

North Carolina's Amtrak

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NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



May 2015

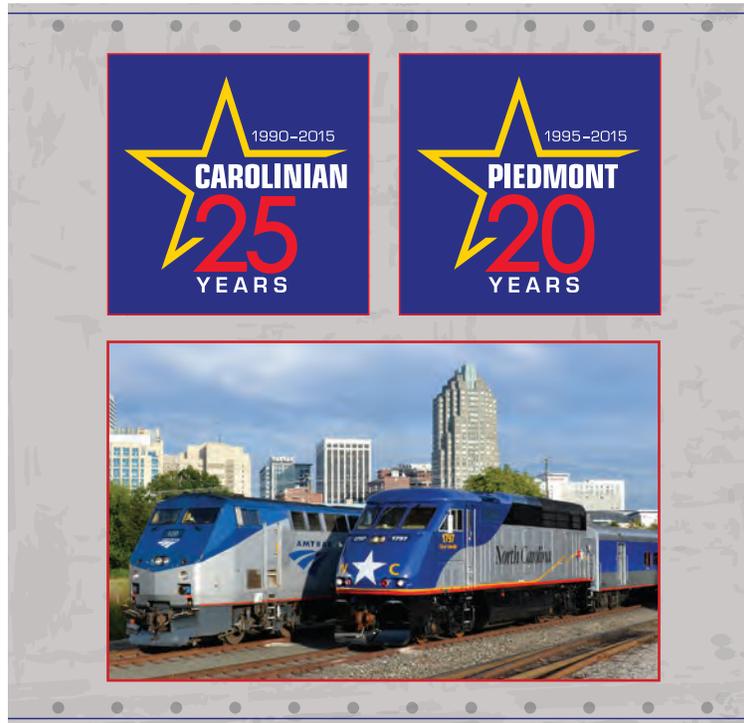
Two Passenger Service Milestone Anniversaries will be Celebrated in May

North Carolina's Amtrak celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the *Carolinian* service inaugural on May 11 and on May 25, the 20th Anniversary of the *Piedmont*. To celebrate, the spring/summer "Kids Ride for \$5" will be offered mid-week all month and on the weekends of May 9, 10, 11 and May 23, 24 and 25. Celebrations will be held at train stations across the state on May 9th to commemorate *Carolinian* service and May 23 to commemorate *Piedmont* service. Since 1990, when passenger service resumed in North Carolina, many improvements have been made to railroads and stations across the state.

In May of 2010, *Piedmont* service was expanded. An additional mid-day round-trip between Charlotte and Raleigh was added to the original two early morning and late afternoon trains, offering passengers more travel time options.

New stations have been constructed in Kannapolis and Cary. Historic stations have been rehabilitated in Salisbury, High Point, Greensboro, Selma, Wilson and Rocky Mount. Durham's new station is an adaptive reuse of a historic tobacco warehouse and Burlington passengers use a waiting room in the Historic Company Shops building owned by the North Carolina Railroad Company.

On May 8 at 11:30am, a groundbreaking will be held for the new Raleigh Union Station, which will be located in the renovated Dillon Supply Company Warehouse Viaduct Building at 510 West



Martin Street. The station will replace the existing Amtrak Station on Cabarrus Street, which routinely experiences overcrowding, too few parking spaces and an inadequate platform to serve longer trains. Planning is underway with the City of Charlotte for a new transportation hub that would bring passenger service to the center of Uptown Charlotte, rather than the crowded, out of date station that now serves the city.

With incremental track and safety improvements over the years, travel time between Raleigh and Charlotte has been reduced by an hour and

ten minutes since service started. This has been made possible by programs funded with federal and state dollars, such as the Passenger Safety Program (1992-1995), Sealed Corridor Program (1994-2004) and North Carolina Railroad Improvement Program (2001-2009). The *Piedmont*

Improvement Program projects, currently underway on the corridor is resulting in even more capacity and safety benefits.



Above: May 11, 1990
Right: May 25, 1995



Please join us at your local train station on May 9 to celebrate the *Carolinian* Anniversary and onboard the train on May 11. The *Piedmont* Anniversary will be celebrated at stations on May 23 and onboard the train on May 25. Join us as we celebrate passenger service in North Carolina and the progress that has been made for passenger rail over the past 25 years.

