



Southeast Rail Forum | March 17, 2016

*Planning for Change
Current Projects and Initiatives*

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Rail Division Mission

The mission and goals for NCDOT are not specific to any single transportation mode. They apply to all NCDOT programs that impact the state's multimodal transportation network, including rail.

The NCDOT Rail Division's mission is the “...safe and efficient movement of people and goods on North Carolina's railroads through freight, passenger and safety programs, supporting job creation and economic growth.”



Piedmont Improvement Program Funding

2010 – NCDOT was awarded \$520 million in FRA ARRA grants to fund improvements along the rail corridor between Charlotte and Raleigh.

Projects benefit Passenger and Freight:

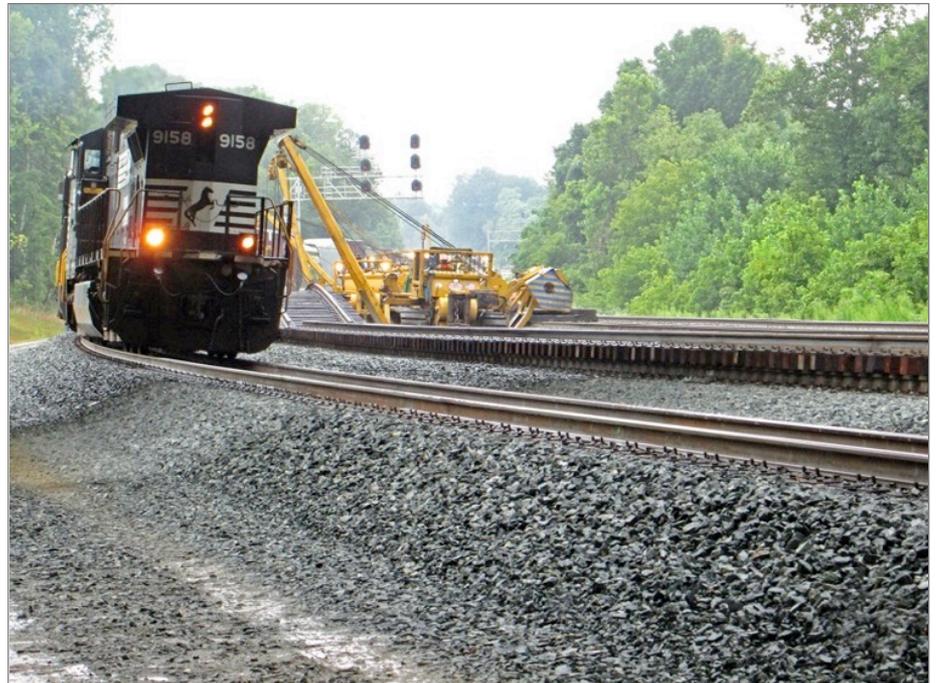
- Safer and more reliable train service
- Increased railroad capacity
- Job growth and commercial development opportunities
- Better connectivity between Raleigh and Charlotte and towns in between
- Better equipment and stations to support North Carolina's *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* train service
- Introduction of a 3rd and 4th Frequency



Piedmont Improvement Program (PIP)

