



# MARCH 2025

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### 1. PREVIOUSLY APPROVED NC PASSENGER RAIL PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

The (Raleigh) News and Observer recently reported that NCDOT has been informed by USDOT that several passenger rail project grants, including the Raleigh to Richmond S-line) have been put on hold as part of the federal spending review. Governor Stein and NCDOT Secretary Hopkins have appealed the decision to new USDOT Secretary Duffy. Work has already started (and will continue) on two grade separation construction projects (bridges over railroad tracks) in Wake County along the S-line

In addition to the S-line project, which is valued at \$1.1 billion, the review includes \$13.2 million for a train station in Wake Forest. The \$3.5 million in grants to evaluate seven new passenger rail corridors ("Corridor ID Studies"), including Salisbury to Asheville, and Raleigh to Wilmington, at \$500,000 each is not affected.

This is an ongoing situation, and CAPT will determine how to lend support to the NCDOT for full funding of these critical passenger rail projects. Watch future issues of **FROM THE CAB** for updates.



## 2. RAIL NATION MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH & APRIL 2025

The Rail Passengers Association is urging its members to travel to DC to tell members of Congress their passenger-rail stories! This year, the “Spring RailNation: DC” events are expanded to include two full weeks of visits to Capitol Hill, and we need you to stand up and be counted! Visits, along with workshops to help you prepare, will take place over a two-week period from March 24th to April 3rd and will be broken into sessions for nine regions around the country.



March 24th & 25th - Northeast and Mid-Atlantic  
**March 26th & 27th - Southeast, Southern, and South Central** (includes North and South Carolina.)  
March 31st & April 1st – Midwest  
April 2nd & April 3rd - Northwest, Southwest, and Mountains/Plains

**Price:** \$125.00/per person (A lunch on the first day is included; space is limited to 50 seats per session; attendees are responsible for their own hotel accommodations.)

### **Registration link:**

<https://donate.railpassengers.org/RNDC25>

### **AGENDA**

#### **Wednesday, March 26th**

President’s Welcome: Jim Mathews will open with a “State of the Association” message.

Amtrak Presentation: update on the planning and relationship building Amtrak is doing as part of its network upgrade and expansion efforts, success stories from IJJA-funded projects.

State of the U.S. Passenger Rail Industry: update from multiple industry stakeholders on how IJJA investment is affecting the private sector investment in equipment, construction, and the onboard experience.

Blueprint for Reauthorization: you’ll hear from our staff on surface transportation reauthorization priorities, and workshop messaging for delivering our key priorities; and

Legislative Briefing + Day on the Hill Preparation: we’ll look at the 119th Congress leadership, agenda, near-term opportunities - and threats - to passenger service, and go over meeting materials in advance of your Hill meetings.

### Outside Speakers:

Todd Stennis Director, Government Affairs - Amtrak South; Devon Barnhart - Director, OneRail [invited]; Alstom/Amtrak representative update on Amtrak equipment

### **Thursday, March 27th**

Day on the Hill, and Evening Reception.

## 3. NC BY TRAIN PLANS PIEDMONT SERVICE OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

While no official notice has been posted yet, it appears that an NC By Train Service Expansion outreach campaign is expected to be launched online later this month. Then, during the month of April, the NCDOT Rail Division will gather further input through open house public meetings and events at various venues. The effort will focus on the entire corridor between Charlotte and Raleigh, looking at where service is provided now and what it will look like in the future. It is expected that cities which are currently skipped by Piedmont trains 71 and 76 will have separate public hearings to be informed of plans going forward, with an opportunity to offer views on skip-stop scenarios. Those meetings would take place in May, with other meetings continuing into mid-July.

In the coming years, another daily round trip is planned to connect Raleigh and Charlotte, when new equipment arrives. However, additional cities in the Piedmont corridor which are making significant investments in new stations (e.g., Lexington and Hillsborough in particular) should express concern about the level of service they can expect (all trains, or only a few?)

CAPT members are encouraged to participate in all scheduled information sharing events (online or in person), however right now no schedule has been released. One or more NCDOT Board Members plan to attend local meetings and will report what transpired. (See

article on NCDOT Board Member contact information elsewhere in this issue.)

Expect more details in the April issue of FROM THE CAB, or from time-sensitive email alerts coming as soon as information is available from President Wheeler.

#### 4. CAPT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2025

With this issue of **FROM THE CAB**, our organization is entering the third month of 2025, so it's an appropriate time to check our list of active members to see how many 2024 paid-up members have renewed for 2025. The good news is that almost two-thirds of 2024 members have renewed their memberships, and we have recruited several new members so far, plus an affiliate organization (NC Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.) **If you are reading this and have not renewed your membership for 2025 yet, please do so at your earliest convenience.** Also, please consider telling a friend or business associate about CAPT, and how you're able to keep up with passenger rail happenings in North Carolina and South Carolina, and the nation through the pages of **FROM THE CAB** and email alerts.

#### 5. TIMETABLE CHANGES FOR PIEDMONT TRAINS 75 & 76

Effective immediately, Piedmont 75 departs Raleigh 15 minutes earlier (at 12:45pm) and Piedmont 76 departs Charlotte 30 minutes earlier (at 5:00pm.)

The reason given for these changes was to provide more terminal time in CLT between 75's arrival and 76's departure, and to try to improve the reliability of the "meet" between 79 and 76. It is hoped that on-time performance will improve as a result.

STATION	75 READ DOWN	76 READ UP
Raleigh	12:45 pm	7:59 pm
Cary	12:57 pm	7:45 pm
Durham	1:17 pm	7:23 pm
Burlington	1:55 pm	
Greensboro	2:20 pm	6:25 pm
High Point	2:37 pm	
Salisbury	3:11 pm	
Kannapolis	3:27 pm	5:25 pm
Charlotte	3:55 pm	5:00 pm

#### 6. SALES TAX FOR MECKLENBURG COUNTY TRANSIT FILED IN NC SENATE

North Carolina Senate leaders have filed legislation which would allow a sales tax vote in Mecklenburg County which if approved would fund transportation projects totaling 19 billion dollars over the next 30 years. Senate Bill 145 would provide for transit and road funding and would increase the county sales tax by one cent to 8.25 percent. The 30 year plan would also need 5 billion dollars in additional federal matching funds. There is no companion bill as yet introduced in the NC House.

Forty percent of the tax dollars would go to roads, 40 percent to rail transit, and 20 percent for bus transportation. Four different scenarios have been discussed for the funding, but only the Red Line commuter/regional rail line is included in each. In the rail centric version, segments of light rail would also be built between the Airport and Bojangles Arena (Silver Line) and an extension of the Blue Line between I-485 and Carolina Place Mall in Pineville.

If the legislation is passed by the General Assembly this Spring, the Mecklenburg County Commission would have to call for a public referendum on the matter to be placed on the November election ballot. If approved the sales tax would become effective in July of 2026. The fate of the legislation is still uncertain in the General Assembly due to lack of strong support by Republicans. Approval of the State Budget for the next fiscal year may also have to be approved for the referendum to go ahead.

