



NORTH CAROLINA
RAILROAD
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NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY
NEWS RELEASE

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**CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON FAST TRACK AS NC RAILROAD
COMPANY IMPROVES CORRIDOR**

RALEIGH, NC – The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR), working with public and private partners, currently has more than \$18 million of construction projects underway for the third and fourth quarters of 2009. The projects include straightening a section of track to improve train speeds, upgrades on eight bridges, building a pedestrian underpass, and construction of a holding track to expand capacity--all improvement projects that are a part of NCRR's ongoing capital investment program to build a better railroad. These projects will improve speed, capacity and safety on the NCRR corridor for freight and passenger trains. The projects will also create or sustain jobs in the construction and engineering sectors, thereby helping to invigorate local economies.

“With construction costs down and the ready availability of a quality workforce, this is a good time to initiate construction projects for which our funds have been obligated, while at the same time creating jobs,” says Scott Saylor, NCRR President. “These projects will benefit both freight and passenger rail service while improving safety and supporting economic development across the state.”

Projects that will be under construction during the latter half of 2009 include:

- A transfer track under construction in Raleigh near Boylan Junction will increase capacity, allowing a large Triangle employer to continue to ship by rail. It will improve a rail bottleneck in downtown Raleigh.
- Straightening a curve in Kinston will improve clearances and speeds from 10 mph to 25 mph.
- Upgrading two bridges to improve clearances—one over the Neuse River in Johnston County and one in Burlington.
- An additional six bridges between Raleigh and the Port at Morehead City are scheduled for upgrades to accommodate today's heavier railcars and better manage water flows of rivers and streams.

- Improving grade crossings from Selma to Morehead City, planned jointly with the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Rail Division and Norfolk Southern Railway. The goal of the project is to promote safety by adding or upgrading signals and gates, and in some cases, closing crossings.
- A pedestrian underpass in Alamance County, a joint project in partnership with Elon University, will improve safety as the university expands, enabling pedestrians to use the underpass to avoid passenger and freight trains.
- A rail/truck loading ramp and spur track in Kinston will provide access to the Spirit AreoSystems site and the Global TransPark, enhancing a major economic development initiative in Eastern North Carolina.
- A track improvement project in Dover, N.C. is to be completed in June that will improve drainage along the corridor downtown. A newly installed retaining wall will support the track and protect the rail bed.

As a follow up to last year's commuter rail feasibility study, NCRR will move forward with a market ridership study for 140 miles of its rail corridor, considering service segments between Goldsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Research Triangle Park, Chapel Hill, Burlington and Greensboro. A cost study, conducted in 2008, 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 if enough passing tracks, bridge improvements and crossing upgrades were added. This study is to gauge the interest and market for potential riders. "The market ridership study will provide information to a seven-county area about how increased use of the railroad could take pressure off of our crowded roads," Saylor says.

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. It manages, improves and protects its properties and corridor to enhance freight and passenger service and promote economic development. NCRR is the state's oldest corporation and remains at the forefront of partnership development to promote jobs and rail-served industry across the state.

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