



# NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD C O M P A N Y

## NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY NEWS RELEASE

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### **Project Improves Speed, Safety for Rail Freight**

**RALEIGH** – Large stacks of railroad ties can be seen at numerous crossings between New Bern and Goldsboro, part of the ongoing maintenance along the North Carolina Railroad (NCR) that serves the Port of Morehead City. Over time the wooden ties wear and must be replaced to keep the track in good shape. This type of routine maintenance allows trains to travel at normal safe speeds of approximately 40 mph. Although there could be some minor delays at crossings, no significant interruption of vehicle traffic flow is expected.

“The railroad has played a long-standing and vital role in moving commerce across North Carolina,” said Scott Saylor, NCR President. “The best way we can serve our customers and provide access to freight customers in eastern North Carolina and the Port of Morehead City is with a safe, efficient and reliable railroad. This work will optimize train performance and safety.”

A Norfolk Southern “Super Gang” – a group of skilled rail workers that travel around the network and work on the track – will be working over the next couple of months to replace the ties and smooth out the track. Between 1,000 and 1,500 ties will be installed per mile by the super gang. After the ties are installed, surfacing will take place. This includes tamping the ties, leveling the track, and banking the curves. Norfolk Southern, freight operator of the NCR, is responsible for maintaining the railroad and is funding this project at a cost of approximately \$4 million. Rail-served industries are important to the economic health and growth of eastern North Carolina, and the NCR line also serves the port of Morehead City, Camp LeJeune, Cherry Point MCAS, Seymour Johnson AFB and many other companies that employ thousands of people.

“We continue to see solid rail business in eastern North Carolina,” says Dominik Browne, General Manager for Norfolk Southern East Carolina Business Unit. “By partnering with NCR we can serve our existing customers and develop new business opportunities, too. We are anticipating more traffic from both long-time customers such as PCS Phosphate and the Port at Morehead City. This partnership also ensures that assets are properly maintained to support the growth in rail traffic.”

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. NCRB 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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