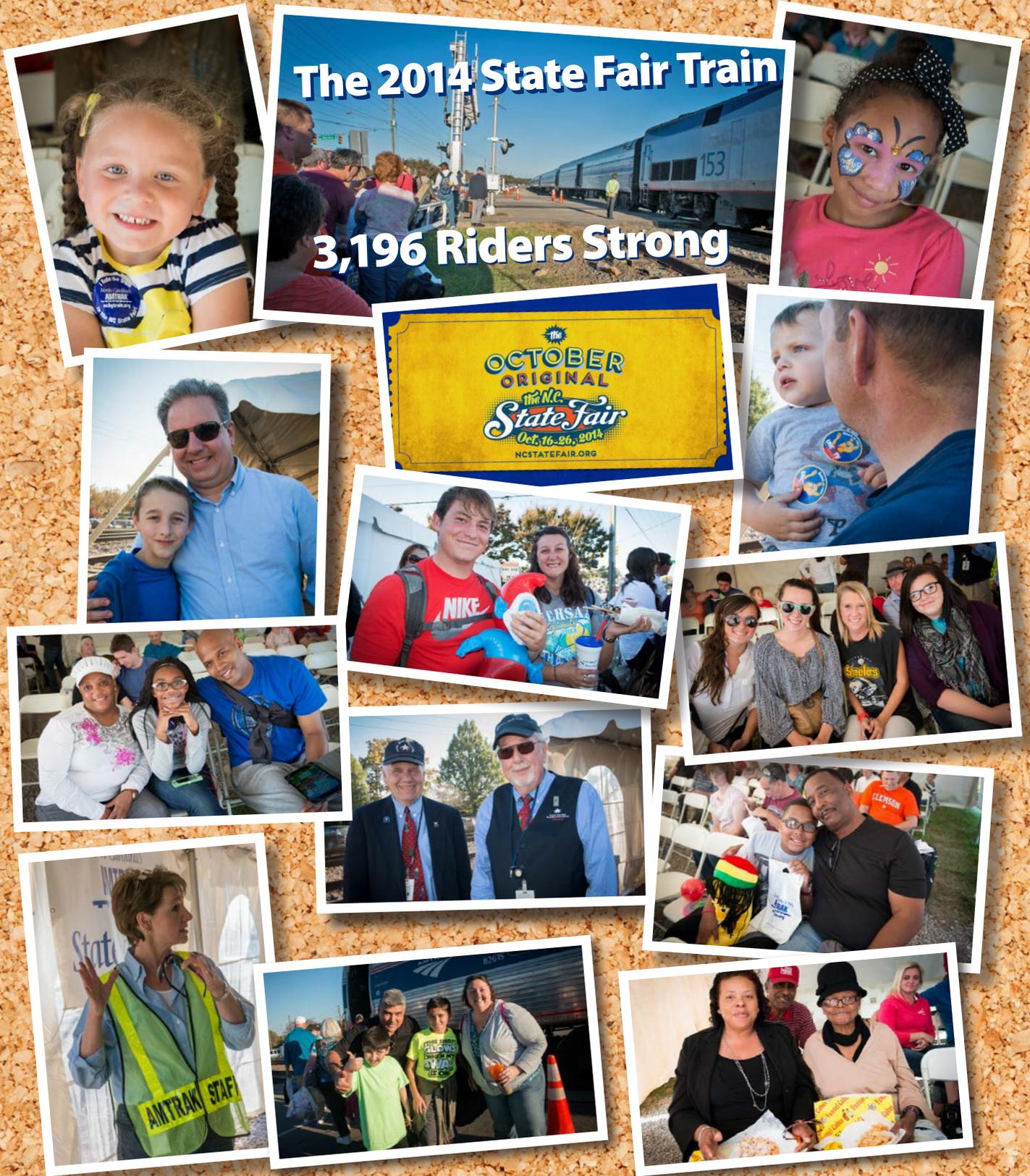
In Concord, the NCDOT project to replace the Cabarrus Avenue bridge over the railroad has advanced to allow removal of the old bridge over the railroad and the adjacent Corban Avenue at-grade railroad crossing. Work is now underway to complete the final piece of a 6-mile track alignment and superelevation improvement that was awaiting the bridge work to be complete. With the completion of this bridge and track work, the last restriction in track speed in this area is removed. There will now be extended miles of continuous 79 mph passenger train operations versus the previous multiple restricted speed locations. The Rail Division has followed and worked with PD&EA, Roadway Design and Structures Management Units in the Division of Highways on developing and delivering this TIP project since 2004.



