



November 29, 2017  
Compact Meeting  
NCDOT Chief Engineer's Conference  
Room  
4809 Beryl Road



**DRPT.**



## Agenda

- Opening Remarks – *Representative Bill Brawley*
- State Project Updates – *VA DRPT and NCDOT Rail Division*
- Federal Funding Environment – *Ken Altman, Amtrak*
- Southeast Regional Rail Plan Update – *Will Dyer and Jessie Gatti, FRA*
- VA-NC Compact and Future Governance
- Additional Discussion
- Public Comment



- Created in 2004 pursuant to 49 USC 24101
- One of two Congressionally approved Compacts in the nation (*other is Midwest*)
- Necessary to successfully advance multi-state projects
- The Compact's charter: support the development of a plan for the design, construction, financing, oversight and operation of the Southeast Corridor
- In March, 2016, the Compact met and:
  - Voted to start the process of inviting other states in the Southeast to join the Compact
  - Asked NCDOT and VA DRPT staff to draft a three-year plan of next steps
  - Asked NCDOT and VA DRPT staff to develop a list of joint grant applications



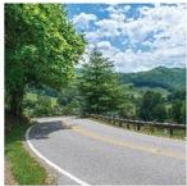
Virginia	North Carolina
Delegate Ronald Villanueva (Co-Chair)	Representative Bill Brawley (Co-Chair)
Delegate Richard Anderson	Representative Nelson Dollar
Delegate Jeion Ward	Senator Jim Davis
Senator Scott Surovell	Senator Tom McInnis
Senator John Cosgrove	Michael Fox, Chairman, Board of Transportation

# Placeholder for VA updates



## **NORTH CAROLINA**

Department of Transportation

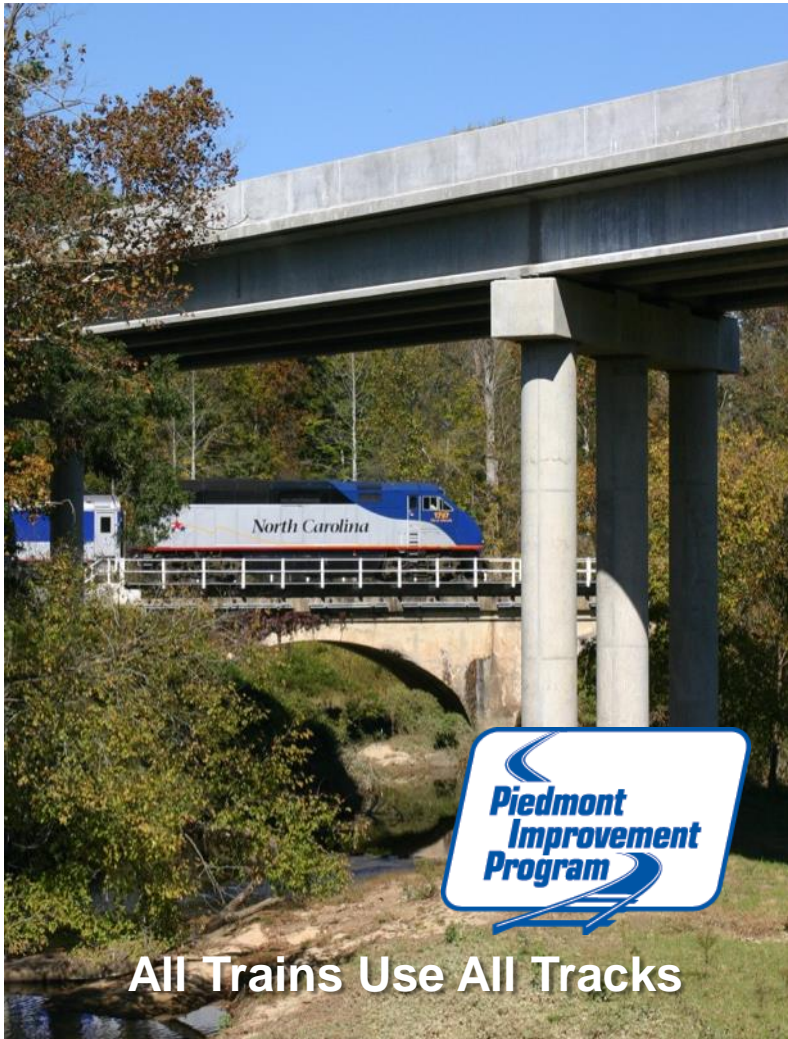


# Virginia-North Carolina Interstate High Speed Rail Compact North Carolina Project Updates

Sandra Stepney, PE, Manager  
Planning and Development Branch  
NCDOT Rail Division

