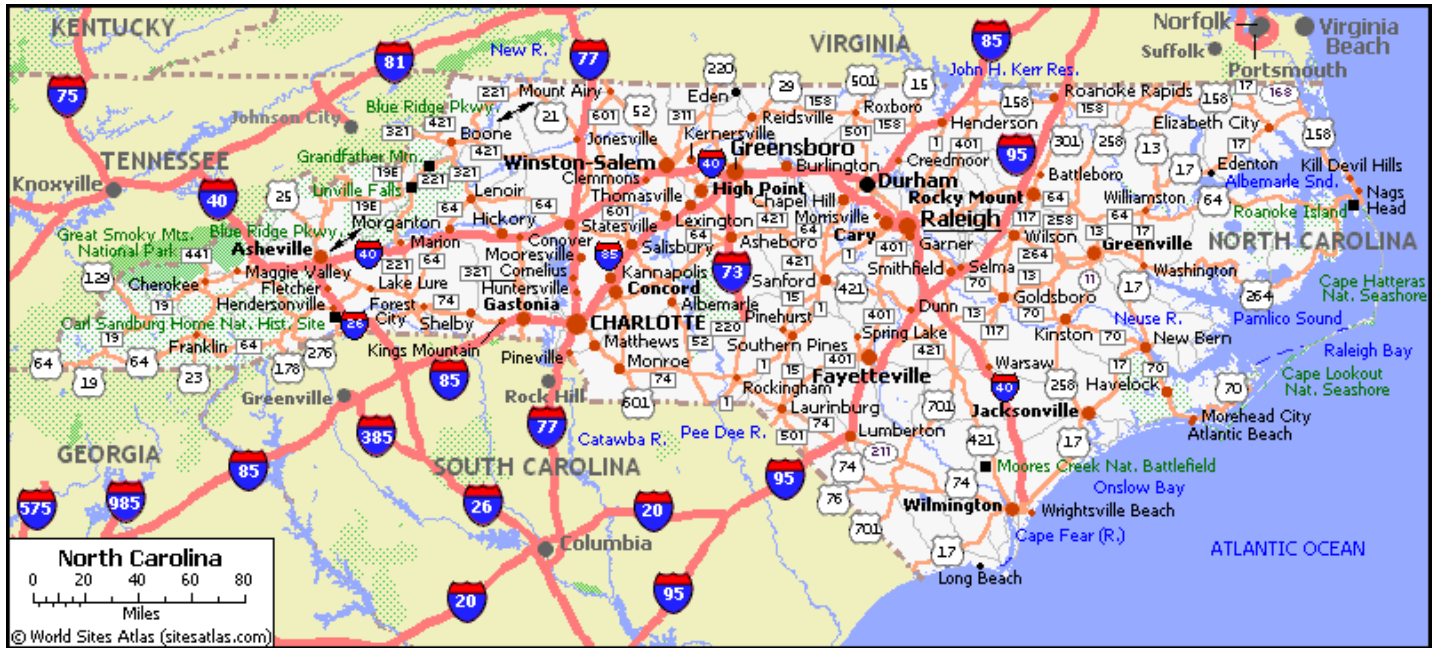


Transportation

Major Highways

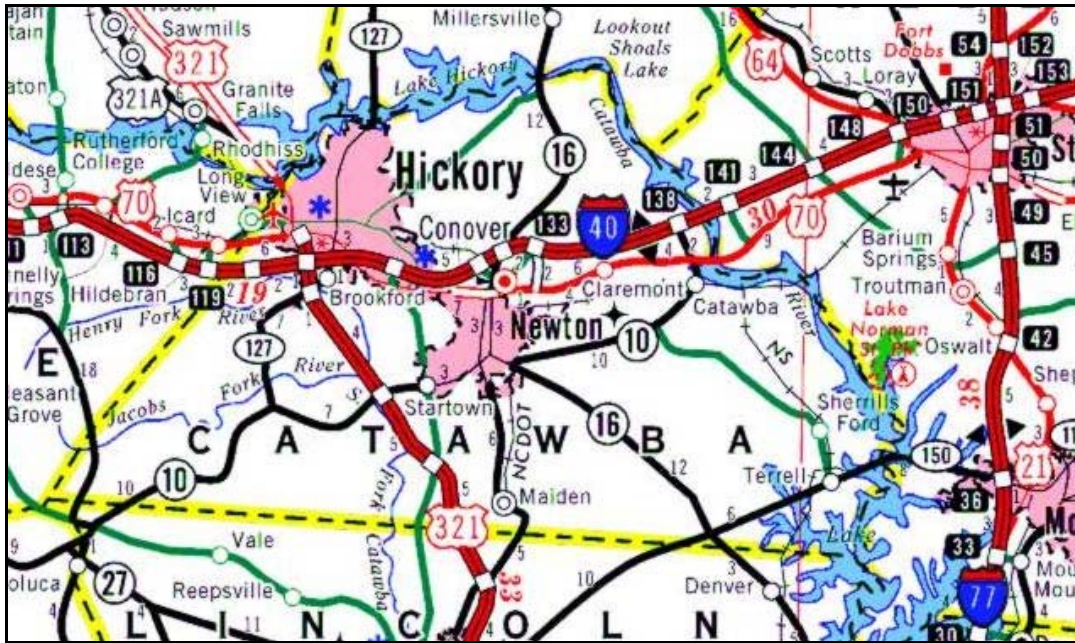
North Carolina



North Carolina has the second-largest state-maintained highway system in the nation, incorporating over 78,615 miles of highways. North Carolina is