The legislation calls for the creation of a regional transportation authority to oversee the plan. Legislation for the authority would have to be submitted to the legislature. A proposal for make-up of the authority has been discussed but was not included in Senate Bill 145. The text of the bill may be viewed through the link below:

<https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2025/709/0/DRS45067-MCxf-78>

Matthews Mayor John Higdon says the Town still opposes the plan since it does not include light rail from the Charlotte center city to the town of Matthews which had been part of the original plan adopted about ten years ago. Higdon says the plan needs to be fair and equitable and serve all areas of the county.

Meanwhile, public meetings will begin in March to inform citizens of the four transit plan scenarios. The Metropolitan Transit Commission or the Regional



Transportation Authority replacing it would make decisions on what projects would be funded.

## 7. CAPT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE YEARS

Recently, one of CAPT's oldest members reminded the FROM THE CAB editor that "without CAPT, the first and second Carolinians' inaugurals and the Piedmont Service would have never happened."

He affirmed that "It was CAPT that worked with the early NCDOT Public Transportation Division Director David King and legislators in 1984 to agree to try the Carolinian experiment. Although the one-year funding was only sufficient for it to operate 10 months, its great success during that operating time spurred CAPT's advocacy efforts for the next six years with Governor James G. Martin, Governor James B. Hunt, US Senator Jesse Helms, the NCDOT, the General Assembly, and local communities. It resulted in the 1990 revival of the Carolinian."

In addition, a CAPT member was appointed to the Governor's Passenger Rail Task Force (which, incidentally, was CAPT's idea) which, in 1989, made the recommendation to bring back the Carolinian, bigger and better, in May 1990.

He concluded that "...it was CAPT that pushed Governor Hunt to continue the Blue Ribbon Committee work in his 3<sup>rd</sup> term of office (1993-97) which resulted in the continuation of the "Governor's Passenger Rail Task Force." CAPT's representative on that task force was a member of the team that recommended the development of the Piedmont Service and the creation of a separate Rail Division within NCDOT.

The rest is history. I'm sure you will agree that these are memorable accomplishments for CAPT.

CAPT would like to be able to report more recent and equally significant accomplishments in North Carolina and South Carolina. However, with a larger membership base resulting from Membership Drive 2025, more clearly defined missions for each state, and a more active board of directors, it is hoped that some will be coming soon.



## 8. NEW NC PASSENGER RAIL NONPROFIT INCORPORATED

On December 16, 2024, articles of incorporation were filed with the NC Secretary of State for a nonprofit corporation named "**North Carolinians for Passenger Rail. (NCPR).**" The filer was Stephen (Steve) R. Little, who is a co-chair (with Ray Rapp) of the WNC Rail Committee, as well as serving as mayor of the City of Marion, NC.



According to the Articles of Incorporation, the purposes of the corporation include the following:

*"A. To promote public education and awareness of the social benefits to individuals, businesses, industries and communities that can be achieved by the existence, expansion and enhancement of passenger rail service in all areas of the State of North Carolina."*

*"B. To advocate, promote and educate all North Carolina governmental officials for the support of the existence, expansion and enhancement of passenger rail service in all areas of the State of North Carolina, in furtherance of the social welfare of individuals, businesses, industries and communities within this State and region."*

Other purposes listed are "to foster collaboration and coalition-building among individuals, organizations, businesses and communities....", "to seek, advocate, promote and encourage legislation and policies germane to the purposes of this nonprofit corporation...", and "to purchase, lease and otherwise acquire, hold, mortgage, convey and otherwise obtain or dispose of all kinds of property, both real and personal, both in this State and in all other states, territories and dependencies of the United States, in connection with the purposes recited herein."

The incorporation articles stipulate the NCPR will have no members (which CAPT does) so it will be interesting to see how NCPR intends to operate.

Since CAPT appears to share many of the same goals and purposes (for North Carolina) with NCPR, CAPT intends

to collaborate with NCPR to ensure that the human, financial and physical resources of both organizations are used wisely and efficiently.

*(CAPT just learned that Raleigh-based Mr. Beau Mills has been named chairman of NCPR, Inc. He is a Senior Advisor at Fountainworks, and former Director of NC Metro Mayors and Urban Affairs. Fountainworks has a history as a contractor for the NC Rail Division.)*

**9. CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAIN DAY ON SATURDAY MAY 10, 2025**

National Train Day is a holiday that honors the history of the train in the U.S. and promotes rail travel for all Americans. It is observed annually on the Saturday that is closest to May 10th every year (actually on May 10 this year!) and is an opportunity for everyone to learn about how trains have revolutionized civilization and united a country at the same time.

National Train Day can be celebrated by taking a ride on a train, visiting a train exhibit at a local museum, or even reading a book on the history of the locomotive. You can also use the hashtag #NationalTrainDay on social media to let everyone know they are celebrating this holiday.

In North Carolina, Amtrak’s Piedmont trains offer convenient short trips between stations, ideal for taking your youngster on his or her first train ride. For example, Cary to Burlington is less than a 3 hour excursion, with over an hour in Burlington to get lunch at Danny’s Café (110 W. Front St, two blocks from the station) and view the NC Rail Road’s history exhibit inside the Amtrak station (called Company Shops.) This and a few other short train rides are listed below.

From	To	Depart	Arrive	Visit	Return	Arrive
CYN	BNC	10:12am	11:08am	1h, 13m	12:21pm	1:28pm
RGH	BNC	10:00am	11:08am	1h, 13m	12:21pm	1:41pm
DNC	BNC	10:32am	11:08am	1h, 13m	12:21pm	1:02pm
GRO	SAL	11:35am	12:25pm	2h, 36m	3:01pm	3:54pm
BNC	GRO	11:08am	11:35am	4h, 19m	3:54pm	4:35pm
SAL	GRO	11:06am	11:59am	2h, 36m	2:35pm	3:25pm
KAN	GRO	10:50am	11:59am	2h, 36m	2:35pm	3:42pm

BNC = Burlington, CYN = Cary, DNC = Durham, GRO = Greensboro, KAN = Kannapolis, RGH = Raleigh, SAL = Salisbury.

In South Carolina, the only train on which a same-day out-and-back train trip can be made during daylight hours is on the Palmetto 90 (northbound), returning on the Palmetto 89 (southbound.) A couple of examples are listed below, although visit lengths are much greater than for short trips in North Carolina.

From	To	Depart	Arrive	Visit	Return	Arrive
CHS	DIL	9:15am	11:29am	5h, 38m	5:09pm	7:37pm
CHS	FLO	9:15am	10:49am	7h, 8m	5:57pm	7:37pm
FLO	DIL	10:54am	11:29am	5h, 38m	5:09pm	5:52pm

CHS = Charleston, DIL = Dillon, FLO = Florence

**10. NEW NCDOT-FUNDED INTERCITY BUS ROUTE ALSO OFFERS ACCESS TO AMTRAK AT GREENSBORO**

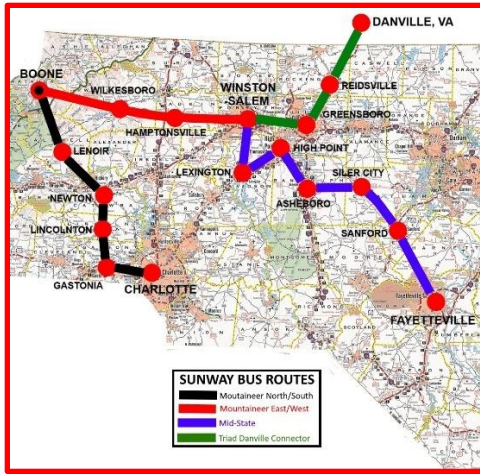
Effective January 15, 2024, the NCDOT contracted with Charlotte-based charter bus operator Sunway for daily intercity bus service (“Triad Danville Connector”) of two round trips between Winston-Salem and Danville, Virginia, with intermediate stops in Greensboro and Reidsville.