Ridership & Revenue on NC's Amtrak Service – February 2015 vs. 2014

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2015	2014	% +/-	2015	2014	% +/-
Piedmont	10,934*	12,303	-11%	\$228,747	\$246,6462	-7%
Carolinian	19,434	18,147	7%	\$1,186,842	\$1,018,477	17%

*Trains 73, 74, 75 and 76 were canceled on February 26 due to a winter storm.



CURRENT TRAVEL DEALS

1 North Carolina's **AMTRAK**
ncbytrain.org
800-BY-TRAIN

Simple and stress free.

Kids Ride
each way
\$5
All Summer*



Take your child on a summer adventure.

*Up to 2 kids (age 2-12) ride for \$5 with a regular full fare adult on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays within North Carolina. Valid for travel now – August 27. Use fare code V615 when buying your ticket. Not valid with other offers. Other restrictions may apply.

Wi-Fi Coming to the Piedmont

In response to passenger demand, Wi-Fi service will be available on trains 73, 74, 75 and 76 beginning Monday, May 25th – the 20th Anniversary of the *Piedmont* Inaugural. A 50¢ per ticket surcharge will be added to the cost of North Carolina's Amtrak tickets to pay for the cost of the service.



The N.C. Train Hosts volunteered 1,506 hours in March, supporting North Carolina's Amtrak onboard trains and at events.



New baggage cars were added to the Carolinian train sets in late March, replacing baggage cars that were built in 1949/50 and had millions of miles on them.

2 Travel Mid-Week & Save 10%

Get 10% off the price of your ticket automatically if you travel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Tickets must be reserved three days in advance to get the discount. No promo code is required. Purchase tickets at ncbytrain.org.





This 'Canes fan scored big by visiting the North Carolina's Amtrak table at the February 24 Hurricanes game. As part of the advertising partnership with the 'Canes, the "register to win" prize was a hockey stick signed by the team and two round-trip tickets onboard North Carolina's Amtrak. When Danny Modlin stopped by the Rail offices to pick up his prize, like a true hockey fan, he was dressed for the occasion.

E 911

Rail Emergency Communications TRAINING



A new training module has been developed by BeRailSafe staff for 911 emergency center staff and dispatchers. This two-hour class spells out protocol for handling the different types of rail incident calls, both emergency and non-emergency that can come in to the dispatch centers. For more information or to schedule a class, email Roger Smock at rdsmock1@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT Rail Division wins SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program Grant to Streamline Processes, Coordination and Partnerships with Railroads

When highway projects cross over, under, or parallel to railroad rights-of-way, extensive coordination is required between the organizations responsible for these structures. Although most projects go smoothly, delays in development and construction do occur. Railroads must carefully evaluate NCDOT projects in terms of safety, engineering, and operational impacts both during construction and for decades afterward. For NCDOT, delays incurred while waiting for railroad reviews and agreements can increase project costs and extend renewal needs for users. Developing mutual understanding and streamlining processes will save money and time for railroads, NCDOT and mutual agencies. With the SHRP2 grant, NCDOT will be able to better document and streamline processes and project coordination between all parties involved.



Track Improvements on Wilmington Terminal Rail to serve Vertex Rail Technologies, LLC

The NCDOT has recently entered into agreements to assist with track improvements on the Wilmington Terminal Railroad to serve Vertex Rail Technologies, LLC. Vertex is developing a manufacturing facility to assemble new, safer tank cars and covered hopper cars. These newer cars will aid the freight rail industry in advancing their goal of "...the safe and efficient movement of freight" The new Vertex manufacturing facility in Wilmington is projected to provide hundreds of new jobs over the next few years. Support from the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement fund and the department's Economic Development fund will be used for this project.