November 29, 2017

# Piedmont Improvement Program wraps up this year



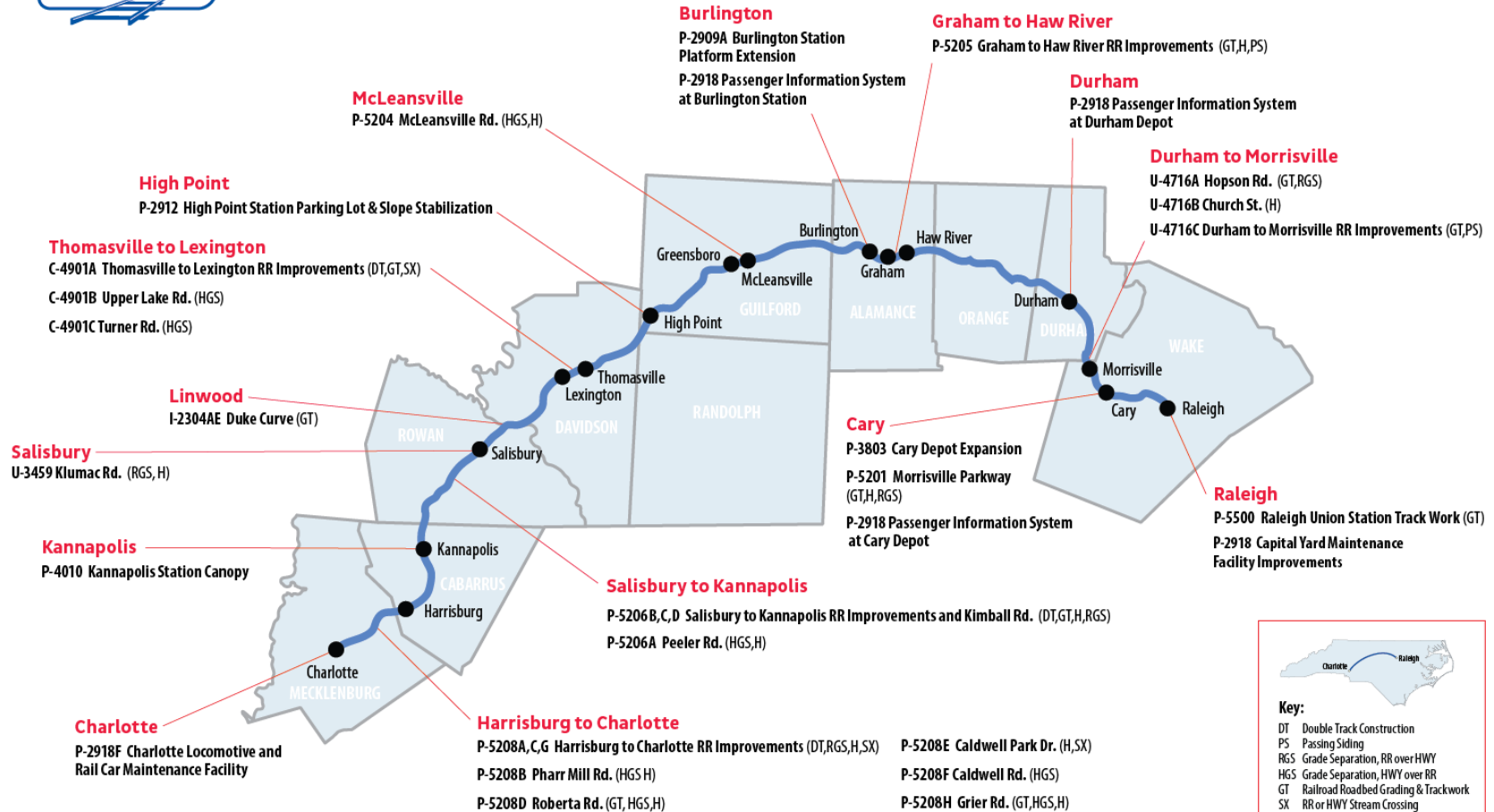
- One of the largest single improvements to NC rail infrastructure in modern times
- Results – safe, high capacity corridor connecting the key population centers in NC for freight and passenger service
- \$520 million ARRA grant from FRA
- Funds had to be expended by September 30, 2017
- NCDOT Ongoing Responsibilities:
  - Operate second and third *Piedmont* frequencies
  - Maintain equipment, facilities and track