SCHEDULE	Northbound		Southbound	
Bus stop	Read down		Read up	
Winston-Salem	5:10 am	4:00 pm	9:20 am	9:10 pm
Greensboro	5:50 am	4:50 pm	8:40 am	8:30 pm
Reidsville	6:35 am	5:40 pm	8:05 am	7:55 pm
Danville, VA	7:15 am	6:20 pm	7:25 am	7:15 pm

For the first time in years, Danville and Reidsville residents will have a direct and inexpensive (the fares are \$8 and \$4 respectively each way) path to Greensboro (arriving 8:40 am.) In Greensboro, they may take either Piedmont 73 (11:35 am) to Charlotte, or Piedmont 72 (11:59 am) to Raleigh. While the waiting times between bus arrival and train departures in Greensboro are long and preclude any reasonable-length same-day out-and-back bus-train trip, the bus train combination would work well for an overnight trip to Charlotte or Raleigh (or intermediate stations.) Note that bus and train fares must be paid for separately, but advance reservations can be made for both.

In addition to the Triad Danville Connector, Sunway also daily operates three other routes in North Carolina. These are (1) “Mountaineer North/South” between Boone and Charlotte; (2) “Mountaineer East/West” between Boone and Greensboro; and (3) “Mid-State” between Winston-Salem and Fayetteville.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025, PLEASE DO SO SOON. THANKS!**



Go to <https://sunwaycharters.com/bus-tickets/> for more information.

Under a separate contract with Amtrak and NCDOT, Sunway operates two daily Amtrak Thruway bus routes meeting the northbound and southbound Palmetto trains (as well as the northbound Carolinian) at Wilson Amtrak Station, allowing through ticketed bus-train connections to and from (1) Greenville, New Bern, Havelock, and Morehead City; and (2) Goldsboro, Kinston, Jacksonville, and Wilmington. Details on this service may be found at:

<https://www.ncbytrain.org/passenger-services/Pages/connector-services.aspx>

CAPT welcomes these intercity bus initiatives and encourages residents of all cities served by Sunway to consider adding a train component to their trip.

### 11. NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENTS WANTED FOR CAROLINAS STATION CITIES

To keep up with passenger-rail related news in and around the 27 Amtrak station cities in the Carolinas (NC-16, SC-11), **FROM THE CAB** is seeking volunteer Station City Correspondents. While some of the busier stations are well represented by our members who live in the station service areas, there are many that are not.

Stations where we really need correspondents in North Carolina are Hamlet, Smithfield-Selma, Southern Pines, and Wilson. In South Carolina, we need correspondents in Camden, Denmark, Dillon, and Kingstree. We have no members in any of these station cities.

Even if you don't live in a particular station's service area, you may volunteer to be that station's correspondent. You are not required to write an article at all (although you

may) but merely forward some information (possibly a copy of a press article or an online link) to the Editor whenever something of interest pops up. Photographs of stations are always welcome, as are notices of local events scheduled near the stations. Station City Correspondents will be credited for their submittals.

NC CITY	Amtrak Code	SC CITY	Amtrak Code
Burlington	BNC	Camden	CAM
Cary	CYN	Charleston	CHS
Charlotte	CLT	Clemson	CSN
Durham	DNC	Columbia	CLB
Fayetteville	FAY	Denmark	DNK
Gastonia	GAS	Dillon	DIL
Greensboro	GRO	Florence	FLO
Hamlet	HAM	Greenville	GRV
High Point	HPT	Kingstree	KTR
Kannapolis	KAN	Spartanburg	SPB
Raleigh	RGH	Yemassee	YEM
Rocky Mount	RMT		
Salisbury	SAL		
Selma-Smithfield	SSM		
Southern Pines	SOP		
Wilson	WLN		

### 12. CAPT'S FIRST AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION MEMBER

In the February 2025 issue of FROM THE CAB, your board of directors proudly announced the membership of CAPT's first affiliate organization - The North Carolina Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Known as NCSITE, it is a professional society comprising individuals involved in transportation engineering activities and is affiliated with the international Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), a community of transportation professionals.

NCSITE was established to promote sound transportation engineering practices in the planning, design, operation, and management of transportation facilities and equipment for the safe, convenient, and efficient movement of people and goods. The NCSITE membership includes a broad range of transportation personnel—engineers, planners, educators, administrators, and technicians. Many modes of transportation are represented in the organization's membership.





The 2025 president of NCSITE is Michael P. "Mike" Reese, PE, CPM, who is Western Region Engineer for the NCDOT Congestion Management group under Transportation Mobility and Safety Branch.

Mike's regional responsibility comprises Highway Divisions 10-14 (see map below.) Three Amtrak stations are within his jurisdiction (KAN, CLT and GAS in Div. 10.) Just for reference, all of the proposed stations in the Salisbury-to-Asheville rail corridor are in his region, either Div. 11 or Div. 13, except for SAL which is in Div. 9 along with HPT and GRO, plus proposed LEX.



At [www.ncsite.org](http://www.ncsite.org), Mike states: "We are a community of more than 700 public and private sector transportation professionals from across North Carolina! For those of you that are members, my hope is that NCSITE continues to be your professional organization of choice, and for visitors and prospective members, I hope you will consider joining us."

"Annually, NCSITE conducts various technical presentations, workshops, tours, and webinars offering professional development hours to licensed engineers and continuing education credits for transportation planners. NCSITE has five professional councils that meet regularly and provide targeted training, community outreach, and networking opportunities throughout the year - Consultant/Vendor, Strategic Initiatives, Traffic Engineering, Transportation Planning, and Young Member. These training, outreach and network events are typically provided free or at a reduced cost to members, and NCSITE strives to provide free attendance to student members at our four university student chapters in the state: NC A&T State University, NC State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte."

*(Note: March 2025 newsletter editor, David Robinson, is a past president and Life Member of NCSITE.)*

### 13. TRANSFORMING PASSENGER RAIL IN VIRGINIA MIGHT HELP NORTH CAROLINA

"Electrification of the S line high speed passenger rail project between Richmond and Raleigh may get a look" according to D. J. Stadtler, Executive Director of the Virginia Rail Passenger Authority, who further suggested that the idea would be revisited when the S line project gets to 50 percent design. Stadtler also indicates dual mode locomotives will be coming in 2027 which will aid in deciding the final propulsion scenario for the train service. Regardless, the carbon footprint of the service would be starkly less than the use of current locomotives.