intersected by five major interstate highways – Interstates 26, 40, 77, 85, & 95. Same-day access is available to all US Eastern Markets.

Major Highways (continued)

Catawba County



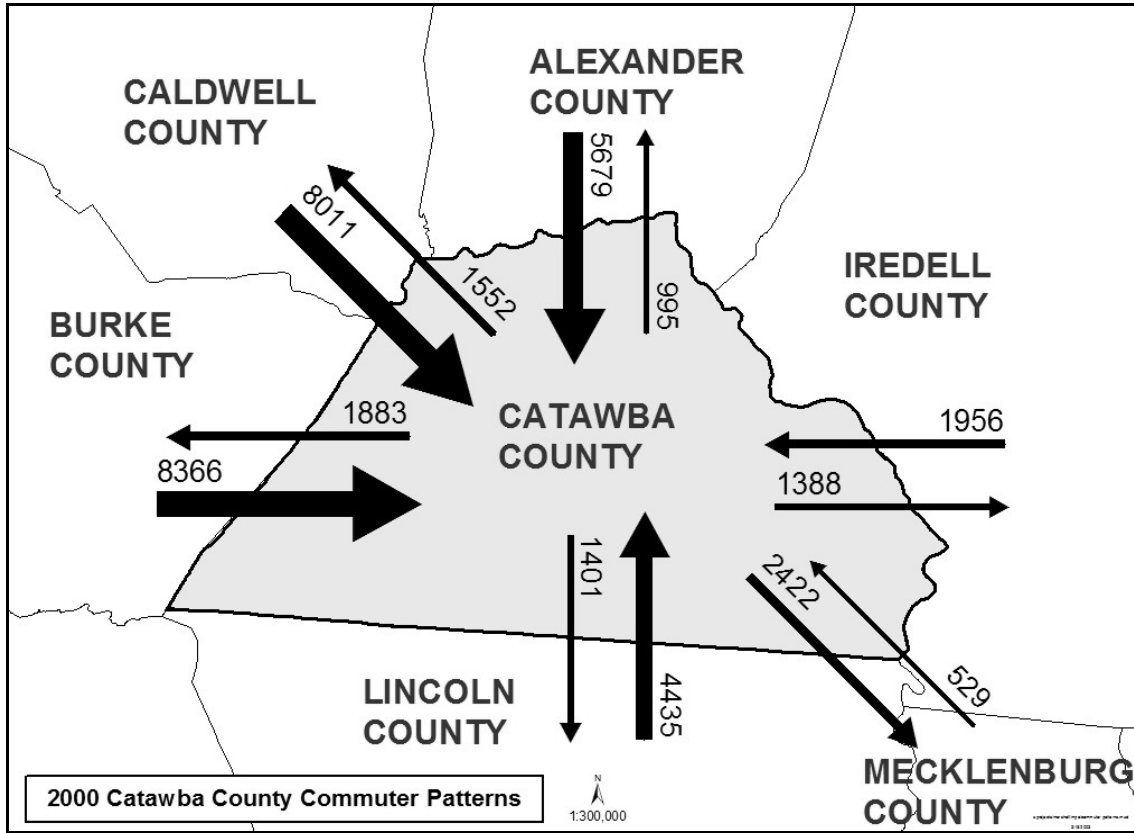
Interstate 40 runs east to west through Catawba County.