## Piedmont Improvement Program Projects



August 2017



[https://youtu.be/SKGxwAt\\_7sU](https://youtu.be/SKGxwAt_7sU)



NC By Train - Piedmont Equipment 5 Locomotives 2 Cab Control Units 9 Railcars

# PIP Track & Structures Projects

- 27 miles of second main track
- 5 new double crossover control points
  - 20 new tangential geometry turnouts
  - 60 mph vs. 45 mph diverging speed
  - Improved ride quality
- 5 miles of passing sidings
- 30 new railroad signal installations
- 12 new roadway grade separations
- Approximately 12 miles of roadway construction
- 5 railroad bridge improvements
- Curve improvements
- Closure of over 40 at-grade crossings



# Other PIP Projects

- **Stations and Facilities**

- Renovations at existing stations at Cary, Burlington, High Point, and Kannapolis
- Track and signal work for the new Raleigh Union Station
- Improvements to the locomotive and railcar maintenance facility in Raleigh
- Construction of a new locomotive and railcar maintenance facility in Charlotte



- **Passenger Equipment Rebuilds**

- 7 locomotives
- 11 railcars
- 5 cab control units (to convert to push-pull operation)



[https://youtu.be/SKGxwAt\\_7sU](https://youtu.be/SKGxwAt_7sU)

# Raleigh Union Station Update

- NCDOT and City of Raleigh aligned needs, plans and funding
  - Multimodal facility in downtown Raleigh's Warehouse District
  - Will accommodate current and future demand for intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, buses, taxis, bicycles and other forms of transportation
  - Moves passengers off of freight mainline
  - NC's first fully-ADA compliant high level platform
- Construction began January 2016
- Scheduled to open Spring 2018



# Charlotte Gateway Station Update

- Partnership between NCDOT, the City of Charlotte and USDOT
- Busiest station in NC – 200,000+ passengers/year
- City is pursuing phased approach to advance the project and relocate Amtrak service to downtown
- Will be funded by:
  - Federal grants
  - NCDOT Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) awards
  - Local funding
  - City will launch a P3 procurement, seeking private development partners to design and construct the permanent passenger/multi-modal station



*Charlotte Gate Station Visualization –  
One Possible Option*

# Charlotte Gateway Station

## *Phase I Construction begins 2018*

- **Phase I Project Elements:**

- Build four new bridges at West 4th, Trade, 5th and 6th Streets
- Build two 2,000 foot station tracks, separating passenger from freight operations
- Build a high-level boarding platform and canopy
- Improve freight traffic flow to the Intermodal Facility at Charlotte Douglas International Airport

- **Phase 1 Status and Timeline:**

- Engineering / Approvals / Agreements – Underway
- Complete Utility Relocations – Early 2018
- Phase 1 Construction –
  - Contract Bids - February 2018
  - Begin Construction – April 2018
  - Complete Construction – 2021