Stadtler says a number of S line grants have been awarded to Virginia. 11 of the grants will be implemented by CSX, and 3 by the VPRA. The grants have been awarded, but monies not yet obligated. A list of all the projects are on the Virginia Rail Passenger Authority website

[vapassengerrailauthority.org](http://vapassengerrailauthority.org)

Virginia now has 8 state-supported Amtrak routes and plans on 13 round trips after completion of the Long Bridge project across the Potomac River. Ridership on Virginia trains is up 23 percent over for December over the previous year figures. Virginia's ridership growth is closely paralleling that experienced in North Carolina with NC By Train services (Carolinian and Piedmont.)

VRPA's latest major initiatives include the Long Bridge rail project over the Potomac River, and expansion of service in New River Valley. Long Bridge will provide two dedicated rail passenger tracks at a cost of 2.3 billion dollars, with completion in 2030. The New River service expansion west of Roanoke would begin with service to Blacksburg via N&W tracks. This route is also part of the highest rated long distance route expansion in the FRA Amtrak long distance study. Additional service expansion in western Virginia might include running an in-state Cardinal service when the tri-weekly train doesn't run. Stadtler says consideration of this probably wouldn't happen until 2027, and there are ongoing efforts to make the Cardinal a daily service between Washington and Chicago.

**"EVERY MEMBER  
GET A MEMBER"  
IS A GOOD WAY  
FOR CAPT TO GROW**

## 14. OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE OF NC PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE



The following article written by Ryan Pecaut appeared in the Blog of All Aboard Ohio on January 10, 2025. Ryan is AAO's Communications Strategy Lead. Only minor edits have been made.

### North Carolina's Missing Trains: Where are Amtrak Piedmont's New Trains?

A month ago, I took a ride on North Carolina's aging fleet of Amtrak trains from Raleigh to Charlotte. The trains are lovely but old and with so much investment in passenger rail in recent years I wanted to see if there were any new trains on order. Little did I know the rabbit hole I would be diving into. For the last month I've been looking through records, financials, and talking with folks to find the answer. This is that story.

#### Multiple Grants are Announced

In 2019, North Carolina's Department of Transportation (NCDOT) was awarded a nearly \$77 million grant to purchase new rail cars. Documents showed that the grant would support a fleet of 13 new passenger coaches, intended to phase out the oldest rail cars in the Piedmont service, which currently operates four times daily between Raleigh and Charlotte.

As the Covid pandemic struck and ridership fell, the NCDOT announced it was reevaluating whether they would move forward with the grant but towards the end of 2019, applied for and received a second grant for \$80 million for 13 more rail cars and 6 new locomotives. These are listed as Phase II of the Piedmont Improvement Project, which has no website, and no press release.

The promise of new trains is a major deal for the Piedmont service. Historically, all of the Piedmont's rail cars have been purchased, used, from other railroads. The current rolling stock, built in the 1950s and 60s, all served former lives and were retrofitted for service for the NCDOT. While the retrofits are highly regarded as being comfy, having free coffee, and Wi-Fi onboard, they are aging, and the oldest ones need replacement.

#### North Carolina Buys Circus Cars

One attempt to replace the oldest parts of the fleet came in 2017: NCDOT purchased nine Barnum and Bailey Circus train cars for \$383,000, aiming to refurbish them for use on the state-supported Piedmont route. Following

the grants in 2019 and 2020, NCDOT decided to auction the cars off to recoup costs, but there were no buyers. In 2022, the rail cars, stored on a rail spur in Nash County, caught fire from suspected arson and due to their remote location, firefighters couldn't get to the train, meaning four of the cars burned and had to be scrapped.



The remaining five were put up for sale online, with two being sent to tourist train companies in New Hampshire and Virginia, and three sold to a company planning to scrap them. The total final sales amounted to \$55,051.

So, if the 2019 and 2020 grants prompted a sale of the purchased 2017 circus train cars, where are the new railcars for NCDOT's Piedmont?

#### The Other North Carolina Train

Progress is being made on North Carolina's other train. New railcars for the Carolinian, which runs between Charlotte and New York, are expected as early as 2026, according to NCDOT spokesperson Lauren Haviland. These were purchased and will be owned by Amtrak as part of Amtrak's major Siemens contract in 2021 for the new Amtrak Airo trainset.

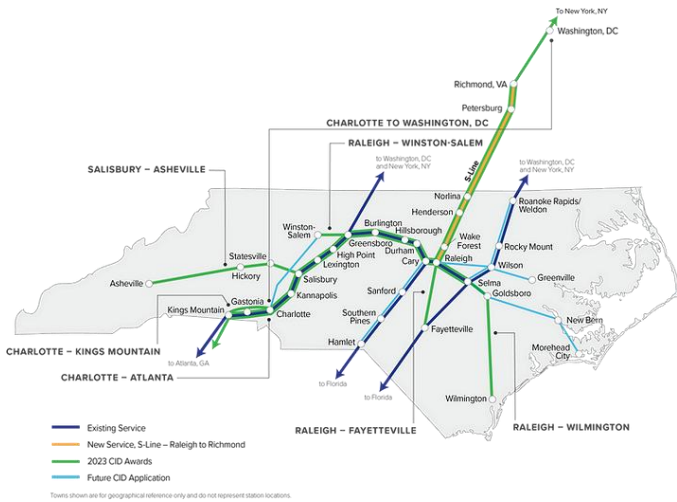
The Piedmont will receive its new train cars sometime after that according to NCDOT in one interview.

While riding on the Piedmont trains, a crew member said that the new rail cars will be produced at Siemens' advanced manufacturing and rail services facility in Lexington, North Carolina, though we have not been able to confirm this with NCDOT or Amtrak. The Siemens facility will primarily produce passenger cars and is slated to open in mid-2025 following delays from its original planned opening in late 2024 which is still listed on Siemens' project status website.

The State of North Carolina has the new trains listed to start construction in 2026 on its State Transportation Improvement Program but has yet to announce any



comments for the project, commitments with Siemens, or an estimated completion date. Between the trains and a new maintenance facility the state expects an additional funding need of \$212 million for the program. Not too far in the future, North Carolina may have new trains on its rails.



**Additional Note**

The need for railcars will likely grow in the future. NCDOT is evaluating seven new passenger rail corridors via the Federal Railroad Administration’s Corridor ID grant program:

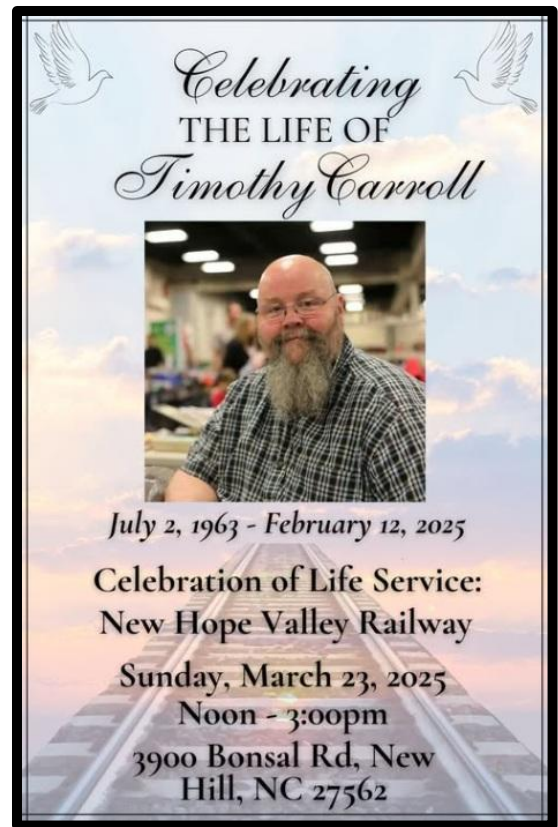
- Atlanta to Charlotte
- Charlotte to Kings Mountain
- Charlotte to Washington, D.C.
- Fayetteville to Raleigh
- Salisbury to Asheville
- Wilmington to Raleigh
- Winston-Salem to Raleigh

To read the full article with additional pictures, go to <https://www.allaboardohio.org/>

You can sign up to receive emails from All Aboard Ohio.

