



News Release

N.C. Department of Transportation Rail Division

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NCDOT Announces Two Additional Mid-Day Passenger Trains Between Raleigh and Charlotte to Begin June 5

*Deputy FRA Administrator to Address N.C. Board of Transportation
On Sustainable and Livable Communities*

Raleigh— State Transportation Secretary Gene Conti today announced that two additional trains providing mid-day service between Raleigh and Charlotte will begin on Saturday, June 5, increasing the state-sponsored passenger rail service to six trains operating daily between the state's two largest cities.

“As our population continues to grow, we must provide people with travel alternatives,” said Conti. “Train travel also provides environmental and energy benefits through reduced congestion and improved air quality.”

Currently, the state sponsors four trains daily, the *Piedmont* and *Carolinian*, as *North Carolina's Amtrak*. Each train makes a morning and evening run between Raleigh and Charlotte, a trip that is auto competitive at 3 hours and 7 minutes, including intermediate stops at Cary, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Kannapolis.

The new service will add two additional trains in the mid-day giving business travelers, families and college students more options to travel via rail. (See attached schedule.)

The *Carolinian* also provides daily service to Selma, Wilson, Rocky Mount, to Richmond, Virginia and to the northeast including Washington D.C. and New York City.

Federal Rail Administration Deputy Administrator Karen Rae will address the N.C. Board of Transportation at its meeting Wednesday, March 31 regarding the Obama Administration's policy on transportation choices as a part of building more livable communities and sustainability.

Rae, Conti and Rail Director Patrick Simmons will be available for media interviews regarding the North Carolina's new mid-day train service between Raleigh and Charlotte; the \$545 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds awarded to the state in February; and the FRA inspection of NCDOT rail equipment, facilities and capabilities from 2:45 p.m.- 3:15 p.m. via telephone by dialing **1-877-531-0014 and then access room# *8569289*** and onsite in room 117 in the Transportation Building at 1 S. Wilmington St.

To view the live Board of Transportation Web feed, visit <http://wms.its.state.nc.us/dotlive>.

*****NCDOT*****