Interstate 77 is accessible within one-half hour via Interstate 40 East. Interstate 85 is accessible within one-half hour via US Highway 321 South. Interstate 26 is accessible within one and a half hours via Interstate 40 West. Interstate 95 is accessible within 3 hours via Interstates 40 East and 77 South.

Two US Highways intersect Catawba County – US Highways 70 and 321.

Five State Highways run through Catawba County – State Highways 10, 16, 18, 127, and 150.

Commuting Patterns & Traffic Counts



Traffic Counts along Interstate 40 through Catawba County range from 44,000 vehicles daily to 65,000 vehicles daily depending upon the point of measurement. For traffic counts for a specific location, please contact our office.

Source: Western Piedmont Council of Governments, 2005

Trucking & Motor Freight Services

Cargo Transporters
3350 N. Oxford Street
Claremont, NC 28610
828-459-3282

Carolina Truck Brokers
10 3rd Street SE
Hickory, NC 28602
828-304-0311

Con-Way Southern Express
4020 10th Avenue Drive SW
Hickory, NC 28602
828-322-5038

CT Group, Cargo Consolidation
Services
404 Bumgarner Industrial Drive
Claremont, NC 28610
828-459-3160

Dart Advantage Transportation
243 1st Ave SW
Hickory, NC 28602
828-325-8200

Estes Express Lines
1718 3rd Street NE
Newton, NC 28658
828-465-1231

Faith Unlimited, Inc
3595 E. US Highway 70
Claremont, NC 28610
828-459-9271

Foothills Trucking Company
1459 Robinwood Road
Newton, NC 28658
828-322-1380

Gaines Motor Lines Inc
2349 13th Avenue SW
Hickory, NC 28602
828-322-2000

Ideal Transport Inc
Dehart Motor Terminal Road
Conover, NC 28613
828-464-8247

Liberty Express
3194 SE 15th Avenue Blvd.
Conover, NC 28613
828-465-5905

Mountain Transport
775 Boundary Street
Newton, NC 28658
828-267-0110

Old Dominion Freight Line
2105 Banner Road
Newton, NC 28658
828-466-0383

Piedmont Express Inc
201 N Mclin Creek Road
Newton, NC 28658
828-695-1861

Queen Transportation LLC
56 3rd Street SE
Hickory, NC 28602
828-323-9142

SAIA Motor Freight Lines, Inc.
Highway 70 West
Conover, NC 28613
828-465-7022

Southeastern Freight Lines
3055 Kelly Boulevard
Claremont, NC 28610
828-459-0381

Steven Craig Transportation
3700 Highway 70 West
Hickory, NC 28601
327-8667

Sunbelt Furniture Express Inc
3255 SE 20th Avenue
Newton, NC 28658
828-464-7240

UPS Freight
148 Lap Road, NE
Conover, NC 28613
828-464-5490

Wilson Trucking Corp
Rock Barn Road
Conover, NC 28613
828-464-5364

Zenith Freight Lines
210 Dehart Drive SW
Conover, NC 28613
828-465-7036

Source: Catawba County EDC, 2009

Airports

North Carolina

North Carolina has 74 publicly owned airports and nearly 300 privately owned airports. Nine airports have regularly scheduled airline service and four are international. More than 35 million passengers fly to and from North Carolina each year and more than 800 million pounds of airfreight originate annually in the state. There are four airline hub operations in North Carolina (USAirways and CCAir in Charlotte; Midway and Corporate Airlines in Raleigh).

Charlotte/Douglas International Airport

Aviation Director's Office
5501 Josh Birmingham Parkway
Charlotte, NC 28208
(704) 359-4000

<http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/airport/home.htm>

Located near the border of North and South Carolina, Charlotte Douglas International serves as a gateway to the world for the Charlotte Region.

Owned and operated by the City of Charlotte, Charlotte Douglas averages 644 daily departures, serving over 34 million passengers annually. The airport is ranked among the nation's top airports and serves commercial, cargo, corporate, private, military and trucking operations.

With nonstop service to 134 destinations, Charlotte/Douglas International Airport is the 8th largest major airline hub in the Nation and offers daily nonstop service to London, Paris, Frankfurt, and Munich.