**15. TIM CARROLL**  
 July 2, 1963 - February 12, 2025  
 Fuquay Varina, North Carolina

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Timothy “Tim” Earl Carroll of Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, who passed away at the age of 61.



According to one of our members, Tim worked for many years with Amtrak, after working for a few years in freight service with Norfolk Southern. He started with Amtrak as a sleeping car attendant, working mostly on southeast long distance trains like the Silver Meteor and the Silver Star. After a few years, Tim switched from onboard services to station services where he eventually spent most of his railroad career. He ultimately became the lead station agent at Fayetteville, NC. Upon his retirement in October 2024, Tim had achieved 30 years of distinguished service for Amtrak.

In lieu of flowers, financial donations may be made in Timothy's memory to the New Hope Valley Railway, or to the Fuquay Varina History Museum,.

**16. MEMBER NEWS: CAPT's TOMMY THOMAS RIDES "CANADIAN" FROM TORONTO TO VANCOUVER**



Some would call it a “bucket list” thing; some would say it was “a once-in-a-lifetime adventure”—whatever you want to call it, the five-day, four-night odyssey on the VIA Rail “Canadian” passenger train at times defies any attempt at description.



Sioux Lookout, Ontario

The route from Toronto to Vancouver runs only twice-weekly (westbound is Train 1, eastbound is Train 2) carries the lone remaining trans-Canada passenger train on rail segments belonging to the Canadian Pacific, Canadian National, and the old Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern Railroad Companies. Coming in at just under 3,000 miles, the route has been described as “A thousand miles of the Canadian Shield, a thousand miles of the Canadian Prairies, and a thousand miles of the Canadian Rockies”.

Starting just north of Toronto and covering nearly all of Eastern Canada, the Canadian Shield is a massive, billion-plus-years-old granite formation laid bare by glacial activity that also carved nearly countless rivers, streams, and lakes. The extremely unforgiving and irregular (not to mention dangerous) terrain presented unprecedented construction difficulties; progress was painfully slow, and loss of life was high. Completion of this segment demanded its own “Golden Spike” ceremony on January 1, 1914.

As the “Canadian” passes from Ontario into Manitoba, beautiful rolling prairies containing some of the richest farmland in the world take over and flatten out as the train rolls on northwestward from Winnipeg into Saskatchewan. Countless grain elevators of every age, size, and shape take on a nearly intimidating presence adjacent to the tracks and lead one to wonder how enough grain could possibly be grown to fill them all! A moonlit night results in wondrous 360-degree views from the 1950s vintage Dome Car that offers a comfortable seating area above the roof line of the train



Entry into the province of Alberta marks the gradual end of the agricultural prairies and the beginning of oil and gas country around Edmonton, but the Rockies are soon to follow, and Jasper is the Gateway to them. Astounding scenery is the constant on this segment, as the route goes through Yellowhead Pass near Mt. Robson, then turns south to follow the Blue and Thompson rivers (downhill all the way) to Kamloops. Finally, the “Canadian” traverses the last beautiful stretch just above the US border, then rolls proudly into Vancouver on the morning of the fifth day out from Toronto.



Comparisons between the “Canadian” and the American Amtrak cross-country routes and equipment are inevitable, so here’s one man’s opinion. As regards overall maintenance and cleanliness of the train cars, the “Canadian” is head and shoulders superior to Amtrak, VIA having taken wonderful care of them through the years with periodic refurbishments and introduction of the “Prestige” sleeper class in 2015. “Cherry picker” equipment is even employed to clean the Dome windows in Jasper before the train enters the Rockies, an unexpected, nice touch (dirty windows always seem to be an issue with Amtrak!)



As for the food? Well, after you get past the exquisitely appointed dining car on the “Canadian” (real chinaware and silverware, linen napkins, etc.), I’d have to give the slight edge to Amtrak! That goes for all three meals of the day, especially breakfast, although the VIA “Prestige” class sleepers do offer continuous coffee, beverage, and snack service from 5:30 AM to 11 PM.

So, there you have it; a train trip for the ages I never thought I’d be lucky enough to take! But did I say “once-in-a-lifetime”? Hopefully, I’ll be fortunate enough to do it again, this time in midsummer to take advantage of the long days at that time of the year - roughly 20 hours of daylight in mid-June versus only about seven in early January! It won’t be this year (I want to fulfill the Sunset Limited/Southwest Chief Amtrak loop!), but summer of ’26 will be here before you know it!



Tommy Thomas, CAPT NC Vice-President

**17. NC BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU OF RAIL CONCERNS**

CAPT members need to know who represents their county on the governor/legislature-appointed policy board (NC Board of Transportation) of the NCDOT. The current names and geographical assignments of the current board members are as follows.



**DIVISION 1 – ALLEN MORAN**

**Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington counties.**  
**No Amtrak train stations.**



Moran joined the Board of Transportation in May 2017. In 2008, Moran began a career in law enforcement as a deputy with the Dare County Sheriff’s Office and has risen to the rank of Captain. He manages the county’s detention center, including 50 employees and a \$4 million budget. Moran is also a licensed real estate broker with Village Realty in Nags Head. A lifelong resident of **Dare County**, He currently serves as the vice chairman of the Roanoke Island Community Center Board, and as a member of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee.

**DIVISION 2 – MERRIE JO ALCOKE**

**Greene, Pitt, Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, Jones, Lenoir counties.**  
**No Amtrak train stations.**  
**Amtrak Thruway Bus stops in Greenville, New Bern, Havelock, Morehead City to Wilson Amtrak station.**



Alcoke joined the Board of Transportation in September 2022. She is a native and current resident of **New Bern**. She recently served as the director of the governor’s Eastern Office. Before that, Alcoke was in private practice as an attorney with Ward and Smith, P.A. where she specialized in environmental matters. Alcoke is active in her community, including board service in the areas of conservation and historic preservation.

