



NORTH CAROLINA
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NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY
NEWS RELEASE

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**NC RAILROAD TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING
IN KANNAPOLIS FEBRUARY 12th ABOUT NEW CORRIDOR POLICIES**

North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR) announced today that it will host a public information meeting February 12 from 6-8 p.m. at the Kannapolis Train Station to answer questions about the company's new policy regarding land ownership issues within the railroad's corridor.

Scott Saylor, NCR President, said NCR has recently worked with legislators from Rowan and Cabarrus counties and others to develop a new policy to work with landowners to protect the corridor for future transportation needs. Major features are:

- Eliminates fees for all homeowners and most businesses with an existing title interest to land within the NCR corridor.
- For the first time, NCR will offer an agreement to landowners in the corridor that would guarantee them that they will be paid the tax value of any buildings or improvements in the rail corridor built prior to January 1, 2009, if the railroad needs to remove those buildings for rail improvements. Previously there was no guarantee agreement.
- Businesses located within 30 feet of the NCR tracks will continue to pay an annual fee, unless they have an existing title and pay property taxes on the land.

The policy also will prohibit new construction within 30 feet of the NCR rail line effective January 1, 2009. "In the past, buildings and development within 30 feet of the rail center – most put in place over many decades – have created track safety problems and slowed the travel time for freight and passengers," Saylor said. Final implementation of the policy will depend upon approval by Norfolk Southern, which has it under review.

A committee of the General Assembly also recently recommended legislation that if passed will give the public much easier access to maps delineating all rail corridor and other railroads' property or easement boundaries. The legislation would establish procedures that will help local governments with their planning and permitting and would

assist surveyors, appraisers and real estate attorneys in carrying out their responsibilities in land transactions.

“We feel this legislation will help head off land disputes that have occurred in the past between buyers and sellers, while allowing us to maintain important safety standards,” said Saylor.

The North Carolina Railroad Company owns and manages the 317-mile rail corridor extending from Morehead City to Charlotte. The railroad carries more than 60 freight trains and eight passenger trains daily. NCRR is the state’s oldest corporation and remains at the forefront of rail improvements and partnership development to promote jobs and rail-served industry across the state. It touches nearly a quarter of the state’s economy.

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