Roadway improvements included in the B-3421 bridge replacement project allowed the Corban Ave crossing to be closed.

The 2014 State Fair Train

3,196 Riders Strong



Photos by Katy Warner, NCDOT Photographer

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

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2014	2013	% +/-	2014	2013	% +/-
Piedmont	13,246	13,259	0%	\$272,002	\$264,662	3%
Carolinian	22,210	22,868	-3%	\$1,329,931	\$1,394,524	-5%



2014
Ridership
645

Sit back, relax and let us do the driving this holiday season.



North Carolina's
AMTRAK
nchytrain.org
800-BY-TRAIN

Simple and stress free.

PiedmontSM and CarolinianSM are operated as a partnership between Amtrak and NCDOT. Amtrak is a registered service mark of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. Photo courtesy of Rose Corriher.

Where is North Carolina's Amtrak?

November was a busy month for marketing our passenger train service across the state. Rail Division staff, station attendants, Volunteer Train Hosts spread the word about North Carolina's Amtrak at the following events:

Nov. 1-2 – Whirligig Festival

Nov. 5 – NCSU Talley Student Union

Nov. 8-9 – Neuse River RR Day at the NC Fairgrounds

Nov. 13 – Go Triangle Golden Modes

Nov. 15 – NCSU vs. Wake Forest - Football game FanZone Event

Nov. 16 – Elon vs. UNC-C (basketball) @ Elon

Nov. 18 – UNC-G vs. UNC-W (basketball) @ Greensboro Coliseum

Nov. 20 – Duke vs. UNC-CH (football) @ Duke



Gabe Alston, High Point Station Attendant

Bogue Sound baggage/lounge car added to the Piedmont Equipment Fleet

The last baggage/lounge car to be refurbished under the PIP Program, the 400205 "Bogue Sound," returned from Delaware Car Company (DCC) in late October and began daily service on November 17. DCC is still working on 56 seat coaches 400013 and 400014. The division also received two coach shells that will be refurbished as 56 seat coaches 400015 and 400016.

North Carolina's passenger rail program takes great pride in our state's natural resources and beauty. We have named each of our lounge/baggage cars after the largest bodies of water in the state, the sounds. Our passenger coaches are named after state symbols.