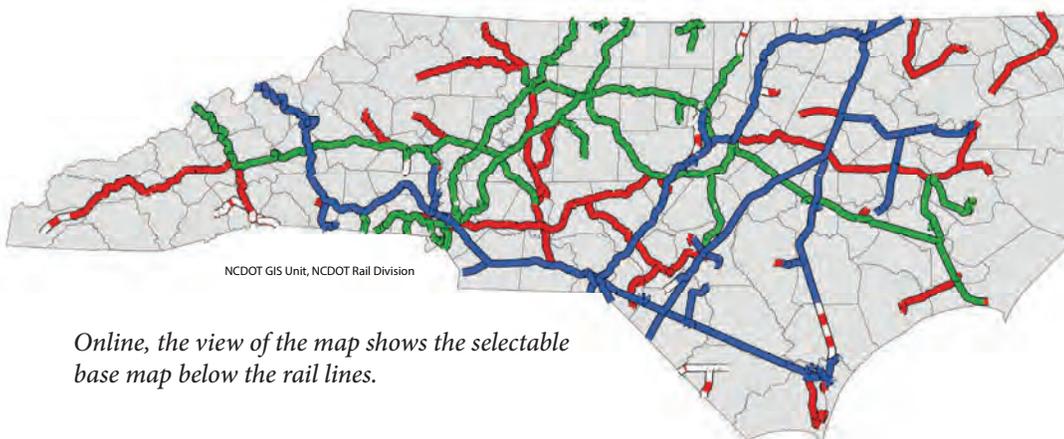
SAVE THE DATE!

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will host its annual workshop on best practices for right-of-way fatality and trespass prevention Aug. 4-6 in Charlotte, N.C. The conference will address community outreach and education; enforcement; design, technology and infrastructure; intention acts/deaths; and pedestrian safety. Accidents at grade crossings and trespassing account for 94 percent of all railroad fatalities, according to the FRA.



AUG 04-06
CHARLOTTE, NC

N.C. Rail System Map now available on GO! NC Website



NCDOT GIS Unit, NCDOT Rail Division

Online, the view of the map shows the selectable base map below the rail lines.



By zooming in on the map, details such as rail/highway crossings are visible.

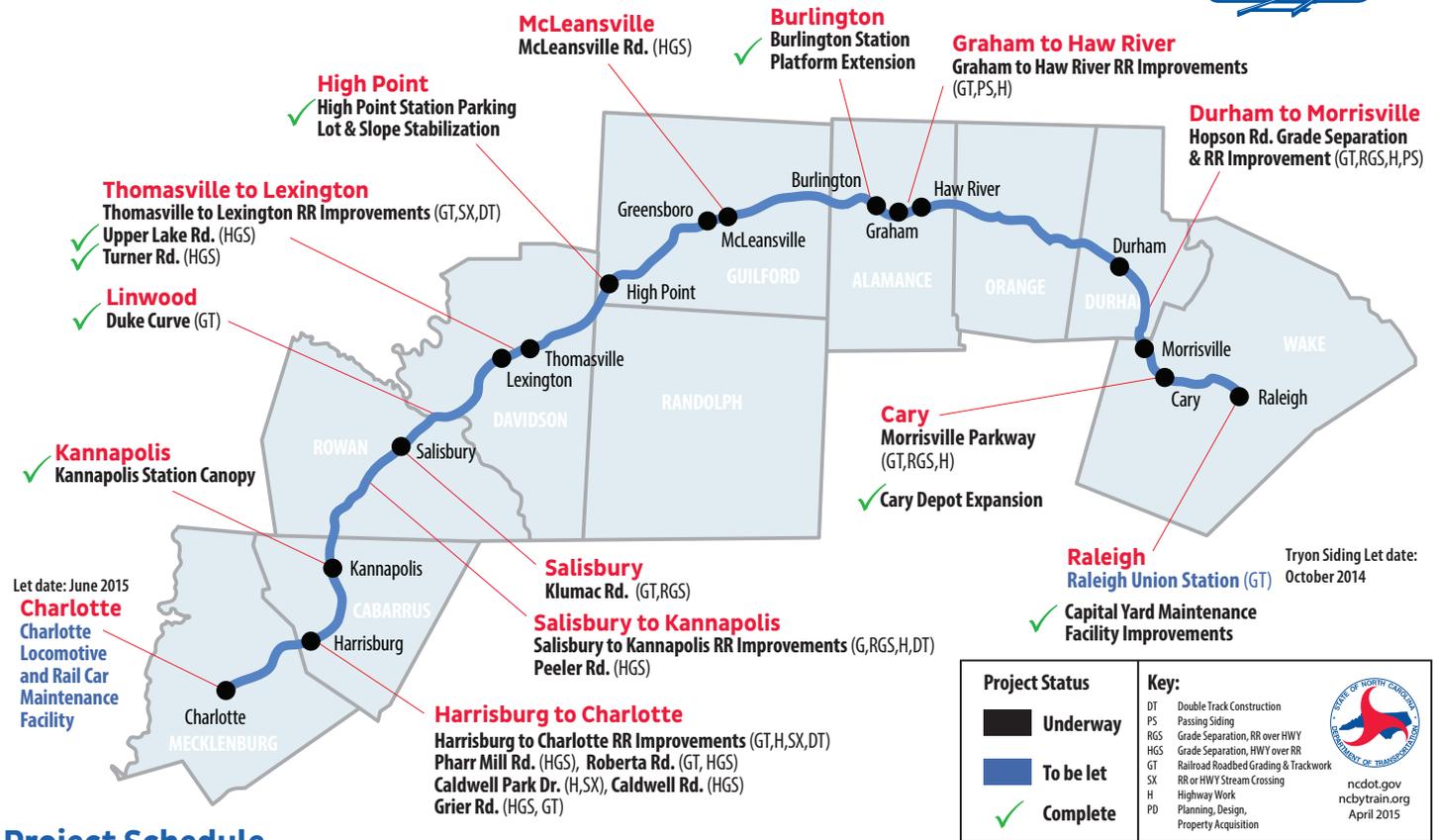
NCDOT Rail Division has been actively working to create an interactive GIS data layer depicting the rail lines across the state. The North Carolina Rail System data is available through the **GO! NC** website.

