

CAPT

Because Highways and Airways Aren't Enough For The Carolinas

Picture This...

- ... Bypassing congested highways in the Carolinas at speeds of up to 110 miles an hour
- ... Working, dining, relaxing with friends, reading or sleeping while en route
- ... Avoiding the stress of airport parking, security hassles, and waiting for flights – and arriving relaxed at your destination
- ... A better way to get to work in other cities or states

CAPT Has a Vital Mission

CAPT (Carolinas Association for Passenger Trains) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the improvement and expansion of passenger rail services as part of a balanced transportation policy. Specific goals and objectives of the CAPT include promoting:

- Increased ridership and increased frequency of train service in the Carolinas
- Rail-based transit as an alternative to increasing highway capacity where urban growth and transport demands indicate that rail offers a viable solution for managing congestion and/or improving air quality
- Increased daytime passenger service along the Raleigh-Charlotte-Columbia corridor, with more connections between the Carolinas, Atlanta, New Orleans and Florida
- Timely implementation of the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) corridor to connect the Northeast corridor through the Carolinas with Atlanta, New Orleans and Florida
- Extension of services connecting Asheville, Winston-Salem and Fayetteville, as well as Greenville (NC), Rock Hill, Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Wilmington and Morehead City, with the SEHSR corridor
- Better protection for trains and motorists at rail-highway grade crossings
- Improved station facilities and highway directional signage
- Increased coordination of passenger rail services with other modes of public transportation including airlines and intercity and transit buses

Help Make It Happen

You, too, can join us as a member of CAPT, if you think train service is important and would like to see better passenger rail options available. Your support, through nominal membership dues, enables CAPT to continue influencing public opinion and informing elected officials, from City Hall to Congress, about the need for prudent transportation choices. You may find membership information on our website. www.capttrain.org

CAPT members are private citizens, and our organization is operated entirely through volunteer efforts. We are governed by a board of directors who are selected by our members. CAPT is not affiliated with any other rail organizations, political parties, manufacturers or organized labor. It is our policy, however, to work in cooperation with all appropriate entities to help bring better transportation choices to the Carolinas.



Carolinas Association for Passenger Trains

Photo Courtesy of Amtrak

Our Roads and Skies Are Becoming Crowded

The Southeast is one of the fastest-growing regions in the U.S., and the Carolinas' population is growing faster than the rest of the nation. That has led to increased congestion and great stress on our roads and airways.

- Vehicle miles driven have increased at three times the rate of population growth!
- Slower rush hour commutes frustrate drivers, and adding highway lanes only exacerbates the problem.
- We're running out of space to build roads in the areas with the most traffic.
- Many areas along our major highways no longer meet EPA Clean Air Standards.
- Flight delays are expected to continue increasing on routes linking the Southeast and Northeast.
- Crowded airways are straining air traffic control resources.

Trains: The Modern Solution

We can't pave our way out of our present dilemma. As transportation planners look to our future mobility needs, they're turning to a mode of transportation until recently considered obsolete. As a result, our nation is on the verge of a rail renaissance, and the Carolinas are leading.

- Expanding our region's passenger train services helps alleviate highway and airway congestion, as well as traffic hazards and air pollution.
- Depending on the type of service, each full passenger coach can remove about 60-125 automobiles from our highways. Two railroad tracks have the load carrying capacity of as many as 16 highway lanes.
- Quality passenger rail service helps attract new economic development and enhance quality of life, creating new jobs and maintaining the region's economic competitiveness.



People of all ages love a train. Here the NCDOT Piedmont, led by the City of Asheville, poses young and old alike while on display during the annual Dogwood Festival in Fayetteville, NC.

Photo by Matt Conrad, used by permission

Special joint NCDOT/SCDOT Amtrak train runs in the Columbia station following its Charlotte to Columbia demonstration run on September 14, 1999.



www.msccorp.com

Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NYSE: NS) is a Class I railroad in the Eastern U.S., with nearly 21,000 route miles of track in 22 states, as well as Washington, D.C. NS is owned and operated by the Norfolk Southern Corporation, a publicly owned (NYSE: NS) Norfolk, VA based holding company. Principal revenue sources include coal, intermodal, agriculture, fertilizer, and consumer and chemical products.



www.amtrak.com

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation, or Amtrak, was formed by Congress in 1970 to relieve private railroads of the responsibility for providing passenger rail service – and to operate a national train network. Amtrak receives public investment, but it is significantly less than what is spent on highways and aviation.



South Carolina Department of Transportation Although not yet as active as its North Carolina counterpart, the SCDOT has recently undertaken numerous studies of potential passenger rail and transit services across the state, many of which are depicted in the maps included in this brochure. In cooperation with the NCDOT and Amtrak, the SCDOT sponsored a special train between Charlotte and Columbia to demonstrate the potential for increased passenger rail services in the Palmetto State.

www.scdot.org

North Carolina Department of Transportation Although Amtrak is, under law, the nation's only intercity passenger rail provider, states are increasing their collaboration with Amtrak to meet their growing transportation needs. One of the most active is North Carolina, which partners with Amtrak to operate the *Carolinian* and *Piedmonts*, some of the most successful trains in Amtrak's national system. In addition, North Carolina's Rail Division owns and maintains its own fleet of passenger equipment, and it is the lead agency for the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor.

www.bytrain.org

Other Key Players CSX Corporation, Inc., headquartered in Richmond, VA. Major sources of revenue include coal, automobile, intermodal, and chemical products. CSX Transportation, Inc., a division of the publicly held (NYSE: CSX) CSX Corporation, Inc., headquartered in Washington, D.C., and Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Amtrak has succeeded for years in effectively advocating Amtrak funding and support. A nonprofit corporation, NARP is based in Washington, D.C. and supports a full-time staff of public policy and transportation professionals. Nearly 40 state, regional and national advocacy organizations work with NARP, including CAPT.

www.csx.com



www.narpt.com

The National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) is an alliance of railroad passengers and citizens who want more sensible transportation choices, including an expanded nationwide rail passenger network with long-distance trains and high-frequency, high-speed, distance trains and commuter trains. NARP has succeeded for years in effectively advocating Amtrak funding and support. A nonprofit corporation, NARP is based in Washington, D.C. and supports a full-time staff of public policy and transportation professionals. Nearly 40 state, regional and national advocacy organizations work with NARP, including CAPT.



www.ncrr.com

North Carolina Railroad Company Wholly owned by the state of North Carolina, the NCR track stretches 317 miles eastward from Charlotte to the port of Morehead City, Norfolk Southern maintains and operates the line under a long-term lease.

Rail Transportation Safety

Operation Lifesaver – a non-profit, mostly volunteer organization dedicated to improving grade crossing safety awareness and accident prevention through education and advocacy. Based in Alexandria, VA, this organization is active in all states except Hawaii. In the Carolinas, Operation Lifesaver is sponsored by CSXT, NS, SCDOT, Amtrak and NCDOT.



www.byrain.org

NCDOT – The NCDOT Rail Division is working with communities across the state to make rail-highway crossings safer by installing new traffic-control devices such as four-quadrant gates and median barriers, closing and consolidating crossings, and completely separating dangerous intersections by constructing bridges over and under railroad tracks.

Major efforts dedicated to eliminating accidents at rail-highway crossings include: Existing safety features – including warning signs, pavement markings, flashing red lights, bells and gates – vary from location to location, often depending on the traffic volume at a particular intersection.



www.ohi.org

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Partners in Progress