**NEXT BOARD MTG IS IN RALEIGH, NC MARCH 21, 2025**



**DIVISION 3 – LANDON G. ZIMMER**

**Sampson, Duplin, Pender, Onslow,  
Brunswick, New Hanover counties.**

**No Amtrak train stations.**

**Amtrak Thruway Bus stops in Jacksonville,  
Wilmington to Wilson Amtrak station.**



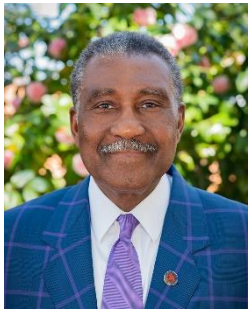
Zimmer joined the Board of Transportation in March 2017. Zimmer is a partner at the law firm of Zimmer and Zimmer, LLP, Attorneys at Law. He is also a commissioner on the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and is a member of various professional, civic and social organizations. A life-long resident of Wilmington, Zimmer holds an undergraduate degree, Master of Business Administration, and a law degree from Duke University.

**DIVISION 4 – MELVIN MITCHELL**

**Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Nash,  
Wayne, and Wilson counties.**

**Amtrak stations: RMT, SSM, WNC.**

**Amtrak Thruway Bus stop in Goldsboro to  
Wilson Amtrak station.**



Mitchell joined the Board of Transportation in August 2020. Mitchell is the president of Melvin M. Mitchell Agency Inc., which is affiliated with Allstate Insurance Co. He serves on the Board of Commissioners for Nash UNC Health Care in Rocky Mount, is a founding partner and

a member of the Board of Directors for Providence Bank in Rocky Mount and is a past member of the First Carolina State Bank Board of Directors. He has been a resident of **Rocky Mount** since 1974.



**DIVISION 5 – VALERIE JORDAN**

**Durham, Franklin, Granville, Person,  
Vance, Wake, Warren counties.**

**Amtrak stations: DNC, CYN, RGH**



Jordan joined the Board of Transportation in March 2017. She has brought more than 20 years of experience in development, accounting services and project management to the board, and she currently works as an IBM Global Alliance Partner Account Manager at Cisco Systems in the Research Triangle Park. She is a native of Warren County and a long-time resident of **Raleigh**.

**DIVISION 6 – GRADY HUNT**

**Harnett, Cumberland, Robeson,  
Blade, Columbus counties.**

**Amtrak station: FAY**



Grady Hunt joined the N.C. Board of Transportation in March 2017. He has practiced government, education and real estate law for more than 30 years. He is a partner at the law firm of Hunt & Brooks and has served as legal counsel to several rural municipalities, including the Town of Pembroke and the Town of Maxton. A native and resident of Robeson County, He is also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He resides in **Robeson County**.

**DIVISION 7 – MICHAEL S. FOX**

**Alamance, Caswell, Guilford,  
Orange, Rockingham counties.**

**Amtrak stations: BNC, GRO, HPT.**



Fox re-joined the Board of Transportation in March 2017. He has brought to the board more than 25 years of legal experience, and is currently a partner with Tuggle Duggins P.A., a private law practice in Greensboro, NC. Fox previously served on the Board from 2010 to 2013. He resides in **Greensboro**,

## **DIVISION 8 – LISA MATHIS**

**Chatham, Lee, Montgomery, Moore,  
Randolph, Richmond, Scotland counties.  
Amtrak stations: SOP, HAM.**



Mathis joined the Board of Transportation in August 2019. A **Sanford** small business owner, artist and community leader, Mathis is a longtime advocate for jobs and growth. She has brought more than 25 years of creative design, communication and problem-solving skills to the board. Having grown up in a military family, Mathis has lived all over the country and the world, but 28 years ago she chose to put down roots and raise a family in North Carolina.



## **DIVISION 9 – ANDREW M. PERKINS**

**Davidson, Davie, Forsyth,  
Rowan, Stokes counties.  
Amtrak station: SAL.**



Perkins joined the Board of Transportation in 2003. He is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Engineering at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro. Prior to that appointment, he served as the University Engineer. Before joining North Carolina A&T, Perkins retired with the rank of colonel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after 29 years of distinguished service. Originally from the Tidewater area of Hampton, Va., he now lives in **Greensboro**.

## **DIVISION 10 – ANTHONY LATHROP**

**Mecklenburg, Union, Anson,  
Cabarrus, Stanly counties.  
Amtrak stations: CLT, KAN**



Lathrop joined the N.C. Board of Transportation in March 2017. He chairs the Board's Finance Committee, He also served as an Advisory Member of the NCDOT's NC FIRST (Future Investment Resources for Sustainable Transportation) Commission. As a partner with Moore & Van Allen PLLC, his expertise lies in complex commercial litigation, transportation, zoning and land use law, and dispute resolution. He served on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission from 2011 until 2017 and chaired the commission for three years, from 2014 until 2017. Lathrop also serves on the Charlotte Unified Development Ordinance Advisory Committee, which he chaired from 2016 until 2023. He resides in **Charlotte**.

## **DIVISION 11 – MEAGAN PHILLIPS**

**Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Surry,  
Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin counties.  
No Amtrak stations.**



Phillips joined the Board of Transportation in September 2022. Hailing from a family with a tradition in public service, Phillips worked previously in admissions and recruitment at her alma mater, Appalachian State University. Then she joined her family's business, which specializes in real estate and development in Boone. Phillips is the granddaughter of M. Randolph Phillips, who was appointed to the Board of Transportation in 1977. She currently serves on the Appalachian Regional Healthcare System board and was a board member of the Blue Ridge Conservancy, where she held multiple leadership roles. Phillips has also served as a board member at various non-profit organizations. Phillips is a lifelong resident of Raleigh.





## **DIVISION 12 – BRADLEY LAIL**

**Alexander, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston,  
Iredell, Lincoln counties.**

**Amtrak station: GAS**



Lail joined the N.C. Board of Transportation in August 2020. Lail is employed in family businesses, including Hickory Furniture Mart and franchise hotels in Hickory and western North Carolina. He served on the Hickory City Council from 2003-2019. He was an appointee to the Greater Hickory MPO. He is a lifelong **Hickory** resident.

## **DIVISION 13 – BILLY CLARKE**

**Buncombe, Burke, Madison, McDowell,  
Mitchell, Rutherford, Yancey counties.**  
**No Amtrak stations (but Asheville hopeful.)**



Clarke joined the Board of Transportation in May 2017. He has brought nearly 30 years of experience representing local governments and private clients in environmental law. His practice focuses on environmental permitting and compliance, transactions involving the purchase and sale of contaminated property, environmental and administrative litigation, and water quality issues. He has extensive experience in Brownsfields Redevelopment for both public and private clients. He is a native of western North Carolina, and resides in Fairview, near Asheville.

## **DIVISION 14 – DIRK CODY**

**Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood,  
Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Polk, Swain,  
Transylvania counties,**  
**No Amtrak stations.**



Cody joined the Board of Transportation in August 2019. He is the project manager at Herve Cody Contractor in Robbinsville and has more than 40 years of experience in small business, heavy construction, and local government. He has managed more than 20 heavy construction projects for various governments with a total value of more than \$100 million. In 2015, his company received the Region 4 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award. Cody is

the chairman of the Graham County Transportation Advisory Board and a member of the Robbinsville Travel and Tourism Board. He is a native of **Robbinsville**.