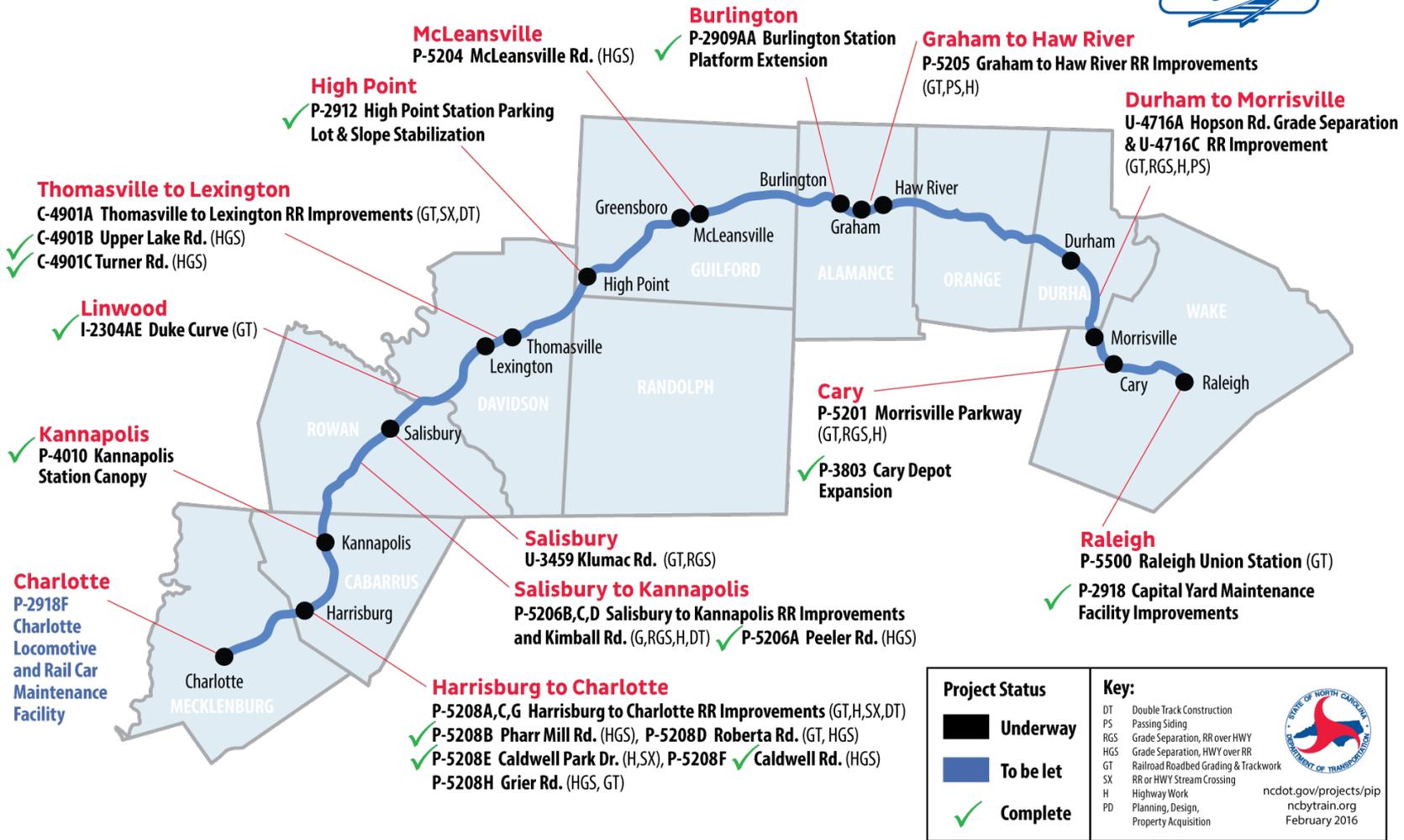
2010-2017 – \$520M Federal ARRA Funding

- 5 Station Improvement Projects
- 2 Locomotive & Rail Car Maintenance Facility Projects
- NC BYTRAIN Passenger Coaches, Locomotives, Cab Control Units
- 12 Grade Separations
- 23 Public Crossing Closures
- 15 Private Crossing Closures
- 2 Passing Sidings (5 miles)
- 3 Double Track Projects (26 miles)