- **Phase II Station 3P construction:**

- Begins Spring/Summer 2018

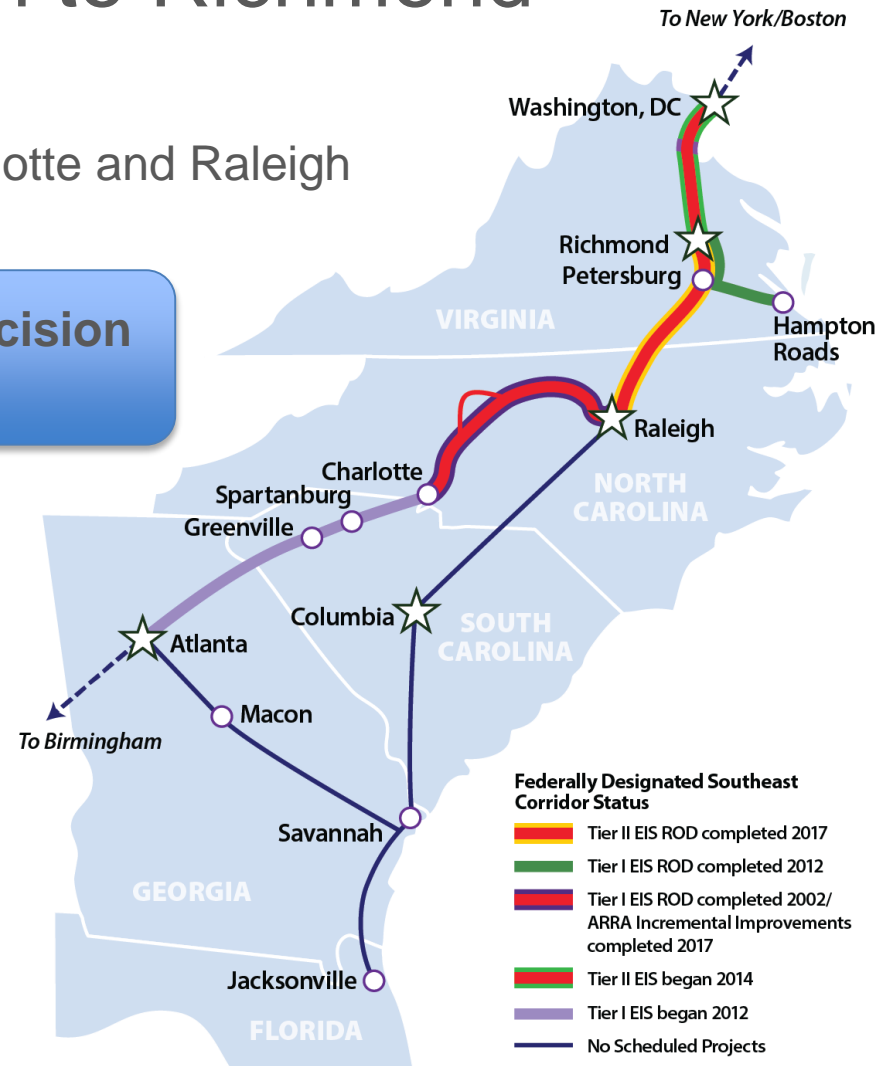


# SEC - Raleigh to Richmond

- **ARRA Improvements** between Charlotte and Raleigh to be completed late 2017

- **Raleigh to Richmond Record of Decision (ROD)** signed March 24, 2017

- **DC to Richmond Tier II EIS / ROD** underway – anticipated late 2017
- **Atlanta to Charlotte Tier I EIS /ROD** underway – anticipated late 2017



# Next Steps for Raleigh to Richmond

- **Incremental Service Development Plan**

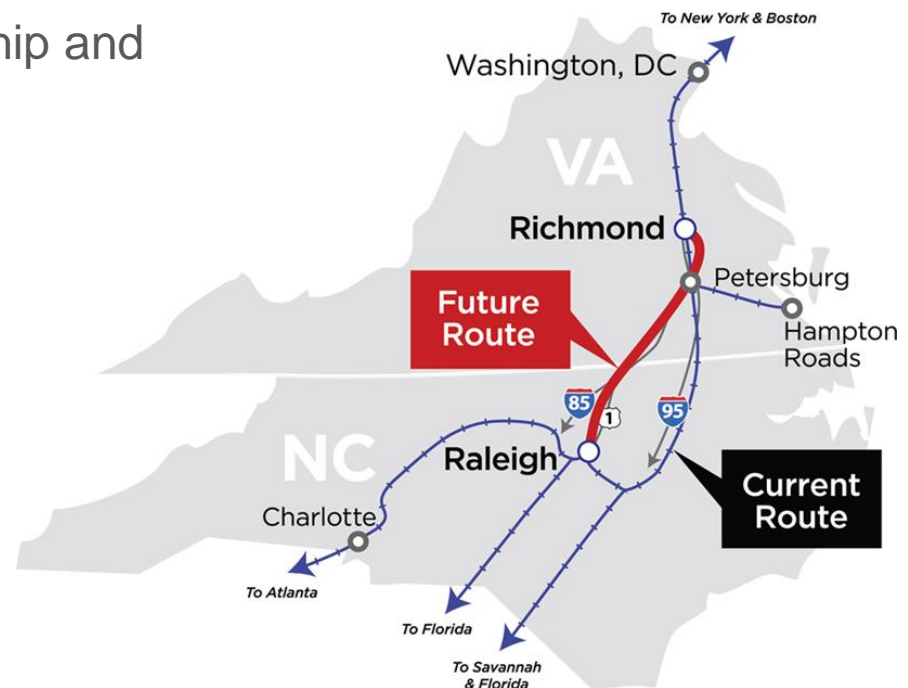
- Investment grade revenue/ridership and P3 financing options
- Strategies for incremental project delivery

