

NCDOT Crossing Blitz Success in Johnston County

On June 3, the NCDOT Rail Division worked with local law enforcement to hold two simultaneous Crossing Blitzes in Johnston County.

The blitzes were held at the intersection of the railroad and Peedin Road in Smithfield and the intersection of the railroad and Ricks Road in Selma. Law enforcement officers passed out educational materials about railroad crossing safety to 632 motorists.



In 2015 so far there have been 25 known grade crossing collisions and 13 known incidents of rail trespassing.

Participating Law Enforcement Agencies included: Johnston

County, State Highway Patrol, Selma Police Department, Smithfield Police Department and CSX Police Department.

The crossing blitzes, coordinated by Rail Division's BeRailSafe program, were held in conjunction with the international event, ILCAD. The International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) focuses on educational measures and the promotion of safe behavior at and around level (railroad highway grade) crossings.



Have a Safe Summer by Staying off the Tracks

As summer break starts across North Carolina, the NCDOT wants to remind parents and students of the dangers and legal issues of walking along, playing on or taking pictures on railroad tracks.

- > **Railroad tracks and the land along them, known as the "right of way," are privately owned by the railroad companies. By being on the railroad tracks, you are trespassing and can be arrested or fined by police.**
- > **Trains do not run according to a strict timetable. Freight trains run anytime and passenger trains can be delayed and show up unexpectedly. Always expect a train at any time from either direction. There is no safe time to be on the tracks, ever.**
- > **Trains cannot stop quickly to avoid hitting someone on the tracks, and they certainly cannot swerve. The train will likely hit you before you can get out of the way. This means that if you are on the tracks it is possible that a train would not be able to stop in time to avoid hitting you.**

So far in 2015, 9 people have been struck and killed in North Carolina because they were illegally on railroad tracks. In 2014, the total was 20.

All trespassing deaths and incidents can be avoided. It is never okay to be on the tracks. Always make sure to cross the tracks at a designated location such as an at-grade crossing, a bridge or an underpass.

Please help us spread the word that railroad tracks are not safe and should not be used as shortcuts for any reason. Help us save lives by staying off of the tracks.

NCDOT Rail Division and Railway Association of North Carolina Continue Partnership

On May 18th, staff from the Rail Division attended the Railway Association of North Carolina's (RANC) annual meeting in Pinehurst. NCDOT Chief Deputy Secretary Nick Tennyson, Rail Director Paul Worley and Neil Perry, Rail Planning Manager, spoke to the association regarding the NCDOT's ongoing initiatives and continuing efforts on behalf of the state's railroad companies. Current initiatives include the Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement (FRRCSI) projects, with over 14 planned across the state, and efficiency programs to bring state and federal programs to fruition expeditiously.



The NCDOT Rail Division – RANC partnership is a key relationship in facilitating the state's economic development goals and safety program efforts throughout the rail network.

ASLRRA President Linda Darr visits Carolina Coastal Railway

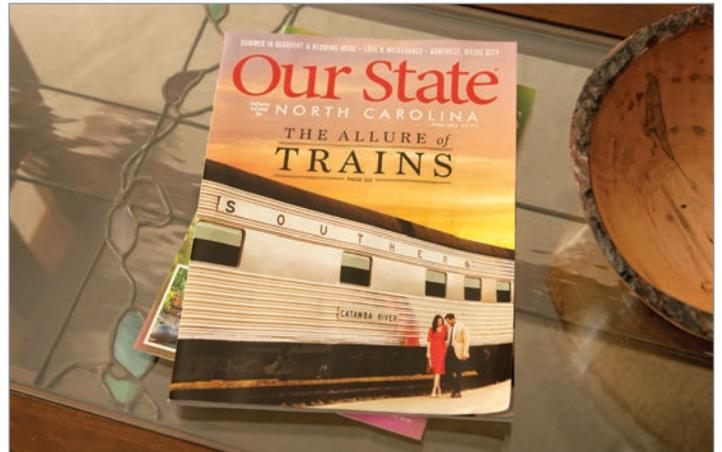
In advance of her speech at the Rail Association of NC Conference in Pinehurst, American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association President Linda Darr made a stop in Wilson to visit the Carolina Coastal Railway (CLNA). She was given a tour by CLNA President Doug Golden, where she saw first hand the rail yard, operations and she visited with a several CLNA customers.



ASLRRA President Linda Darr and CLNA President Doug Golden

Golden shared with her that NCDOT's Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety program (FRRCSI) had helped to build their reload terminal in Greenville, which has in its first nine months of operation, handled 550 cars. Darr was pleased to learn that NCDOT has programs such as FRRCSI in place to work with shortlines on maintenance and new business development.