## **AT LARGE: KATHY HARRINGTON**

**(Gastonia)**



Harrington joined the Board of Transportation in May 2023. A retired state senator, Harrington was the first female majority leader in the history of the North Carolina General Assembly. As co-chair of the Senate's Transportation Policy and Appropriations committees, one of Harrington's most rewarding accomplishments was working with her House and Senate colleagues to pass the North Carolina Strategic Transportation Investments, or STI. The STI revolutionized the way transportation dollars are spent in North Carolina by using a data-driven process to determine how and where transportation monies are allocated. Harrington is currently a partner with Byers, Harrington and Harrington LLC. She resides in **Gastonia**.

## **AT LARGE: LEO DAUGHTRY**

**(Smithfield)**



Daughtry joined the Board of Transportation in July 2022 and serves as an at-large member. Daughtry is a former North Carolina politician for over two decades, and a retired law partner and founding member of the Daughtry, Woodard, Lawrence, & Starling law firm in Smithfield. Daughtry became active in politics in 1976 and was elected to the North Carolina Senate representing Johnston County in 1989. He has served in both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly and has had stints as the N.C. House majority and minority leader. Daughtry served 28 years in the state legislature until he retired in 2017. Daughtry was also involved with Johnston County public schools, the Johnston County's Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, and many other civic organizations. Born in Newton Grove, Daughtry has resided in Johnston County most of his life and currently lives in **Smithfield**.





**AT LARGE: STEPHEN ROSENBURGH**  
**(Charlotte)**



Rosenburgh joined the Board of Transportation in August 2020. Rosenburgh is the founder, president and CEO of Charlotte-based US Developments, LLC, where he manages a team of experienced development and brokerage specialists. He has served as a member of the North Carolina Banking Commission and the N.C. Works Commission as well as a director for the City of Charlotte Housing Authority and was chairman of the Charlotte Planning Commission for four years and a member of the Regional Transportation Board. He resides in **Charlotte**.

**BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Email</b>
1	Allan Moran	bot-allenmoran@ncdot.gov
2	Merrie Jo Alcoke	bot-myalcokr@ncdot.gov
3	Landon Zimmer	bot-lgzimmer@ncdot.gov
4	Melvin Mitchell	bot-mmmitchell@ncdot.gov
5	Valerie Jordan	bot-vdjordan@ncot.gov
6	Grady Hunt	bot-glhunt@ncdot.gov
7	Michael Fox	bot-msfox@ncdot.gov
8	Lisa Mathis	bot-ldmathis@ncdot.gov
9	Andrew Perkins	bot-amperkins@ncdot.gov
10	Anthony Lathrop	bot-tlathtop1@ncdot.gov
11	Meagan Phillips	bot-mcphillips@ncdot.gov
12	Bradley Lail	bot-bclail@ncdot.gov
13	Billy Clarke	bot-wclarke@ncdot.gov
14	Dirk Cody	bot-adcody@ncdot.gov
AL	Kathy Harrington	bot-kgharrington@ncdot.gov
AL	Leo Daughtry	bot-nldaughtry@ncdot.gov
AL	Steve Rosenburgh	bot-sarosenburgh@ncdot.gov

**BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee:** Lail, Chair ; Rosenburgh, Vice Chair; Cody, Hunt, Harrington, Zimmer, Daughtry, Alcoke.  
**Finance Committee:** Lathrop, Chair; Lail, Hunt, Harrington, Zimmer, Daughtry, Mathis, Phillips, Rosenburgh  
**Multi-Modal Committee:** Mathis, Chair; Moran, Vice Chair; Lail, Zimmer, Daughtry, Alcoke, Lathrop, Jordan.

**18. SOUTH CAROLINA DOT COMMISSIONERS**

The Commission is the administrative and governing authority of SCDOT. It is composed of nine members: one member from each Congressional District and two at-large members. The district members are appointed by the Governor, subject to approval of the legislative delegations of their respective Districts. The at-large members are appointed by the Governor, subject to approval by a separate confirmation vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The mailing address is Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, PO Box 191, Columbia SC 29202. The commissioner for the 7<sup>th</sup> District and the two governor-appointed at-large commissioners are currently vacant.



**1<sup>st</sup> CONGRESSSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**T.J. Johnson, Chair**  
 All, or part of, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester counties  
 Office: (803)737-0013  
[JohnsonTJ@scdot.org](mailto:JohnsonTJ@scdot.org)



**2<sup>nd</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**William B. "Bill" Dukes**  
 Vice Chair  
 All, or part of, Aiken, Barnwell, Lexington, Orangeburg, Richland counties.  
 Office: (803) 737-0013  
[DukesWB@scdot.org](mailto:DukesWB@scdot.org)



**6<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**J. Barnwell Fishburne**  
 Commissioner  
 All, or part of, Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Florence, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg, Richland, Sumter, Williamsburg counties.

Office: (843) 549-1581  
[FishburneJB@scdot.org](mailto:FishburneJB@scdot.org)



**3<sup>rd</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**Pamela L. Christopher**  
 Commissioner  
 All, or part of Abbeville, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda counties.  
 Office: (803) 737-0013  
[ChristopherPL@scdot.org](mailto:ChristopherPL@scdot.org)



**7<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**Vacant**  
 Commissioner  
 All, or part of, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro counties.



**4<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**Max K. Metcalf**  
 Commissioner  
 All, or part of, Greenville, Spartanburg counties  
 Office: (803) 737-0013  
[Metcalfmk@scdot.org](mailto:Metcalfmk@scdot.org)

**19. KEY CONTACTS IN SCDOT**



**SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Justin P. Powell**



**5<sup>th</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**  
**Curtis M. Spencer**  
 Commissioner  
 All, or part of, Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Newberry, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, York counties.  
 Office: (803) 737-0013



**DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ENGINEERING**  
**Rob Perry**



**DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING**

**Leah Quattlebaum**



**DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR INTERMODAL AND FREIGHT PROGRAMS**

**Jennifer Necker**

**20. NCDOT RAIL DIVISION CONTACTS**

**Director**

Jason Orthner, jorthner@ncdot.gov

**Deputy Director**

Matthew Simmons, mbsimmons@ncot.gov

**Mgr. of Planning & Development**

Ronald Lucas, rglucas@ncdot.gov

**Mgr. of Engineering Coordination & Safety**

Jahmal Pullen, jmpullen@ncdot.gov

**Mgr. of Design & Construction**

Troy Creasy, tjcreasy@ncdot.gov

**Rail Operations Manager**

Timothy Abbott, tpabbott@ncedot.gov

**Communications Officer**

Liz McCam, epmacam@ncdot.gov

**21. LOCAL CAPT CHAPTER BEING FORMED IN CHARLOTTE**

A regional chapter of the Carolinas Association for Passenger Trains (dba. All Aboard Carolinas) is being created in the Charlotte region.

The chapter “All Aboard Carolinas – Charlotte” will build on efforts of both CAPT and the former Citizens for Efficient Mass Transit and will be associated with several transportation and environmental interests in the area.

High speed, inter-city, regional (commuter) and light rail will be the focus of the chapter. As provided for in the

bylaws a chapter can be created with the sponsorship of two members of the board of directors. President Wheeler and Board member Jim Fetchero jointly proposed creation of the chapter at the Columbia meeting in January. Unanimous approval was given.

