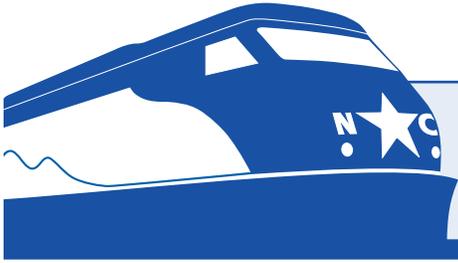




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NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



October 2016

Rail Projects to be Included in Next State Transportation Plan

On August 24, NCDOT released the scores for projects evaluated at the Regional Impact funding tier for the Draft 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP identifies funding and scheduling for transportation projects over a ten-year horizon and is updated every two years. Data-driven criteria such as congestion mitigation, benefit/cost, safety, and economics are combined with local input to determine which projects will be selected for funding.

"A strong transportation network is the backbone of the state's economy," Governor Pat McCrory said. "We took the politics out of transportation planning to ensure roads and other important infrastructure are prioritized based on need. These projects demonstrate the process is working as intended to make smart decisions that keep North Carolina moving."

Projects for Rail include the following:

- **Improving the state's freight rail network and reducing train delays:**
 - the extension of a siding in Jamestown, Guilford County
 - a new lead track for Kimberly Clark in Lexington
 - a new third track to enter Pomona Yard in Greensboro
 - a new track and structures in uptown Charlotte to move passenger trains off the Norfolk Southern main line
 - a half-mile connector track in Charlotte that will complete a wye to turn trains
- **Grade separation projects to improve the safety of NC's rail network by reducing the possibility of train and vehicle collisions, while reducing traffic delays caused by trains:**
 - New Hope Church Road and Durant Road in Raleigh
 - Ellis Road and Cornwallis Road in Durham
 - Northeast Maynard Road and Harrison Avenue in Cary
 - Franklin Boulevard in Greensboro
 - a new location in North Kannapolis/Landis
- **Purchasing five new bi-level passenger cars to improve capacity and ease of passenger loading on the Piedmont service between Raleigh and Charlotte.**

Following the scoring of projects at the Statewide and Regional tiers, the final 30% of available funding will be allocated to projects at the Division Needs tier by weighing local input and data equally. The complete draft of the 2018-2027 STIP is then expected to be released for public comment in January 2017.

Rail Projects

3
Statewide Tier
\$122 M

15
Regional Tier
\$233.9 M

Fall is just around the corner and so is the North Carolina State Fair.



For 21 years, NC By Train and Amtrak have provided a special stop at the State Fair. Fairgoers can take the Carolinian, which will make two stops daily beginning October 14 and continuing through October 23, and arrive across the street from the fair. Tickets are now available via the website below. Enter station code NSF for this special stop.

Visit www.ncbytrain.org for more information. Some restrictions may apply.



The Kinston & Snow Hill Railroad is now serving the Global TransPark

Gulf & Ohio Railways (G&O) announced that a new short line railroad, the Kinston & Snow Hill Railroad (KSH), has been added to the G&O family of companies. The Kinston & Snow Hill Railroad pays homage to the short line railroad that operated from 1903-1913 on the same line. The railroad is located on a 5.7 mile industrial park spur that is owned by NCDOT and serves the NC Global TransPark in Kinston. The KSH is able to provide service to the national rail network system with an interchange point with Norfolk Southern in Kinston.

"We look forward to exploring the opportunities that we see this rail line offering," said Peter Claussen, Vice Chairman of G&O. "It is truly a unique piece of property and presents a lot of growth potential." The G&O also operates two other short line railroads in North Carolina, the Laurinburg and Southern and the Yadkin Valley Railroad.



Out and About with NC BY TRAIN



Bob Kane represents NC BY TRAIN at the Queen City Battle of the Bands in Charlotte



Alison Boswell shares info and schedules with students at Johnson C. Smith University

Ride the Train to 2016 Fall Events



October 1

Selma

ma-nc.com/railroad-days-festival



October 7 & 8

Rocky Mount

bbqthrowdown.net



NCSTATEFAIR.ORG

October 13-23—Special Stop

Raleigh

ncstatefair.org



October 22—Special Stop

Lexington

barbecuefestival.com



October 29

Hamlet

hamletnc.us/seaboard.html



November 5 & 6

Wilson

whirligigfestivalnc.org

Train Service for Select Carolinas Panthers Games

Passengers headed to 1 p.m. Sunday games on Nov. 13, Dec. 11 or Dec. 24 can take Piedmont Train 73 from Raleigh at 6:45 a.m. or board at one of the other seven stations along the way and return on Piedmont Train 76 at 5:15 p.m.