Piedmont & Carolinian Train Schedules

Effective November 17, 2014

North Carolina's
AMTRAK
nchytrain.org

South/Westbound

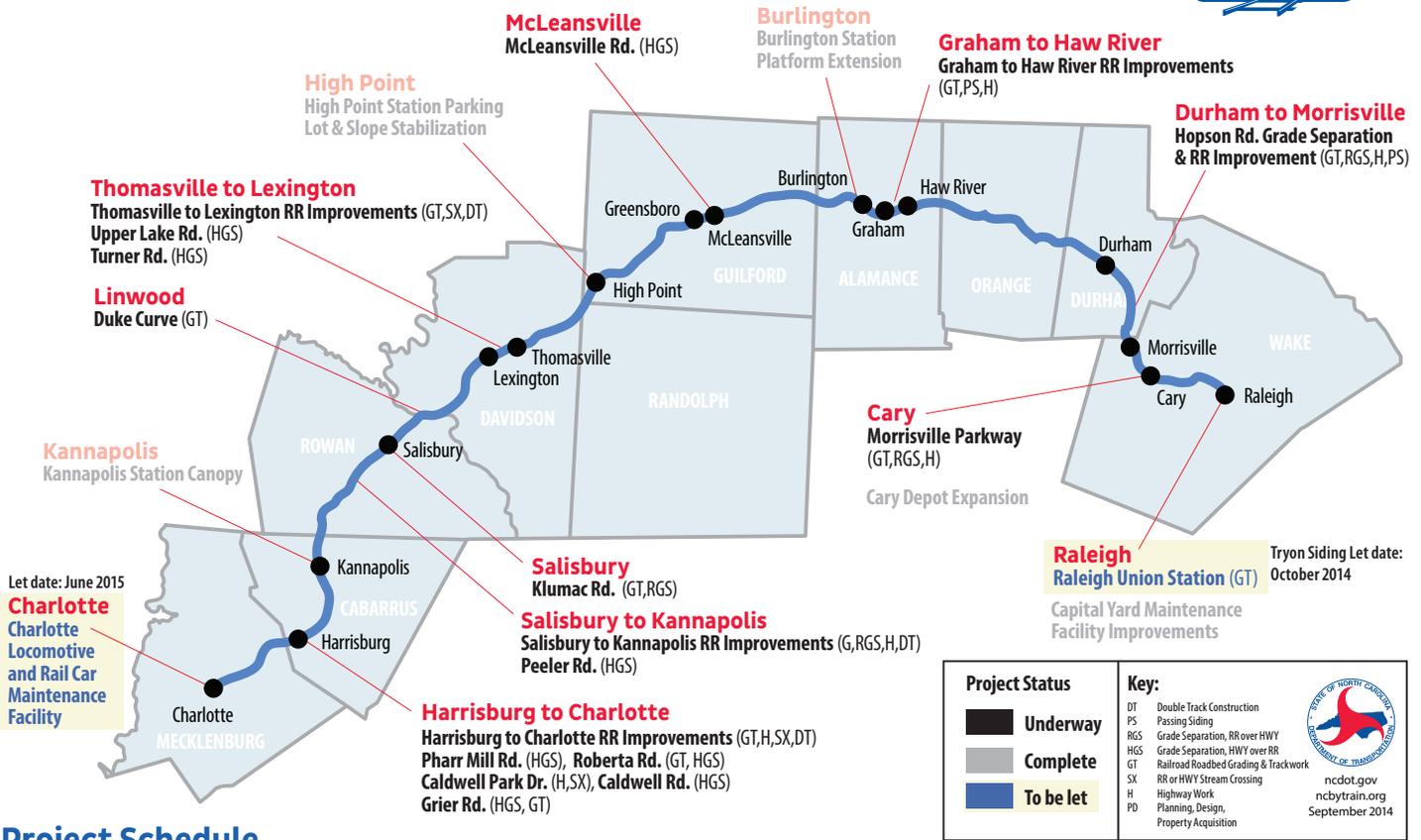
DEPARTS	TRAIN 73	TRAIN 75	TRAIN 79
NEW YORK	N/A	N/A	7:05 AM
NEWARK, NJ	N/A	N/A	7:24 AM
TRENTON, NJ	N/A	N/A	8:03 AM
PHILADELPHIA, PA	N/A	N/A	8:35 AM
WILMINGTON, DE	N/A	N/A	8:58 AM
BALTIMORE, MD	N/A	N/A	9:45 AM
WASHINGTON, DC	N/A	N/A	10:53 AM
ALEXANDRIA, VA	N/A	N/A	11:10 AM
QUANTICO, VA	N/A	N/A	11:36 AM
FREDERICKSBURG, VA	N/A	N/A	11:56 AM
RICHMOND, VA	N/A	N/A	1:08 PM
PETERSBURG, VA	N/A	N/A	1:41 PM
ROCKY MOUNT	N/A	N/A	3:11 PM
WILSON	N/A	N/A	3:30 PM
SELMA	N/A	N/A	4:03 PM
RALEIGH	6:45 AM	11:45 AM	4:50 PM
CARY	6:57 AM	11:57 AM	5:03 PM
DURHAM	7:17 AM	12:17 PM	5:24 PM
BURLINGTON	7:53 AM	12:53 PM	6:01 PM
GREENSBORO	8:18 AM	1:18 PM	6:32 PM
HIGH POINT	8:34 AM	1:34 PM	6:48 PM
SALISBURY	9:08 AM	2:08 PM	7:24 PM
KANNAPOLIS	9:24 AM	2:24 PM	7:41 PM
CHARLOTTE	9:55 AM ^(ar)	2:55 PM ^(ar)	8:12 PM ^(ar)

