

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY
And
NEW BERN PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.
News Release

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North Carolina Railroad Company
Media Contact: Charles Hodges
(919) 882-1969/ mediarelations@ncrr.com
New Bern Preservation Foundation, Inc.
Media Contact: Dallas Blackiston
(252) 635-7052/ info@newbernpf.org

Assessment of Rail Station Moves Forward in New Bern

NEW BERN – Work will soon kick off assessing how best to rehabilitate and use the former Union Station train depot in New Bern. According to the North Carolina Railroad (NCR) and the New Bern Preservation Foundation, the project’s goal is to safely preserve and protect this cherished historic rail structure for future generations to enjoy.

“Railroads remain an important part of the fabric of our state,” said Scott Saylor, NCR President. “They are drivers of economic progress, fixtures in communities and throughout the countryside, and an essential part of our state’s history. The Depot in New Bern is one such rail structure and we are pleased to be part of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and its preservation efforts. We want to find cost-effective, viable uses for the train station that will preserve its treasured history.”

A Joint Working Group, composed of representatives from NCR, the New Bern Preservation Foundation, the City of New Bern, Norfolk Southern Railway and other community leaders, is assessing the current needs and potential uses for the Depot. As a first step, the existing roof and sub-structure must be evaluated and the premises secured. NCR has committed to funding the erection of fencing around the property, to both provide secure storage during any work and also to safeguard the public.

Prior to any repairs, the roof and load-bearing walls will be evaluated to better inform the JWG of the exact requirements needed to improve the roof structure at the Depot. That architectural assessment will also be funded – up to \$30,000 – by NCR in order to stabilize the building’s roof, which is unsafe. Additional steps may be taken with input from the architects on temporary measures to address existing roof deterioration, such as the use of tarps. Upon completion of roof repairs the next phase in planning can move forward on determining the future best uses of the Depot and sources of capital funds.

“Railroads have touched the lives of all Americans,” said Dallas Blackiston, New Bern Preservation Foundation President. “We believe it’s important to acknowledge and preserve that heritage here in New Bern.”

“NCR owns the building, and we believe it is important to invest in necessary and worthwhile projects like the fencing and roof assessment,” said Saylor. “We look forward to working with

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our partners and the community on finding the best plan to rehabilitate this cherished community asset.”

The New Bern Preservation Foundation, chartered in 1972, is a volunteer organization that works to preserve historically significant structures and sites in and around New Bern. The Foundation has directly saved nearly 60 structures and actively supports preservation of historical structures and neighborhoods by others.

The North Carolina Railroad Company owns and manages the 317-mile rail corridor extending from Morehead City to Charlotte. The railroad carries 50-60 freight trains and ten 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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