The Charlotte Area Transit System is picking up passengers at the Charlotte station and dropping them off a few blocks from Bank of America Stadium. ([View a map.](#)) The fare is \$2.20 for one-way service and \$4.40 for round-trip service.

For info and to purchase tickets:
www.ncbytrain.org

Rail Division Retirement

Kirby Warrick, Project Manager in the Surfaces & Encroachments Unit, retired on August 31 after more than 29 years with the State of North Carolina. Kirby began his career with NCDOT in the Right of Way Unit before moving to a position in the Utilities Division. Kirby has been with the Rail Division for the past seven years. Throughout he has been an instrumental part of railroad coordination on both TIP projects and Rail Division led projects. He has been a valuable resource for many right of way questions and research for all of NCDOT over the years and he will be missed. We wish him the best in his retirement.

NCDOT Makes Improvements in Clarkton



Improvements to US 701 Business Crossing

The NCDOT Rail Division recently worked with Division 6 staff to let a contract for roadway improvements to North Railroad Street, South Railroad Street, and the U.S. 701 Business railroad crossing in the Town of Clarkton. These improvements were made in conjunction with the closure of the Elm Street at-grade crossing on the CSXT rail line. The town approved the project in June 2015 and Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement (FRRCSI) funded the \$200,000 project.

The project, which included the closure of Elm Street, also involved the following improvements: paving of a portion of North Railroad Street from U.S. 701 to Elm Street; resurfacing North Railroad Street from Elm Street to U.S. 701 Business; resurfacing South Railroad Street from the Clarkton Rescue Services Building to Clark Street; and an improved U.S. 701 Business crossing.



South Railroad Street resurfaced.

Ridership & Revenue on NC's Amtrak Service – *July 2016 vs. 2015

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2016	2015	% +/-	2016	2015	% +/-
Piedmont	12,809	14,270	-10%	\$261,292	\$278,597	-6%
Carolinian	28,854	29,357	-2%	\$2,008,241	\$2,072,062	-3%

1,016

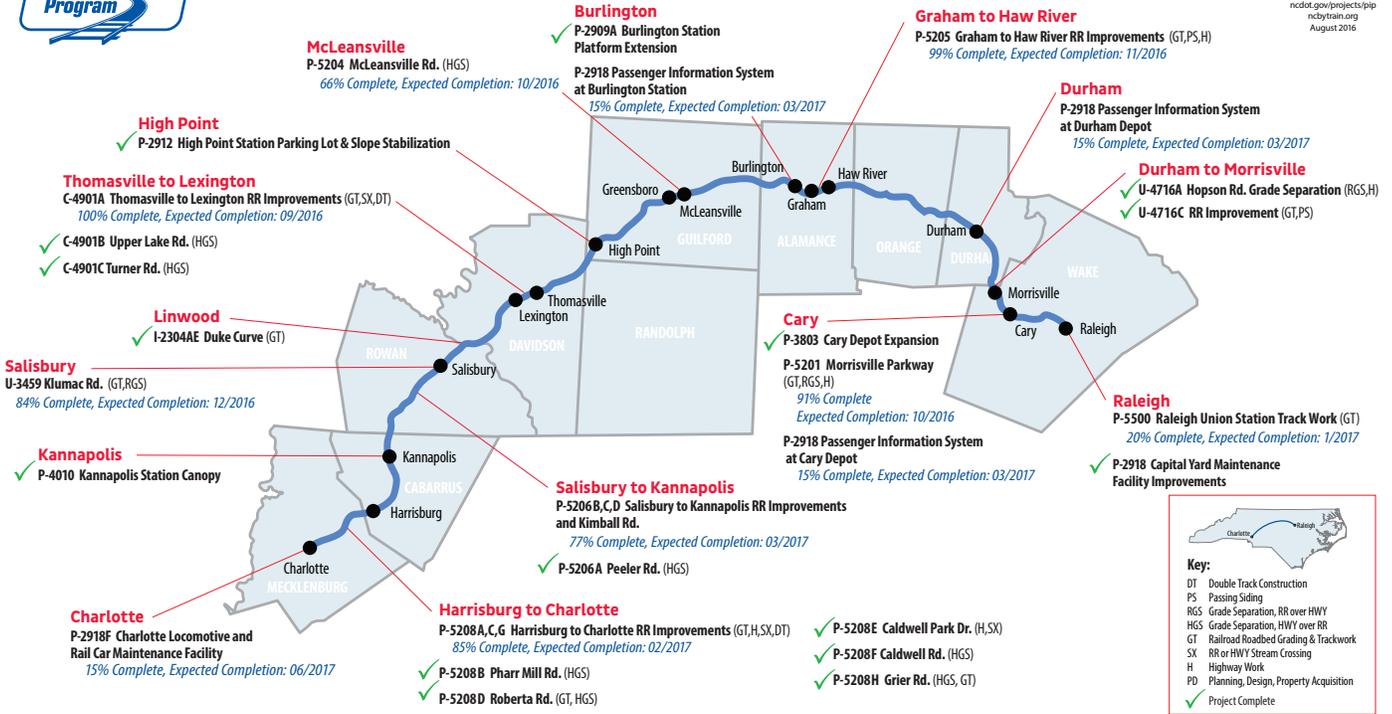
Hours Volunteered by N.C. Train Hosts in July, supporting NC By Train onboard and at events.