North/Eastbound

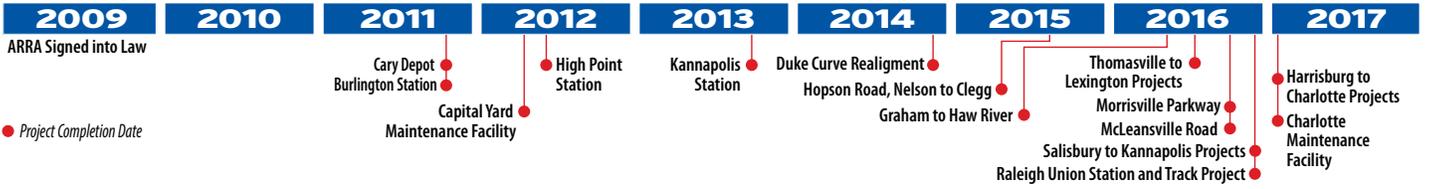
DEPARTS	TRAIN 80	TRAIN 74	TRAIN 76
CHARLOTTE	7:00 AM	12:00 PM	5:15 PM
KANNAPOLIS	7:25 AM	12:25 PM	5:40 PM
SALISBURY	7:43 AM	12:41 PM	5:56 PM
HIGH POINT	8:17 AM	1:14 PM	6:29 PM
GREENSBORO	8:39 AM	1:34 PM	6:49 PM
BURLINGTON	9:01 AM	1:55 PM	7:10 PM
DURHAM	9:42 AM	2:33 PM	7:48 PM
CARY	10:02 AM	2:53 PM	8:08 PM
RALEIGH	10:25 AM	3:11 PM ^(ar)	8:26 PM ^(ar)
SELMA	11:00 AM	N/A	N/A
WILSON	11:30 AM	N/A	N/A
ROCKY MOUNT	11:52 AM	N/A	N/A
PETERSBURG, VA	1:17 PM	N/A	N/A
RICHMOND, VA	2:12 PM	N/A	N/A
FREDERICKSBURG, VA	3:06 PM	N/A	N/A
QUANTICO, VA	3:28 PM	N/A	N/A
ALEXANDRIA, VA	4:02 PM	N/A	N/A
WASHINGTON, DC	4:30 PM	N/A	N/A
BALTIMORE, MD	5:51 PM	N/A	N/A
WILMINGTON, DE	6:43 PM	N/A	N/A
PHILADELPHIA, PA	7:07 PM	N/A	N/A
TRENTON, NJ	7:43 PM	N/A	N/A
NEWARK, NJ	8:27 PM	N/A	N/A
NEW YORK	8:47 PM ^(ar)	8:49 PM ^(ar)	8:49 PM ^(ar) on Sat & Sun Only

Checked Baggage * NC Amtrak Connector Shuttle Meets Train
 Staffed Station (No Checked Baggage) (ar) Arrival

Piedmont Improvement Program – October 2014 Status Report



Project Schedule



ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 10/31/2014)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$42,674,016.60
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$25,682,575.73
Stations & Facilities	\$10,646,734.59
Track & Structures	\$115,120,746.07
CRISP	\$2,180,376.32
Program Totals	\$196,304,449.31 of \$520M awarded FRA Grant Funds

New ARRA Contracts Awarded in October:
17 contracts worth \$7,814,596.17

PIP Milestones



- Thomasville to Lexington Projects:** The Upper Lake Road grade separation (above) in Davidson County within the Bowers to Lake Double Track project opened to highway traffic in October. This is the first grade separation to open to traffic in the PIP program.
- Harrisburg to Charlotte Projects:** The railroad track detour necessary to begin construction of the railroad bridge for future Mallard Creek Church Road extension in Charlotte was cut in on October 27.
- Congestion Mitigation Projects:** The three proposed crossover locations to allow trains to move between main tracks on the CSX A-line (Project P42) were advertised for bids. Construction is expected to begin in early 2015.

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – Mid-October to November 2014



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway grading



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, west approach to bridge



U-4716 Hopson Road bridge construction



U-4716 Hopson Road bridge construction



P-5205 Graham to Haw River, signal installation



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Grading

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – Mid-October to November 2014



C-4901 Bowers to Lake - Turner Road Bridge Paving



C-4901 Bowers to Lake - Bridge over Abbots Creek



P-5206 Reid to N. Kannapolis - Peeler Road Bridge Construction



P-5206 Reid to N. Kannapolis



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Roberta Road Bridge



P-5208 Haydock to Junker - Grading