Her speech at the RANC Conference focused mainly on how the national and state associations could work together.



The June 2015 issue of Our State magazine features two rail-related stories. The first article, "Grand Stations, The nearly-vanished romance of our train stations, rediscovered," is written by Davidson writer and author Chuck McShane. The second article, "A Little Farther Down the Line" is written by Duncan Muttell of Pittsboro, who finds home on a railroad-inspired journey of the heart aboard the Carolinian between Rocky Mount and Charlotte..

N.C. to D.C. Train Trip with Our State

The first *Our State* N.C. to D.C. Trip was June 4-7. The trip, which included guided tours to many D.C. points of interest was a sellout. Because of the popularity of the trip, *Our State* and Diana Cabot-Miller of Amtrak Marketing scheduled a second trip in June and a third trip for mid-September.

Below are comments from two passengers as they boarded the *Carolinian* for their trip.

"I love trains. I've always loved them. I just like to sit back and let someone else do the driving and look out the window. I just love trains! I'm with my two friends across the aisle here, the three of us, and we're just real excited about the trip. I read about it in Our State, and called my friends and said, "let's do this," so here we are!"

"Well my wife doesn't yell at me for driving too fast when I travel by train! (Laughs) It's just relaxing. We get Our State magazine and we knew they'd do a first class job, so we thought we'd check it out."

For more information about the next *Our State* trip to D.C., contact Emily Barrett, AAA, at 800-933-2621, ext. 16019.





CURRENT TRAVEL DEALS

1 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 through August 27. Use face code V615.



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.

Piedmont Passengers enjoy Wi-fi Service

Piedmont Connect, the new Wi-Fi service on the *Piedmont*, rolled out in May. Lynn Harris of McDowell Engineering, who is the mechanical engineering contractor for the Rail Division, worked with ViaSat, the internet service provider, to build a system that was especially designed for the *Piedmont* equipment and corridor to ensure optimal service. Wi-fi onboard the *Piedmont* trains was one of the top passenger requests on surveys and comments to the Volunteer Train Hosts. Passengers have been very pleased with and appreciative for the service. All of NC's Amtrak trains are now equipped with wi-fi.

Piedmont **CONNECT** 
WI-FI ONBOARD

Now available on Trains 73, 74, 75 and 76.

Carolinian and Piedmont Anniversary Celebrations – May 2015



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

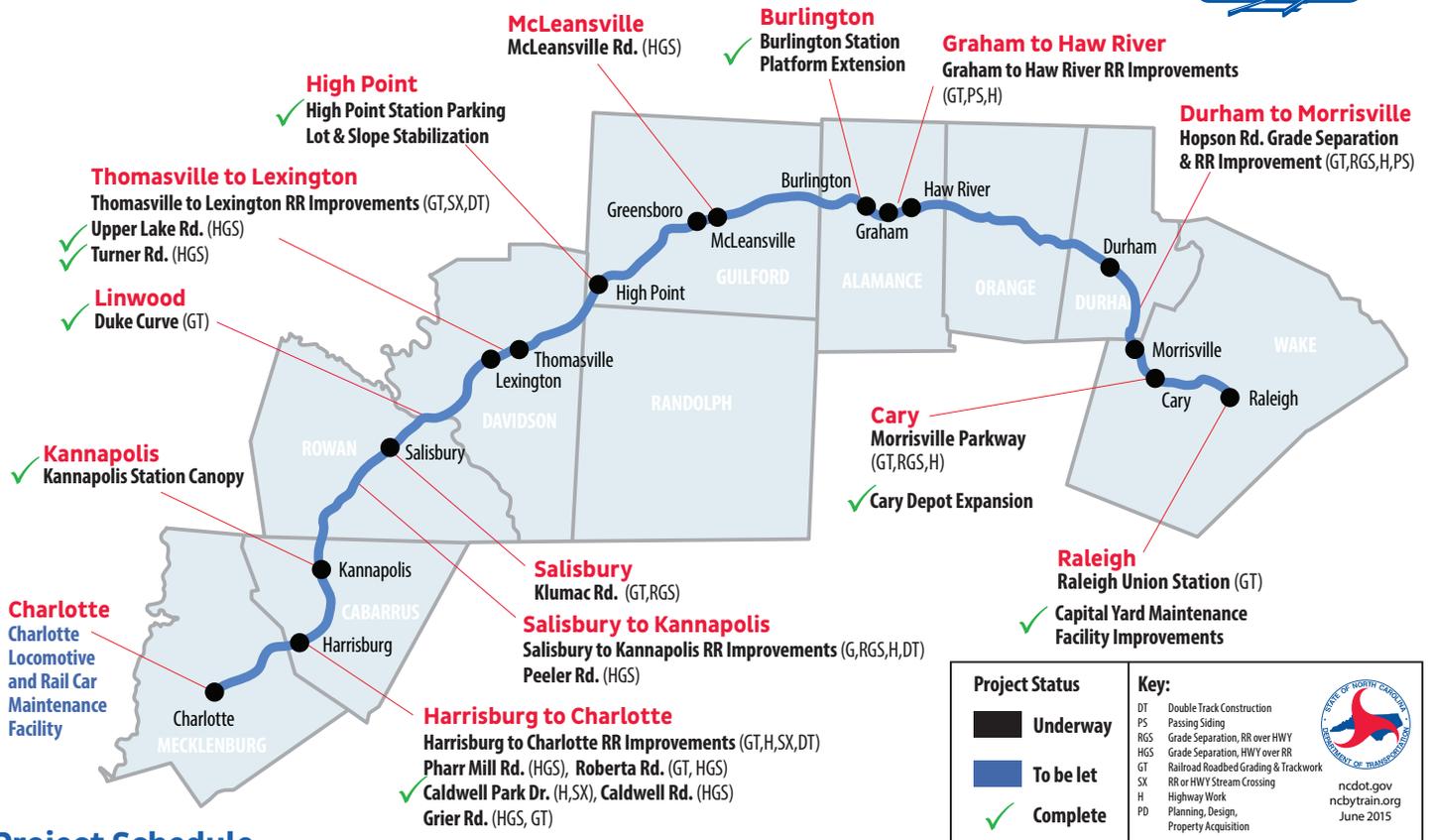
 	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2015	2014	% +/-	2015	2014	% +/-
Piedmont	13,534	14,353	-6%	\$268,304	\$291,984	-8%
Carolinian	26,666	27,774	-4%	\$1,690,622	\$1,690,553	0%



