



NORTH CAROLINA
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NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY
NEWS RELEASE

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Rail Maintenance Improves Freight Travel Time
Tie and Surfacing Project Restores Speed on the North Carolina Railroad

RALEIGH – Large stacks of railroad ties can be seen at numerous crossings between New Bern and Morehead City, all part of the ongoing maintenance of the North Carolina Railroad (NCR) that serves the Port of Morehead City. The wooden ties wear over time and must be replaced to keep the track in good shape. Speed on the track has been slowed to 25 mph because of the condition of the ties. Once this project is complete these orders to slow down can be lifted and trains can resume their normal speed of 35 mph. Although there could be some minor delays at crossings, no significant interruption of vehicle traffic flow is expected

“As it has for more than a century, the railroad remains a vital economic artery in eastern North Carolina,” said Scott Saylor, NCR President. “Like routine car maintenance, this work will optimize railroad performance and safety. Freight will get back up to speed and we will keep businesses on track.”

A Norfolk Southern “Super Gang” –a group of skilled rail workers that travel around the network and working on the track--will be coming through in the next couple of months to replace the ties. Between 1000 and 1500 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 and military bases.

“Rail business is up in eastern North Carolina - a sign that the economy is stirring,” says Dominik Browne, General Manager for Norfolk Southern East Carolina Business Unit. “This partnership we have with NCR allows us to serve our existing customers and develop new business opportunities, too. We are anticipating more traffic from both long-time customers such as PCS Phosphates and the military bases and from new ones, such as Sanderson Farms.”

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