Piedmont Improvement Program Projects



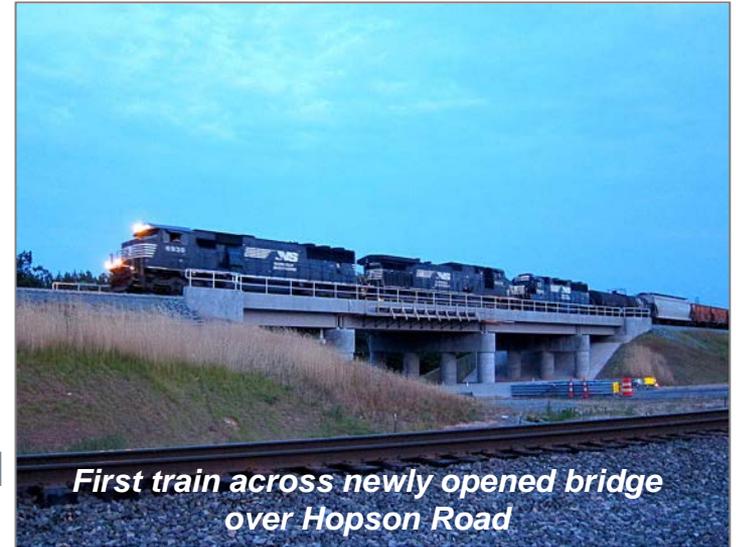
North Carolina's Amtrak – Piedmont Equipment – 7 Locomotives, 11 Railcars, 5 Cab Control Units



Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Status

Work to date:

- 6 bridges completed
- 21 at-grade crossings closed
- Station improvements complete
 - Cary, High Point, Kannapolis, Burlington
- Raleigh Maintenance Facility expansion complete
- 5 locomotives rebuilt, 10 railcars refurbished



What we expect to complete in 2016?

- The remaining 6 bridges and 17 crossing closures
- All passing sidings between Greensboro and Cary
- Majority of the second track construction between Charlotte and Greensboro

In 2017 all PIP Projects will be complete

- All remaining projects between Charlotte and Greensboro
- Charlotte Maintenance Facility and support tracks

Piedmont Improvement Program



Piedmont Improvement Program



Piedmont Improvement Program



Piedmont Improvement Program



Adam Schultz Photo

Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund

- Established 2013 by the General Assembly using annual NCRR dividends
- \$26.M allocated to date
 - \$19.2M SFY 2014
 - \$3.75M SFY 2015
 - \$3.75M SFY 2016