- **Discussions with CSXT** on 9.1 miles of S-line from Norlina to state line

- NCDOT Appraisal
- VA Valuation

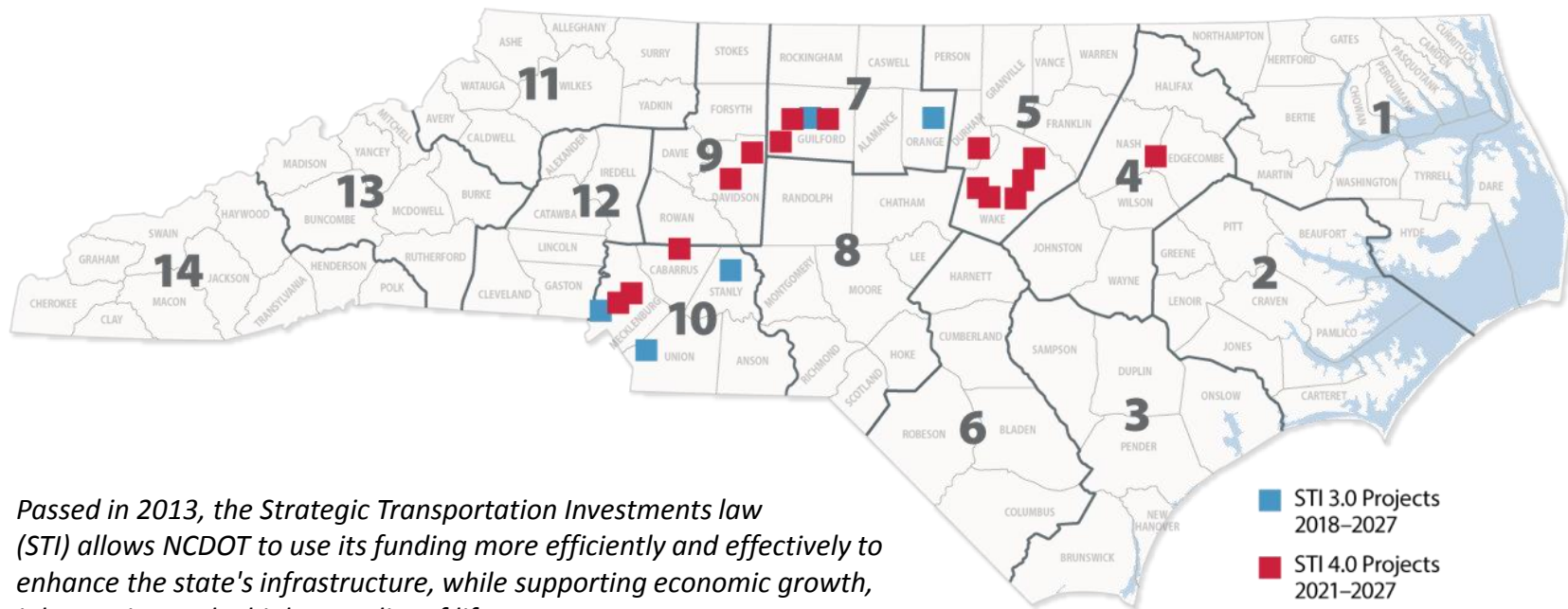
- **FRA Regional Study** underway

- **INFRA** grant application to seal corridor between Raleigh and Wake Forest



# Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Rail Projects

Projects submitted by local planning organizations (MPOs/RPOs) and NCDOT Highway Divisions for 2018-2027 funding commitment



*Passed in 2013, the Strategic Transportation Investments law (STI) allows NCDOT to use its funding more efficiently and effectively to enhance the state's infrastructure, while supporting economic growth, job creation and a higher quality of life.*

*Rail projects on Class I railroads are eligible for STI. Short lines are not.*



# Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund (FRRCSI)

**Established in 2013 under NCGS § 124-5.1.**

- \$3.75 M has been funded annually by North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) cash dividends
- \$40.45M allocated to date includes the following one-time allocations
  - \$15.45M SFY 2014 (NCRR)
  - \$13.75M SFY 2017 (General Assembly)

## **Program Goals:**

- Improve safety
- Modernize track infrastructure
- Increase freight capacity
- Support economic development
- Divert freight to rail





# FY 2017 FRRCSI Funding Update

## 58 projects approved by NCDOT Board of Transportation

- Freight Projects – rehabilitate track & bridges to accommodate 286K carloads
- Economic Development Projects – add carloads to NC's rail network (diverting from highways) and develop industrial infrastructure
- Safety Projects – consolidate and improve crossings, eliminate rail-highway hazards at those locations



Questions?