ncdot.maps.arcgis.com/home

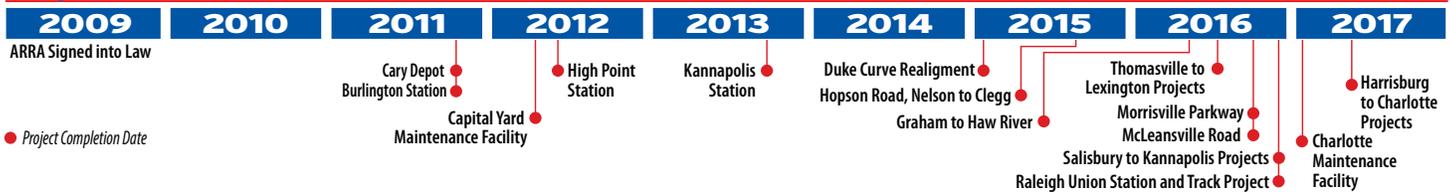
To find the NCDOT North Carolina Rail System map, click on the tab to the right of the maps gallery. The rail map is on the second page.

GO! NC is the NCDOT portal through which NCDOT staff, business partners, and others can access and publish geospatial information pertaining to transportation in North Carolina. The Rail System layer currently provides information on location of the tracks, major facilities such as yards, and road crossings. Additional information is being added to the layer and a query function to provide a user information about a specific segment of track.

Piedmont Improvement Program – March 2015 Status Report



Project Schedule



ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 3/31/2014)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$45,128,595
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$26,428,769
Stations & Facilities	\$10,947,245
Track & Structures	\$154,518,863
CRISP	\$2,180,376
Program Totals	\$239,203,848 of \$520M awarded FRA Grant Funds

Five new contracts totaling \$541,408 were awarded in March.

PIP Milestones

Lexington – Approximately 2 miles of new main track was completed and cut-in to service on April 13. This critical event was made possible by the efforts of NCDOT and NS construction staff and contractors to complete roadbed, bridge, and track and signal work on schedule. Train service on the new track will allow NCDOT contractors to complete necessary bridge work for the second track and for Norfolk Southern to complete track construction towards the north end of the 4-mile long project.



Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – March 2015



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, Grading of Approach to Bridge



U-4716 Hopson Road Bridge Construction



U-4716 Nelson to Clegg Passing Siding, Sub-ballast



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Passing Siding



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, Signal Work



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, Grading

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – March 2015



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, Track Construction



P-5206 Peeler Road Bridge Construction



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, Placing Cross-ties



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Track Construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Rocky River Bridge



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Caldwell Road Bridge Construction