Existing or proposed CAPT members interested in joining the chapter should contact either Martin Wheeler or Jim Fetchero, whose contact information may be found on the back page of the newsletter.

**22. CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS (US SENATE)**

CAPT encourages you to contact your congressmen with your concerns about passenger rail program funding. Here is the contact information you will need.

**NORTH CAROLINA SENATORS**

**--- THOM TILLIS (R) ---**



**Committee on Finance, Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure.**

**Contact Form:**

<https://www.tillis.senate.gov/email-me>

**Meeting Request Form:**

<https://www.tillis.senate.gov/meetings>

**Offices:** Raleigh, Charlotte, Greenville, Hendersonville, Greensboro, and Washington, DC.

**--- TED BUDD (R) ---**



**Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Subcommittee on Surface**

**Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports**

**Contact Form:**

<https://www.budd.senate.gov/contact/>

**Meeting Request Form:**

<https://www.budd.senate.gov/constituent-services/meeting-requests/>



**Offices:** Advance, Asheville, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Washington DC.

**SOUTH CAROLINA SENATORS**

**--- LINDSAY GRAHAM (R) ---**



**Committees on Budget (Chair); Appropriations; and Environment & Public Works**

**Contact Form:**

<https://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=contact-form>

**Offices:** Greenville (Upstate), Columbia (Midlands), Florence (Pee Dee), Mt. Pleasant (Low Country), Rock Hill (Piedmont), Pendleton (Golden Corner), and Washington, DC.

**--- TIM SCOTT (R) ---**



**Committee on Finance**

**Contact Form:**

<https://www.scott.senate.gov/contact/email-me/>

**Meeting Request Form:**

<https://www.scott.senate.gov/contact/schedule-a-meeting/meeting-request-form/>

**Offices:** North Charleston (Low Country), Columbia (Midlands), Greenville (Upstate), and Washington, DC.



**SEND US YOUR AMTRAK TRAIN AND STATION PHOTOS TAKEN IN NORTH OR SOUTH CAROLINA!**



Hamlet, NC



NCDOT 1797 City of Asheville

**NOTE: CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE BUSINESS CARD-SIZE ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER ALL YEAR ROUND!**

**CAPT's AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION AND CORPORATE MEMBERS**

	
<p><b>HELP SPREAD THE WORD BY JOINING AS AN ORGANIZATION AFFILIATE OR CORPORATE MEMBER</b></p>	<p><b>THIS SPACE RESERVED IN EVERY ISSUE FOR YOUR CORPORATE LOGO AND WEBSITE LINK</b></p>
<p><b>FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS' ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE = \$200</b></p>	<p><b>SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS IN IN THE CAROLINAS!</b></p>
<p><b>JOIN AND PAY ONLINE AT <a href="https://captrail.org/membership.htm">https://captrail.org/membership.htm</a></b></p>	<p><b>NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS' ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE = \$100</b></p>
<p><b>THIS SPACE IS WAITING FOR YOU!</b></p>	<p><b>CAPT IS THE ONLY PASSENGER RAIL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION IN THE CAROLINAS WHICH HAS MEMBERS</b></p>
<p><b>MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2025</b></p>	<p><b>CAPT'S MEMBERSHIP IS IT'S STRENGTH JOIN NOW, AND HELP US GET STRONGER</b></p>

# ALL ABOARD CAROLINAS

## CAROLINAS ASSOCIATION FOR PASSENGER TRAINS

### OFFICERS

OFFICE	INDIVIDUAL	TERM	HOME TOWN	EMAIL
President	Martin L. Wheeler, Jr.	11/24 – 11/25	Charlotte, NC	mwheeler3@att.net
Vice President – NC	Tommy Thomas	11/24 – 11/25	Castle Hayne, NC	tommyt56@twc.com
Vice President - SC	Charles D. Gossett	11/24 – 11/25	Columbia, SC	gossetcd64@gmail.com
Secretary	VACANT	11/24 – 11/25		
Treasurer	Ralph Messura	11/24 – 11/25	Matthews, NC	ralphseddon@gmil.com

### DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR	INDIVIDUAL	TERM	HOME TOWN	EMAIL
North Carolina	Robert H. Bischoff	11/24 – 11/26	Charlotte, NC	cemt200@gmail.com
North Carolina	John Bobinyec	11/23 – 11/25	Cary, NC	jgb@dbd01.com
North Carolina	Jim Fetchero	11/24 – 11/26	Charlotte, NC	jfetch@aol.com
North Carolina	Ed Locklin	11/24 – 11/26	Charlotte, NC	edlocklin@carolina.rr.com
North Carolina	Ralph Messera	11/24 – 11/26	Matthews, NC	ralphseddon@gmil.com
North Carolina	Tommy Thomas	11/24 – 11/26	Castle Hayne, NC	tommyt56@twc.com
North Carolina	Martin L. Wheeler	11/23 – 11/25	Charlotte, NC	mwheeler3@att.net
North Carolina	Chris Wallace	11/24 – 11/25	Charlotte, NC	cmwallace105@gmail.com
North Carolina	David Thomas	11/24 – 11/25	Charlotte, NC	daydaydude@gmail.com
North Carolina	Andy Zou	11/24 – 11/25	Charlotte, NC	zouandy8@gmail.com
South Carolina	Charles D. Gossett	11/23 – 11/25	Columbia, SC	gossetcd64@gmail.com
South Carolina	VACANT			
South Carolina	VACANT			

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

POSITION	INDIVIDUAL	TERM	HOME TOWN	EMAIL
Newsletter Editor	Donald Yehle	11/24 – 11/25	Bluffton, SC	dyehle@gmail.com
Membership Chair	David Robinson	11/24 – 11/25	Raleigh, NC	dr.david.robinson@gmail.com

### BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS IN 2025

MONTH	LOCATION	DATE
January	Columbia, SC	January 24 (Friday)
March	Raleigh, NC	March 21 (Friday)
May	Charleston, SC	TBD in 3 <sup>rd</sup> week
July	Kannapolis, NC	TBD in 3 <sup>rd</sup> week
September	Florence, SC	TBD in 3 <sup>rd</sup> week
November	Goldsboro, NC	TBD in 3 <sup>rd</sup> week

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE

<b>A.</b> Individuals up to age 64	\$30
<b>B.</b> Individuals 65 and older (retired)	\$20
<b>C.</b> Degree students up to age 25	\$20
<b>D.</b> Not-for-profit corporation *	\$100
<b>E.</b> For profit corporation *	\$200

\* Newsletter & website recognition

**CAPT** is an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

**FROM THE CAB** is published monthly by CAPT.

**All Aboard Carolinas** is a DBA (doing business as) name.

### NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

(copy or include info separately when mailing check)

<b>Name</b>					
<b>Category</b> (circle)	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Address</b>					
<b>City</b>					
<b>State</b>					
<b>Zip Code</b>					
<b>Phone</b>					
<b>Email</b>					
<b>Your Amtrak Station</b>					
Make check to " <b>CAPT</b> " & mail to Ralph Messera, Treasurer 401 S. Freemont St, Matthews, NC 28105					
<b>To join or renew and pay dues online:</b>					
<a href="https://www.captrail.org/membership.htm">https://www.captrail.org/membership.htm</a>					