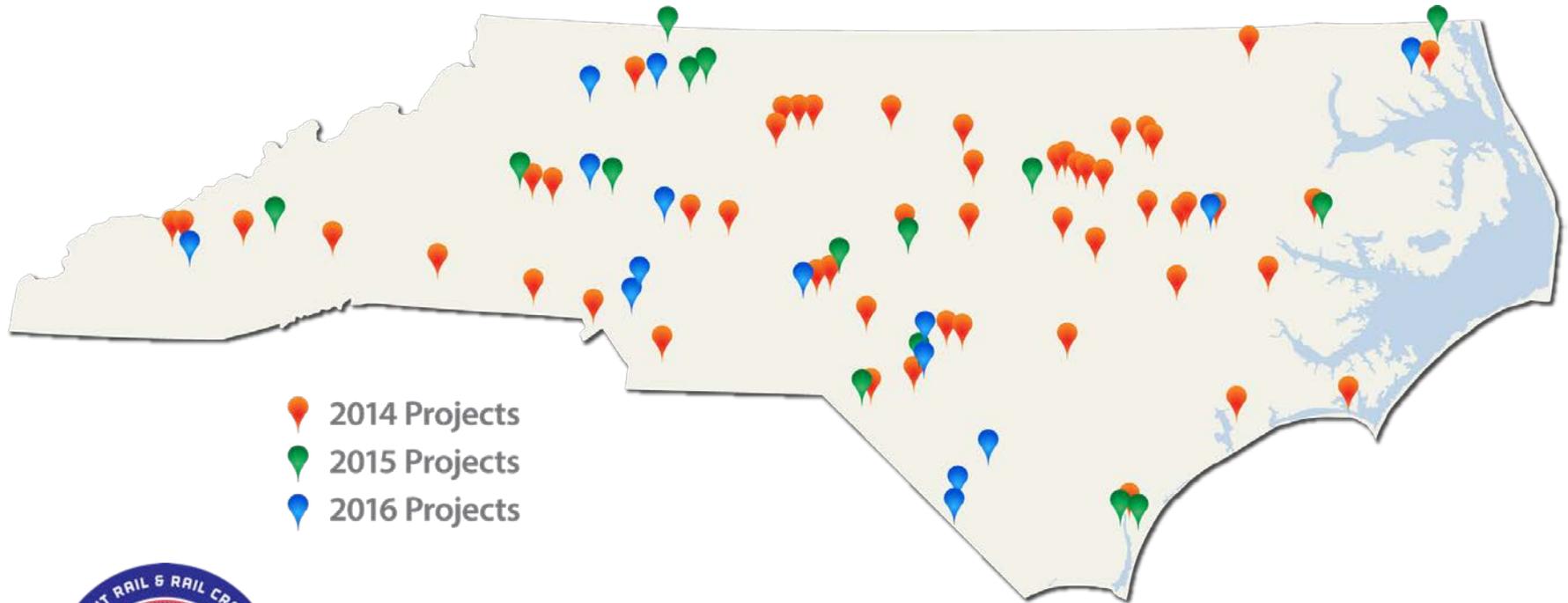


Program goals:

- Make North Carolina's railroads safer
- Meet the needs of rail customers in small urban and rural areas



Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund



-  2014 Projects
-  2015 Projects
-  2016 Projects



Bringing jobs to people

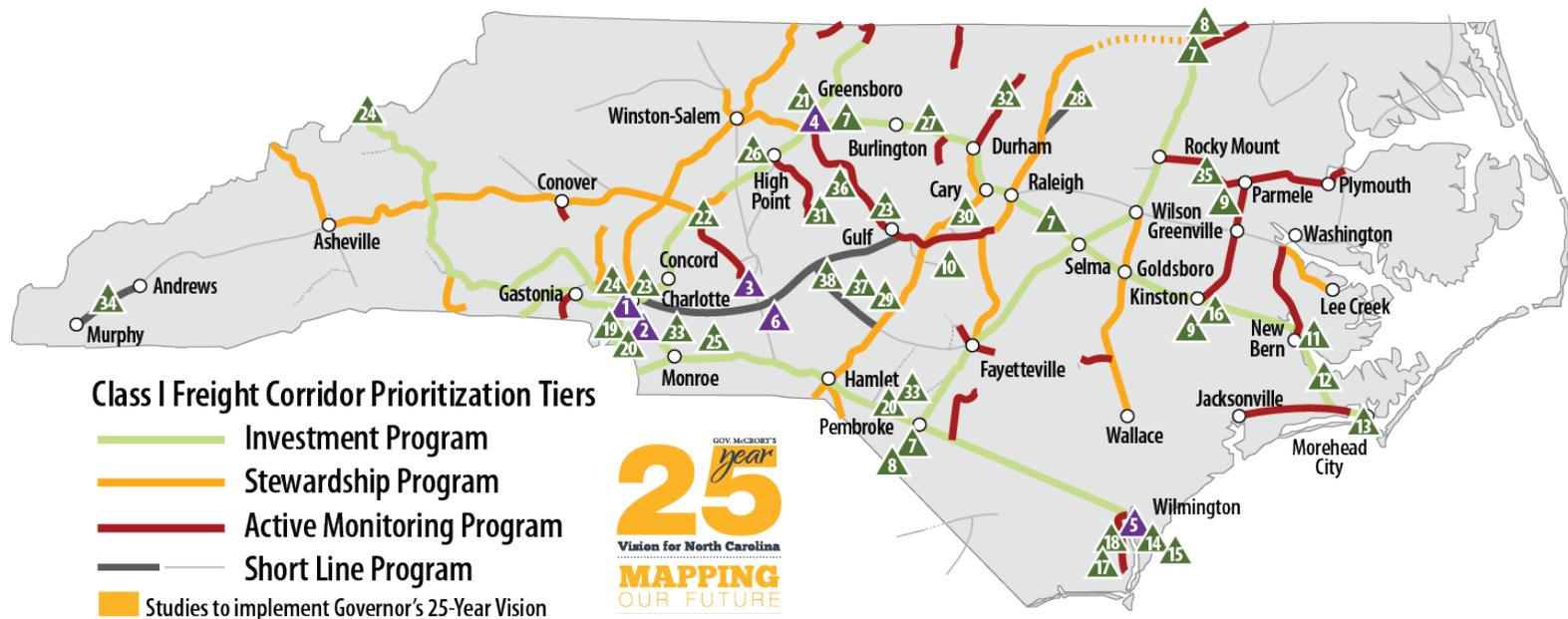
Diverting freight from highways to rail

Future Freight Challenges

- Additional short line railroads could begin service as Class I's focus on core business
- Railroad bridges represent a significant financial concern
- 2015 State Rail Plan identified:
 - 20-year private bridge need - \$35M
 - Highway/railroad grade separation need thru 2040 - \$320M
- Inability to keep pace with infrastructure needs presents a risk to statewide and regional economic development and job creation



NC's Rail Plan – Freight Recommendations



- Intermodal facilities and service improvements
- Port related access and infrastructure needs
- Emerging and growing industries
- Mega-site access and infrastructure needs
- Mainline capacity and operational improvements
- Corridor preservation and reactivation of strategic connections (Note SA Line)
- Traffic Separation Studies



NC's Rail Plan – Passenger Recommendations

Southeast Corridor

- Implement 4th and 5th Piedmont frequencies
- Add stops and improve travel times
- Construct multimodal stations – Charlotte Gateway & Raleigh Union
- Secure S Line corridor and complete service planning

New Markets

- Utilize Thruway Bus to grow markets/ridership
- Incrementally develop WNC and SENC service
- Conduct studies for future market connections



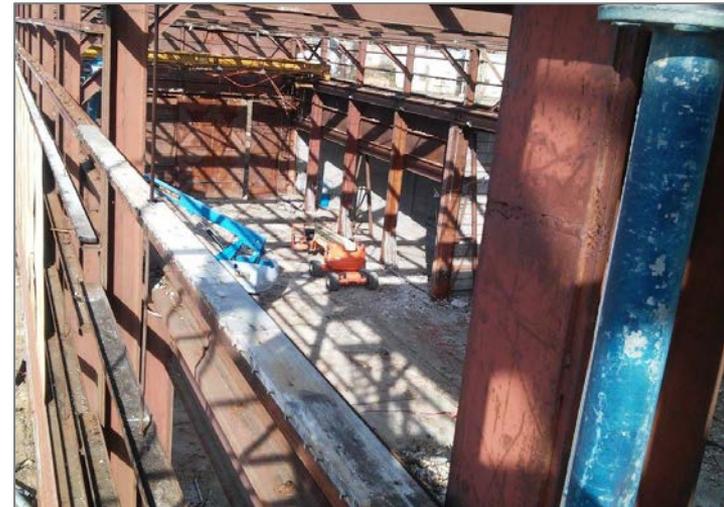
Good Stations + Right Location Impact Ridership

Building the Bookends of NC By Train Service

- Construction underway on Raleigh Union Station (RUS) – a new train station in a renovated downtown warehouse – set to open late 2017



RUS Visualization



Work has started on RUS

- Planning and design is underway for a multi-modal transportation center in downtown Charlotte – Charlotte Gateway Station – which will consolidate a variety of transportation options in a central facility
- Projects funded through Federal/State/Local partnerships

New Marketing Initiatives

**New campaign developed for our passenger train service –
new direction, new materials**

- Target audiences identified:
 - Millennials under 30 with no kids
 - Retirees
 - Event goers