July 2016 service modifications and annulments impacted two Carolinian trains. On July 13, Carolinian trains operated between Charlotte and Raleigh only to accommodate CSX track work north of Selma on the A Line. Additional disruptions for Piedmont Improvement Program project work will continue to occur as necessary through completion of the project. Average gasoline prices were \$0.47/gallon lower in July 2016 than in July 2015 (EIA Weekly Retail Gasoline for Lower Atlantic region).



Piedmont Improvement Program – August 2016 Status Report



Note: % is NCDOT Contract Completion percentage

2 Locomotives
 40% Complete
 Expected Completion Date: 11 & 12/2016



NC By Train – Piedmont Equipment ✓ 5 Locomotives ✓ 11 Railcars

2 Cab Control Units
 70% Complete
 Expected Completion Date: 10 & 12/2016
2 Additional Cab Control Units from non-ARRA funding*

PIP Milestones

Harrisburg - The Roberta Road extension and grade separation (*below*) was opened to traffic on August 8, and the adjacent Robinson Church Road crossing was closed, improving safety and mobility in the Town of Harrisburg. Secretary Nick Tennyson, state and local officials and local veterans participated in a ribbon cutting event on August 18 commemorating the roadway opening.



McLeansville - The McLeansville grade separation was opened to traffic on August 12. Remaining roadway work and associated crossing closures are anticipated to be complete in October.

China Grove - A 2.5-mile track cut-in of the new Main 1 track through China Grove and on the new bridge over Kimball Road was completed in August. The completion of this track allows for the completion of the second track and of Kimball Road extension.



Morrisville - Secretary Nick Tennyson, along with state and local officials, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Morrisville Parkway grade separation project (*above*). The bridge opened to traffic on August 27. Late phase grading to remove the old railroad roadbed is expected to be complete by the end of October.

Spent to Date of \$520M (eff. 8/31/2016)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$ 53,274,450
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$31,002,586
Stations & Facilities	\$46,212,410
Track & Structures	\$294,709,204
CRISP	\$2,180,376
Program Totals	\$427,379,026
Two new contracts totaling \$23,331 were awarded in August.	

Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Photos – August 2016



P-5500 Raleigh Union Station construction



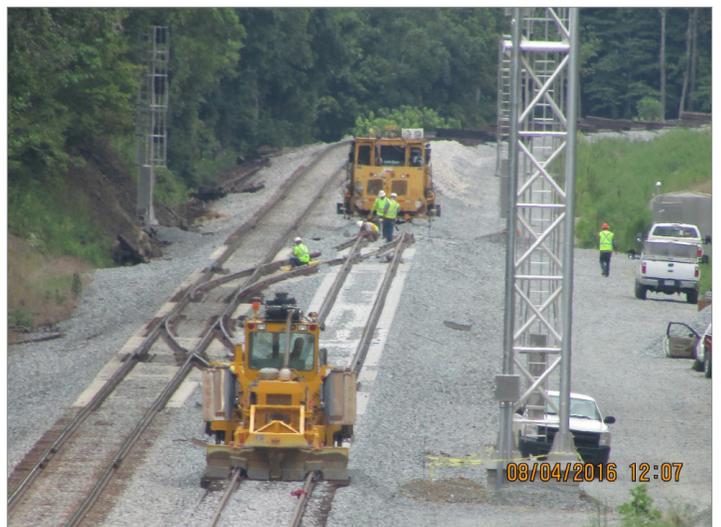
P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, open to traffic



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Passing Siding construction



P-5204 McLeansville Road, open to traffic



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, track construction

Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Photos – August 2016



U-3459 Klumac Road, roadway paving



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, track construction Thom Street



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, track on bridge over Kimball Road



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Roberta Road open to construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, track construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Coddle Creek bridge construction