



CAPT's South Carolina Resolution Drive

CAPT has been working to develop and foster rail passenger service in South Carolina. As was the case before NCDOT began the Carolinian and the Piedmonts, all service in the state was during the night. South Carolina still has this issue with the two Silver Service trains and the Crescent all passing through the state at night.

CAPT has prepared routes, maps and proposed schedules of what could be with rail passenger service between Charleston and Charlotte as well as Myrtle Beach to Greenville with the two services meeting at Columbia. With this material, packages were sent to political entities within ten miles of the proposed routes.

The package included the SC proposed passenger service brochure, inserts for the two routes with station stops and times for the proposed trains would stop in the area, a copy of a resolution prepared by CAPT, a cover letter signed by CAPT'S president Martin Wheeler and SC Vice President Jim Frierson. There was also a note thanking those who had already responded to our previous mailing. The information for the stops in the station stop inserts was prepared by CAPT from old timetables and information available at the time for the train speeds in respective areas.

On August 16 2016, 222 packets were mailed to 130 mayors, 46 county council chairs, 46 clerks to councils. As of the CAPT's January meeting ten additional resolutions have been received. These resolutions are critical in the development of passenger service and show the desire of local entities for rail passenger service. This brings the total number of resolutions to 30 entities in South Carolina.

The ten new entities include:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Barnwell County | Cross Hill |
| Batesburg-Leesville | Easley |
| Chester City | Fairfield |
| Chesnee | Little Mountain |
| Conway | Norway |

The previous mailings had generated resolutions from the following entities:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Allendale County | Colleton County |
| Andrews | Columbia |
| Branchville | Hampton City |
| Campobello | Laurens County |
| Carlisle | Newberry City |
| Cayce | St. Matthews |
| Central Midlands COG | Trenton |
| Charleston City | Union City |
| Cheraw | Union County |
| Clemson | Wellford |

The brochures and schedules were developed by Martin Wheeler, CAPT's President, along with help from several others to include Ed Locklin and Bob Bischoff. The team also developed the inserts.

CAPT's SC Vice President Jim Frierson generated the list of entities for the mailing and CAPT's Secretary; Phil Astwood did the super effort of getting the mailings out to the various entities.

All of the planning and efforts were guided by plans at the various CAPT meetings up to the August mailings. We hope to see more of you at these meetings. The list of upcoming meetings are listed on the last page of the newsletter and the meeting for each year are developed at the annual membership meeting in November. Hope to see you there

Gene Kirkland

May Meeting Notice Inside

Charlotte's Gateway Station

Charlotte's proposed multi-modal transportation center, called Charlotte Gateway Station, is apparently still 6-7 years from being ready to open for business for Amtrak, and other rail and bus services. Charlotte City Council has approved final agreements so a TIGER grant of 30 million dollars can be received from the federal government. This money combined with other state and local funds totaling 72 million dollars will enable the first phase of the extensive project to begin early in 2018.

Phase 1(a) is for Track, Structures and Signals. The Charlotte Area Transit System has been awarded an extra \$5 million for Phase 1(b) which includes the Intercity Rail Platform at the station and supporting infrastructure. This will allow new bridges in the Uptown area; two 2,000-foot passenger tracks, separating the station tracks and paralleling the Norfolk Southern main line; a 1,000-foot passenger platform with 600-foot canopy; signal construction; connector track to Charlotte Locomotive and Rail car Maintenance Facility; and an allowance for a future third station track and second platform, as well as a future third freight track. Funding totals almost \$79 million, drawn from various federal, state and local grant sources. The cost estimate for the current project is around \$72 million. The North Carolina Department of Transportation's additional money will fund right of way and engineering; and Charlotte has put in \$32 million. The Charlotte Area Transit System believes there are sufficient funds to pay for Phase 1, and hope to use the City's money to begin planning for the next phase of station construction.

Now that the Municipal Agreement by the Charlotte City Council, and the Framework Agreement have been signed the project will be ready for official approval by the Federal Railroad Administration by September 2017. Stakeholder agreements with Norfolk Southern Railway are under development, bid documents are estimated for November 2017 with utility relocation and Notice to Proceed for construction estimated for the Spring of 2018. Release of the Request for Qualifications/ Proposals for the station and the associated Transit Oriented

Development Building are estimated for the spring of 2018.