Catawba County

Hickory Regional Airport

3101 9th Ave. Dr. NW
Hickory, NC 28601
(828) 323-7408

The Hickory Regional Airport is ideally situated in the center of North Carolina's fourth largest metropolitan statistical area. By virtue of its strategic location at the crossroads of several major transportation arteries, the airport serves as a highly convenient transportation center linking the Greater Hickory Metro with the regional economies of Charlotte and Winston-Salem, as well as the rapidly growing tourism-driven economies of the North Carolina High Country and Asheville, NC. The airport's strategic location has led to its rise as a leading center for corporate aviation. Approximately 100 aircraft are based at the Hickory Regional Airport, the vast majority of them operated by the many large corporations located throughout the region. Corporations that have chosen the Greater Hickory Metro over other potential locations for new or expanded corporate facilities often cite the strategic location and convenience of the Hickory Regional Airport as a major determining factor in their choice.

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

Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, Va. 23510-9227
(757) 629-2600

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.

North Carolina State Ports

Port of Morehead City

Facilities

- Four miles from the open sea
- Situated along the Newport River and Bogue Sound
- 5,500 ft. of continuous wharf
- Two berths served by modern ship-loader and maximum loadout rate of 3,000 tons per hour of bulk cargo
- Dry-bulk facility (used mainly for phosphate) with 225,000-ton capacity warehouse, conveyor system and shiploader
- Open storage dry-bulk facility which can outload 1,000 tons per hour with a 2 million-ton annual capacity
- Concrete capped sheet pile bulkhead, solid fill with 1,000 psf concrete deck with rubber and/or timber fender system
- Deck height averages 10 ft. above mean low water
- Apron widths from unrestricted to 45 ft. opposite transit sheds
- Roll-on/Roll-off ramp
- Well-lighted terminal and 24-h security provided by North Carolina State Certified Port Police
- Barge Fleeting Area
- 150 acres available for port industrial development on Radio Island

Tides and Climate

- Mean tide range 2.9 ft., current velocities 2 to 3 knots
- Mild temperatures all year, with rare snow accumulation

Harbor Features (US Army Corps of Engineers Project Dimensions)

- Ocean bar channel depth of 47 ft. M.L.L.W. and width of 450 ft.
- Inside harbor channel depth of 45 ft. M.L.L.W. and widths of 400, 600, 775 and 820 ft.
- East turning basin depth of 45 ft. M.L.L.W. and diameter of 1,420 ft.
- West turning basin depth of 35 ft. M.L.L.W. and 1,200 ft. radius
- Depth of 45 ft. M.L.L.W. at NC Ports berths 1, 2 and 3; 35 ft. M.L.L.W. at Berths 4 through 9

Foreign Trade Zone

- Two sites approved as Foreign Trade Zone 67
- Site One: 190,374 square feet of warehouse space within main terminal
- Site Two: 40-acre tract of undeveloped land, four miles west of the port
- Provides for storage, manipulation, exhibition and limited manufacturing operations
- Can lower, defer or avoid import duties
- Can accommodate special purpose subzones

Equipment

- Two 115-ton capacity gantry cranes
- One 40 long ton: IHI container crane with 115-foot outreach, 63-foot backreach - equipped with grapple and bucket
- Two 30-ton mobile cranes
- One 140-ton mobile crane
- 39 lift trucks with 4,000 to 70,000 lb. capacities, including forklifts, trailers, tractors, front-end loaders and portable conveyors
- Certified truck scale
- Constant motion rail scale

Staging and Warehousing

- 457,564 sq.ft. of covered, sprinklered warehouse storage
- 353,765 sq.ft. of transit shed storage
- Rail access to warehouses and transit sheds
- 14 acres of paved, open storage

Railroads/Highways

- Switching railroad operated by Carolina Rail Services
- Norfolk Southern access
- Berths served by two surface tracks, two platform level tracks, and two depressed tracks at the rear of the transit sheds and covered railcar loading
- Additional railhead and railcar storage on Radio Island and west of Morehead City
- Vehicular access via U.S. 70 to Arendell Street
- Interstates 95 and 40, U.S. Hwy. 17 and N.C. 24

Support

- Variety of companies, agents, line handlers, towing companies, chandlers, brokers, bankers, marine repair, construction and international garbage disposal available on or near port
- All U.S. Customs services
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Immigration and Naturalization
- Extensive project shipment capability, including export packing and inventory control

Source: North Carolina State Ports Authority, 2008

North Carolina State Ports
 (continued)

Port of Wilmington

Facilities

- On east bank of Cape Fear River
- 26 miles from open sea
- Channel is 42 ft., mean low water
- Wharf frontage is 6,768 ft. long, divided between container and general cargo operations
- Concrete pile wharf construction with solid or concrete deck fronted with rubber fender system
- Deck height averages 12 ft. above mean low water
- Open storage dry bulk facility which can outload over 800 tons/hr with a 70,000 ton storage capacity
- Covered dry bulk facility with 2.5-million-cubic-foot storage capacity and import conveyor system for grain and fertilizers - can handle 1,000 tons/hr
- Nearly 100 acres available for development north of present terminal
- Other berths with contiguous open apron areas up to 300 ft. wide
- Well-lighted terminal and 24-hour security provided by North Carolina State Certified Port Police officers.

