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## N.C. gets \$20.3M from feds for rail

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Chris Baysden](#) Triangle Business Journal

North Carolina has received \$20.3 million in federal funds as a first step in a plan to establish a high-speed rail link between Charlotte and Raleigh.

The **N.C. Department of Transportation** will use the allocation to refurbish passenger coaches and locomotives. The money from the **Federal Railroad Administration** represents the first installment on \$545 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding granted earlier this year for N.C. passenger-rail system improvements.

N.C. DOT recently added midday service on the Piedmont passenger route between Charlotte and Raleigh. Plans are under way to launch a fourth daily trip between the Queen City and the state's capital. Depending on funding, it could be in operation by 2012.

"This award is an exciting first step in the state's partnership with the federal government to make high-speed rail a reality in North Carolina and the Southeast," Gov. Bev Perdue says in a prepared statement. "For our citizens, it means jobs, economic development, reduced congestion and a cleaner environment."

The goal for the Charlotte-to-Raleigh leg is to cut the trip to two hours from the current three-plus hours.

"It is a seminal project," Patrick Simmons, director of the rail division of the N.C. Department of Transportation, said in February. "We are going to build a service that is reliable and where we link communities."

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