Focus on Rail Safety

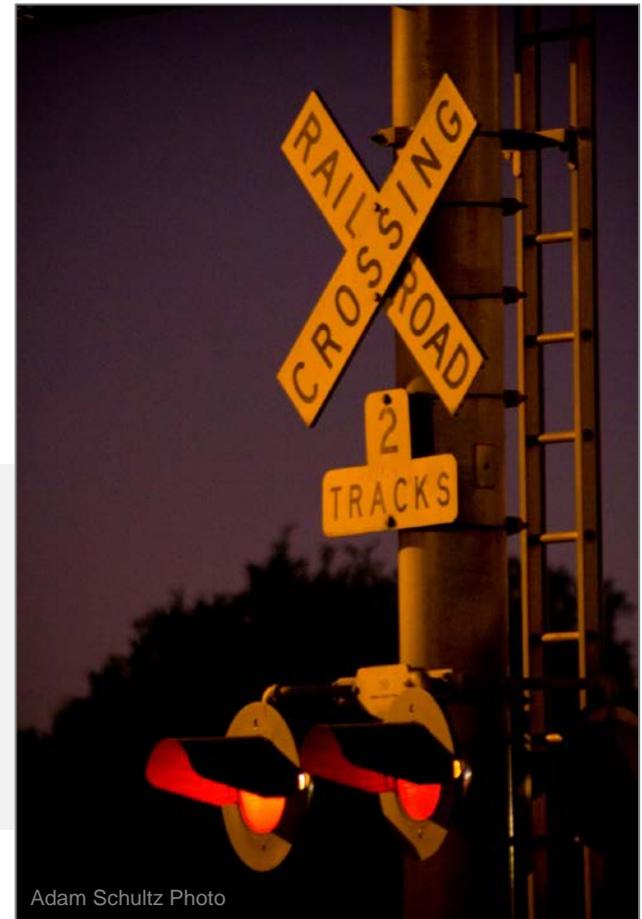
Crossing safety improvements and programs

- Building grade separations
- Closing crossings
- Improving crossings – gates, signals and surfaces
- Using new technology – dual matrix radar – getting positive results

