



Railways

North Carolina

Two major freight railroads (CSX and Norfolk Southern) and 23 smaller private railroad companies operate in North Carolina, transporting more than 116 million tons of rail freight through the state each year. North Carolina commodities shipped by rail include: lumber, wood and food products, coal, glass, stone, pulp, paper, chemicals, manufacturing and farming products.

Catawba County

Norfolk Southern provides east-west freight service to the Greater Hickory Area through Catawba and Burke Counties. Passenger rail will be offered in the future to the Greater Hickory Area through Amtrak. Two other short line rail service providers are located in the region. Caldwell Railroad links Norfolk Southern in Hickory to Lenoir in Caldwell County. Caldwell Railroad starts in Hickory and runs through Granite Falls, Sawmills, Hudson and ends in Lenoir. Alexander Railroad links Taylorsville, Hiddenite, and Stony Point with Norfolk Southern in Statesville.

In March 2001, the North Carolina Department of Transportation adopted a phased plan to extend passenger rail service to Asheville and western North Carolina. The plan includes renovating or building train stations that incorporate other uses. Current budgetary constraints have prompted the NCDOT to delay the return of passenger rail service to the mountains. In the meantime the department will continue to work with communities on station renovations and rail safety improvements.

Norfolk Southern Corporation

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Norfolk Southern Corporation is a Norfolk, VA-based company that controls a major freight railroad, Norfolk Southern Railway Company. The railway operates approximately 21,300 route miles in 22 eastern states, the District of Columbia and Ontario, Canada, serves all major eastern ports and connects with rail partners in the West and Canada, linking customers to markets around the world. Norfolk Southern provides comprehensive logistics services and offers the most extensive intermodal network in the East.