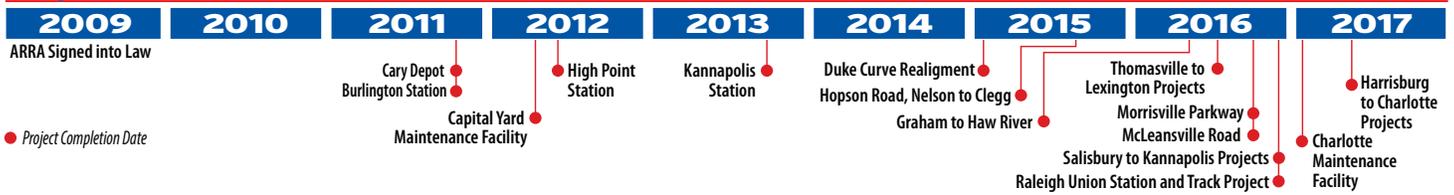
N.C. Train Hosts volunteered 1,207 hours in May, supporting North Carolina's Amtrak onboard trains and at events.

*Trains 73, 74, 75 and 76 were cancelled on April 13 for PIP track work.

Piedmont Improvement Program – June 2015 Status Report



Project Schedule



ARRA Funds Spent to Date (effective 5/31/2015)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$46,721,740
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$26,685,366
Stations & Facilities	\$13,466,263
Track & Structures	\$164,968,853
CRISP	\$2,180,377
Program Totals	\$254,022,599 of \$520M awarded FRA Grant Funds

Three new contracts totaling \$51,032 were awarded in May.

PIP Milestones

Durham – The 3.5-mile Nelson to Clegg passing siding was put into service on June 8, 2015. The work included putting in service the new track over the newly completed Hopson Road railroad bridge, two major track cut-ins, removing the Church Street at-grade crossing and putting new signals in service. With this work complete and trains shifted to the new siding track, crews will now complete the final grading and track construction for the project to place the new main track in service.



First train crossing new railroad bridge over Hopson Road.

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – April, May, June 2015



P-60 Congestion Mitigation – Enfield Turnout Construction



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, grading



U-4716 Nelson to Clegg Passing Siding, track construction



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Passing Siding, grading



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, structures



U-3459 Klumac Road, bridge construction

Piedmont Improvement Program Project Photos – April, May, June 2015



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, track construction



P-5206 Peeler Road, bridge construction



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, track construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, bridge column construction



P-5500C Tryon Siding grading



P-5500C Tryon Siding sub-ballast