Tides and Climate

- Mean tide range 3.8 ft. with tidal currents averaging 1.7 knots (flood), and 1.5 knots (ebb)
- Mild temperatures year 'round; rare snow accum.

Harbor Features (Army Corps of Engineers Project Dimensions)

- Ocean bar channel depth of 44 ft. M.L.L.W. and width of 500 ft.
- Inside harbor channel depth of 42 ft. M.L.L.W. and width of 500 ft.
- Anchorage/turning basin depth of 42 ft. M.L.L.W. and diameter of 1,200 ft.
- Depth of 42 ft. M.L.L.W. at seven NC Ports berths

Foreign Trade Zone

- Entire Terminal designated Foreign Trade Zone 66
- Provides for storage, manipulation, exhibition and limited manufacturing operations
- Can lower, defer or avoid import duties

Equipment

- Four container cranes
- Two 50 Long Ton: 120-ft. outreach, 103-ft. backreach
- One 40 Long Ton: 135-ft. outreach, 55-ft. backreach (in operation May 2004)
- One 40 Long Ton: 115-ft. outreach, 63-ft. backreach
- One multipurpose bridge crane (bulk, breakbulk, container)
- 40 Long Ton: 115-ft. outreach, 63-ft. backreach
- Two gantry cranes

- One 150-ton capacity; One 100-ton capacity
- Two 30-ton mobile cranes
- 65 lift trucks with 3,000 to 52,000 lb. capacities and a variety of specialized attachments
- Nine top-lift container handlers
- Six yard-hustler trucks
- Neutral chassis pool
- 3 truck scales - weighmaster on duty 24 hrs/ day

Staging and Warehousing

- Over 1 million sq ft of covered, sprinklered storage
- Both road and rail access to all storage buildings
- 100 acres of paved, open area; nearly 25 acres semi-improved open storage area

Specialized Warehousing

- 31,200 sq.ft. dedicated steel coils warehouse with a 30-ton remote control bridge crane
- Nearly one-half million sq.ft. warehouse space dedicated to forest products, including new 108,000 sq.ft. forest products center

Reefer Connections

- 129 electrical outlets for refrigerated containers

Fumigation

- Two chambers providing vacuum methyl bromide and detia
- Special covered, in-container fumigation area

Railroads/Highways

- CSX rail service twice daily
- Easy vehicular access with U.S. Hwys. 17, 74, 76 and 421 and Interstates 95 and 40
- Inland svc by CSX Intermodal and Norfolk Southern
- Connecting rail line, owned and operated by Wilmington Terminal Railroad, with interchanging cars between port and CSX system
- Equipment for handling all rail traffic, including double-stack trains
- Roll-on/roll-off capacity at ramps
- Transit sheds and warehouses with depressed tracks

Support

- Variety of companies, agents, line handlers, towing companies, chandlers, brokers, bankers, marine repair, customized export packing, construction and international garbage disposal available on or near port
- All U.S. Customs services
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Immigration and Naturalization
- Extensive project shipment capability, including export packaging and inventory control

Source: North Carolina State Ports Authority, 2008

Intermodal Terminal Network

North Carolina has established two inland terminals as part of an intermodal terminal network. The inland terminals of Charlotte and Greensboro serve as consolidation points for import and export cargo. Connected to the Port of Wilmington by rail and/or trucking service, these inland terminals offer North Carolina companies significant cost savings by combining product shipments to and from the port.

Inland Terminals

Charlotte Inland Terminal (CIT)
1301 Exchange Street, Charlotte, NC 28208
Telephone: 704-398-2076 or 704-398-2982
1-800-782-6155 FAX: 704-398-0940
Terminal Manager - Nancy Driggers

General

- Strategically located at the heart of manufacturing and distribution sites in the Southeast.
- Ability to offer Charlotte bill of lading at lower inland cost.
- Staging for empty and loaded containers.
- Pooling of equipment for steamship lines serving Wilmington.
- Offers customers ease and efficiency of picking up and delivering containers.
- Documented inspection of containers.
- Customized reporting, including EDI transfer or direct data.
- Grounding and mounting service.

