


History of the North Carolina Railroad Company

Built more than 150 years ago, the 317-mile North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) corridor from Morehead City to Charlotte opened up the state to settlement and growth.

Today, the railroad carries 50-60 freight trains and ten passenger trains daily. NCRR is the oldest private company in the state and remains at the forefront of rail improvements and partnership development to promote jobs and rail-served industry across the state. It touches nearly a quarter of the state's economy.

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- 1849** North Carolina Railroad Charter ratified, authorizing a railroad to be built from Goldsboro to Charlotte.
 - 1849-51** Construction of the NCRR begins in Greensboro.
 - 1854** The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad chartered. The state provides two-thirds of the capital.
 - 1856** The first train passes along the entire route from Goldsboro to Charlotte.
 - 1855-60** Company Shops, later known as Burlington, is built in Alamance County to supply the needs of the railroad company, including rail car and track repair operations.
 - 1858** The Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad is completed, opening 96 miles of rail between Goldsboro to New Bern to Beaufort Harbor.
 - 1866** Efforts to consolidate the Atlantic and North Carolina with the NCRR are initiated, although it takes until 1989 to complete the merger.
 - 1896** North Carolina leases the entire railroad to Southern Railway (later Norfolk Southern) for a period of 99 years.
 - 1998** The State of North Carolina agrees to buy out the remaining private shares of NCRR stock and completes the transaction, making it a privately run company— fully owned by the state
 - 1999** NCRR And Norfolk Southern reach an exclusive Trackage Rights Agreement for NS's continuing freight and maintenance operations on the NCRR line for 15 years, renewable for an additional 30 years.



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