Sealed Corridor Program

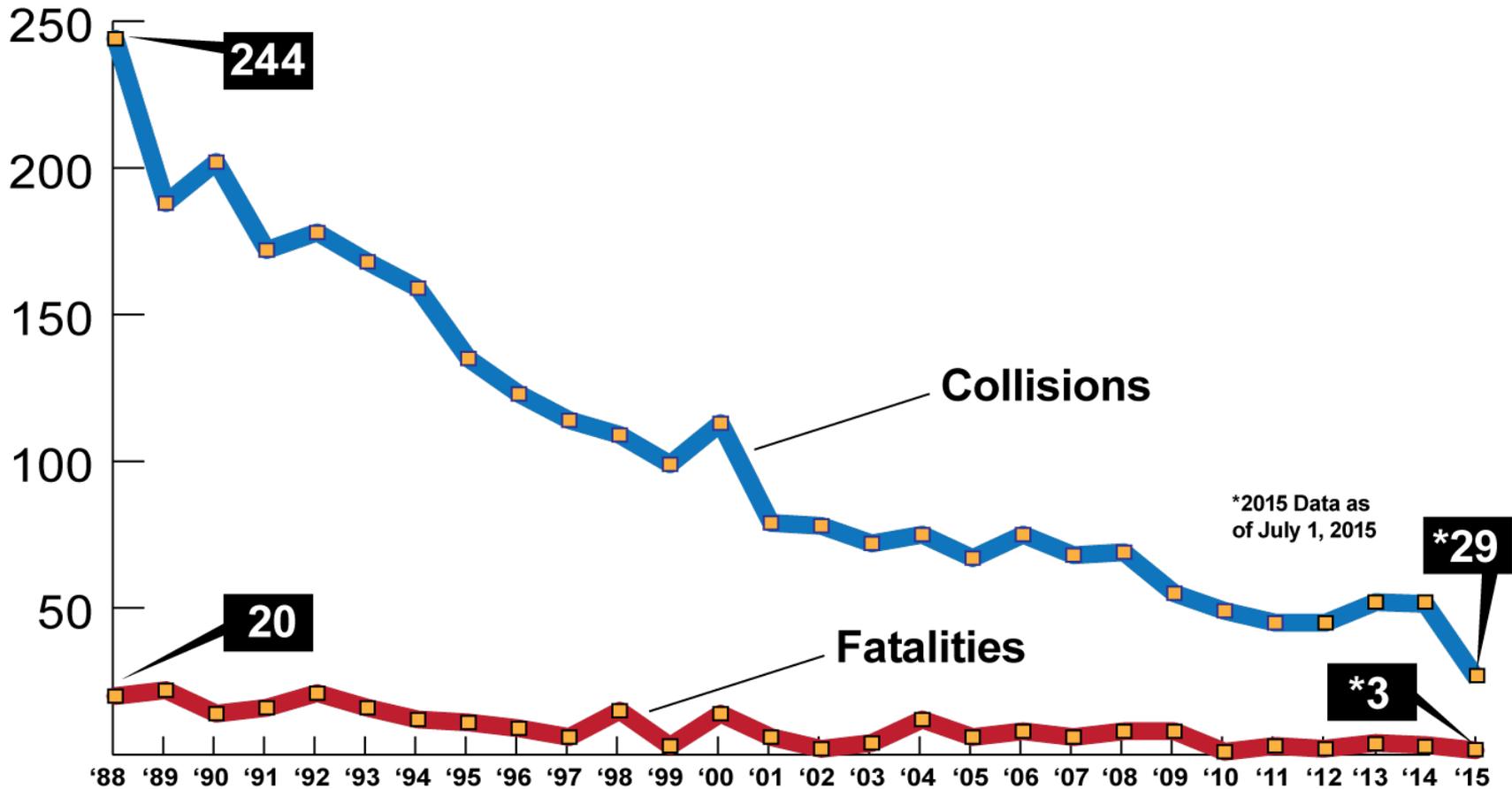
Piedmont Improvement Program

*Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety
Improvement Fund*

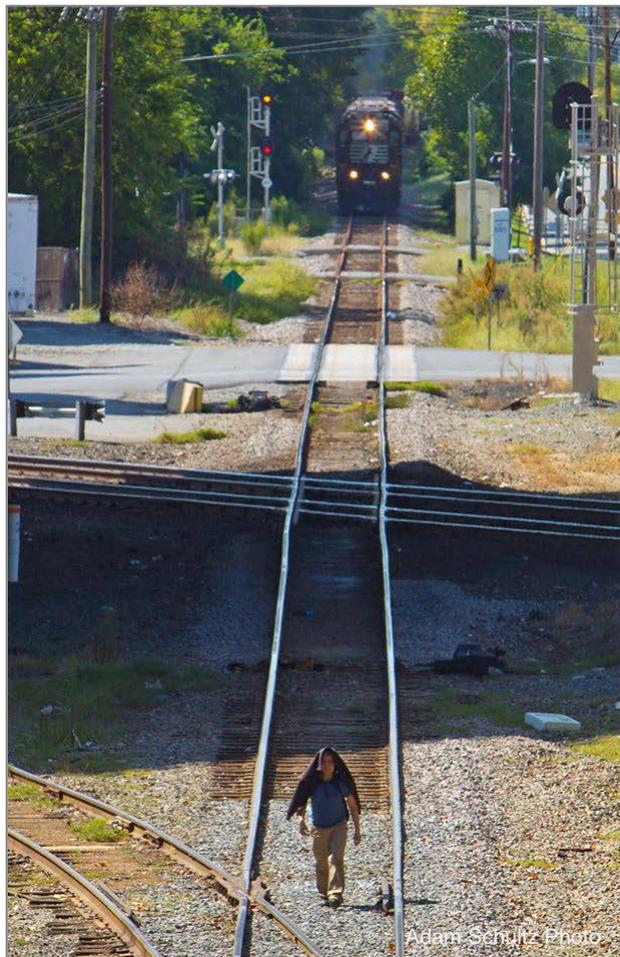


Adam Schultz Photo

Crossing Improvements have made NC Railroads Safer



BeRailSafe Initiatives



- Reaching out to the public – events, school system partnerships
- Providing safety education training for first responders
- Partnering with Operation Lifesaver and railroads
- New study begins in 2016 to pinpoint most problematic locations on Piedmont Corridor – will address ways to target and modify trespasser behavior



Thank you. Questions?