Sprint Truck Service

- Eliminates "deadheading"/cost of "bobtail" trip
- Low fixed rate with no backhaul charge
- Rail Connections
- Inland service through CIT to Wilmington is offered by CSX Intermodal and Norfolk Southern Railroad.
- Convenient access to CSX and Norfolk Southern railheads.

Piedmont Triad Inland Terminal (PTIT)
505 Chimney Rock Rd., Greensboro, NC 27409
Telephone: 336-315-7033 FAX: 336-315-7032
Terminal Manager - James Gailey

General

- Strategically located at the heart of manufacturing and distribution sites in the Southeast.
- Ability to offer Piedmont Triad bill of lading at lower inland cost.
- Staging for empty and loaded containers.
- Pooling of equipment for steamship lines serving Wilmington.
- Offers customers ease and efficiency of picking up and delivering containers.
- Documented inspection of containers.
- Customized reporting, including EDI transfer or direct data.

Match Loads between PTIT/Triad area and Wilmington

- Eliminates "deadheading"/cost of "bobtail" trip
- Low fixed rate with no backhaul charge

Rail Connections

- Intermodal service through PTIT to Wilmington is offered by CSX Intermodal and Norfolk Southern Railroad.
- Convenient access to CSX and Norfolk Southern railheads.

Source: North Carolina State Ports Authority, 2008

Foreign Trade Zone

Eight sites in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties have been granted foreign-trade zone (FTZ) status by the US Foreign Trade Zones Board. The eight sites located in the Hickory Metropolitan Foreign Trade Zone have been established as an expansion of Charlotte FTZ 57 as a “general purpose foreign trade zone” intended for business development and marketing purposes. The Foreign Trade Zone program provides many economic benefits for businesses involved in international trade.

The original FTZ Act, passed by Congress in 1934, was intended to stimulate international trade and create or retain jobs in the US that might otherwise go abroad. When activated by an operator under US Customs and Border Protection rules “general purposes FTZ sites” afford the users certain tax and tariff relief. One example is that no Customs duties are levied on an entire shipment stored (indefinitely) in the FTZ; duties are paid only on the portion of the product sold into the US market, and not until the time it is put into US Commerce. Meanwhile, any product stored in the Zone that is sold abroad is not dutiable.

Of the eight sites in the Greater Hickory Metro FTZ, the six shown below in bold are located in Catawba County.

- Alexander County, a 160-acre site owned by the Alexander Railroad Company on NC Highway 90 east of the Taylorsville Town limits.
- Lenoir Business Park and the adjacent J & M Business Park on NC Highway 18 in Lenoir.
- In Burke County, a 542-acre location north of Interstate 40 and west of Dysartville Road.
- **At the Hickory Regional Airport, located in Burke and in Catawba County. Included in this site are about 400 acres in the Lakepark Development.**
- * **Consolidation Services located off US Hwy 321 in Northwest Hickory.**
- **Conwareco Logistics, Inc., a warehouse site in downtown Hickory.**
- **Diamante Group, a yarn production and distribution facility off Tate Boulevard in Hickory.**
- **Conover West, 300-acre industrial park fronting I-40 in Conover.**
- **Danner Industrial Park, 150 acres in Newton.**

* - indicates activated site

Public Transportation



Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority

1515 4th Street, S.W
Conover, North Carolina 28613
www.wprta.org

For information, reservations and ticket offices, call:

Alexander County: (828) 632-1112
Burke County: (828) 438-0867
Caldwell County: (828) 759-8679
Catawba County: (828) 464-9444
Fixed Route Service: (828) 464-9444
Fax Number: (828) 466-0570

Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority is North Carolina's newest transit system and the first urban-rural, multi-county regional transit authority in North Carolina.

Effective date: July 1, 2008

The new authority coordinates the service formerly provided by:

Alexander County – community transportation provided by Alexander County Transportation, a county-operated system
Burke County – community transportation provided by Burke County Transit Administration Inc., a nonprofit agency
Caldwell County - community transportation provided by Caldwell County Area Transit System Inc., a nonprofit agency
Catawba County – Piedmont Wagon Transit System, operated by the city of Hickory, which provides community transportation to county residents and fixed-route service for the cities of Conover, Newton and Hickory