



NORTH CAROLINA
RAILROAD
C O M P A N Y

**NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY
PRESS RELEASE**

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**NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY TO CONDUCT
RIDERSHIP STUDY FOR COMMUTER RAIL FOR 140 MILE SEGMENT**

(RALEIGH)- The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR) announced today that it is planning a commuter rail ridership and market study for 140 miles of the NCRR rail corridor, from Goldsboro to Greensboro, through the Triangle and Triad. The study effort was announced at NCRR's *Progress in Motion: 2030* forum, and is a follow up to a commuter rail cost study completed by NCRR in 2008.

The 2008 cost study determined that it was possible to operate commuter rail service on the same tracks that already carry Norfolk Southern freight trains and Amtrak passenger trains, at costs ranging between \$2.3 million and \$9.3 million per mile for passing tracks, bridge improvements and crossing upgrades. Input from local chambers of commerce, businesses along the line, citizens, and state leaders was positive and there was a strong consensus that a market study should be the next step in determining the cost-benefit potential of as many as four morning and four evening trains for commuters.

“We concluded that a market study is the next logical step in determining if there is basis to make capital investments in tracks for commuter trains, and where those investments might occur,” says Scott Saylor, NCRR President. “Commuter rail is different than light rail in that it runs less frequently and the stops are farther apart. Commuter trains can share tracks with freight trains if federal passenger railcar standards are met and there are enough tracks to move freight 24/7 across the state.”

NCRR is preparing a request for proposals to select a firm to do the study, which will take between six and nine months to complete. The market study will answer questions such as where potential riders live and work, and whether there is enough demand to make such a project cost beneficial.

The North Carolina Railroad Company owns and manages the 317-mile rail corridor extending from Morehead City to Charlotte. The railroad carries 70 freight trains and eight passenger trains daily. NCR 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. Industries accounting for 24% of the state's economic output depend on rail service in the NCR corridor.

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