CATS still needs to acquire the Greyhound Bus property on the project site. Negotiations are continuing.

The new transportation center would house inter-city and commuter rail passenger trains, possibly light rail, streetcar and inter-city and local bus services. It would be located at the site of the former Southern Railway passenger station torn down in 1963 on West Trade Street.

Martin Wheeler

Raleigh Selects Union Station Manager

As reported in Raleigh's News and Observer, the City of Raleigh selected their manager for the commercial space and event management at the new Union station now under construction. There were three bidders: Cushman and Wakefield of Chicago, NAI Carolantic Reality of Raleigh and York Properties of Raleigh. The city chose York Properties.

York currently manages Cameron Village near NCSU and has continued to keep the shopping center current. Cameron Village was the first shopping center in North Carolina and is still a vibrant part of Raleigh's retail operations.

.One of the deciding factors in the choice of York was their business plan for the space best aligned with the plans the City has. York also presented a very detailed proposal for the event marketing of the space at the station.

The new Raleigh Union Station will include two separate retail areas on the ground floor composed of 2,100 square foot area and one of 1,700 square feet. The second floor will have a space of 6,200 square feet and the third floor has 2,700 square feet. This does not include the waiting area for passengers or the Amtrak area on the ground floor. I have personally been watching the construction and it appears to have a open area on the third floor that appears to be a cantilevered space outside of the station.

Gene Kirkland

CAPT Board Meeting July 15, 2017 Greensboro, N.C.

The Carolinas Association for Passenger Trains will meet at the National Railway Historical Society meeting room adjacent to the Douglas Galyon Train Depot at 236 East Washington Street in Greensboro, N.C. on July 15, 2017. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm, and is expected to end between 5:00 and 6:00 pm. It will be in the old Railway Express Building on west side of the depot.

For those planning to arrive via Amtrak: The southbound Piedmont #75 from Raleigh arrives at 1:21 pm, and the northbound Piedmont #74 arrives from Charlotte at 1:42 pm. If you are driving to the meeting you may want to consider Natty Green's Pub and Brewing Company at 345 South Elm Street near the old Southern Railway passenger station for lunch before the meeting.

For the return home via Amtrak: The northbound Piedmont #76 will depart for Raleigh at 6:57 pm, and the southbound Carolinian #79 will depart for Charlotte at 6:58 pm. After the board meeting you may want to consider the more formal Liberty Oak Restaurant for dinner at 100 West Washington Street, or the more casual Natty Green's Pub and Brewing Company at 345 South Elm Street. We have eaten at both establishments before at meetings in Greensboro. Both restaurants are within walking distance of the Depot.

Meeting Agenda

Welcome

Secretary's report

Treasurer's report

Update on the resolution drive in South Carolina in support of expanded rail passenger service

Update on CAPT fostering creation of an association similar to Virginians for High Speed Rail

Update on news in North Carolina and South Carolina affecting transit and rail passenger service

Update on CAPT newsletter and website issues

Amtrak update (Trump budget proposal, and train rallies)

Reports by Officers and Directors

Planning for future meetings

Adjournment

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Upcoming CAPT Meetings

July 15, 2017 – Greensboro, NC
Board Meeting

September 16, 2017 – Columbia, SC
Board Meeting

November 18th Charlotte, NC
Annual Membership Meeting

Help Expand The Newsletter Coverage

The CAPT Newsletter is very much centered around happenings in Raleigh and NC. We need your help to expand that coverage. If you see information in your local paper or in a format that you can forward to the editor please do.

Our goal is to provide coverage of happenings that affect passenger train service in the Carolinas. In order to do so we need your assistance. My address is listed in the column to the right. My e-mail address is rkirkland1@nc.rr.com. Not everything will be published but your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

**All Aboard In The Carolinas
Published by
Carolinas Association For Passenger Trains**

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Address Incorrect? Please notify the editor!

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