

**Remarks Prepared for FRA Administrator Amit Bose
Amtrak Durham Station ADA Improvements Ribbon Cutting
Monday, April 22, 2024**

Thank you to Mayor Leonardo William, NCDOT Rail Director Jason Orthner, Amtrak Vice President David Handera; and thank you to both the City of Durham and Amtrak for making this event possible.

On behalf of the Federal Railroad Administration, congratulations on completing ADA renovations here at Durham Station.

FRA is proud to support this effort, and we're proud of our work with Amtrak to ensure more Americans have access to the passenger rail service they need and deserve.

This very much includes Americans with disabilities, our aging population, and others who rely on and benefit from accessible and convenient rail stations.

This is an exciting day and undoubtedly an exciting time for passenger rail.

Thanks to President Biden's Investing in America agenda and funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we have an unprecedented opportunity to upgrade stations as well as services and vital infrastructure.

To date, FRA has announced more than \$28 billion and nearly 170 rail projects through President Biden's infrastructure law.

This includes well over a billion dollars in projects and planning activities right here in North Carolina.

In December, FRA announced a \$1.1 billion Fed State-National grant to invest in the Raleigh to Richmond Corridor, funding new and upgraded track, separating eleven grade crossings and closing several more from Raleigh to Wake Forest.

This investment will be vital in developing new passenger rail between Raleigh and Richmond and connecting the southern states to DC and the Northeast Corridor.

Planning activities that will drive future passenger rail expansion nationally and across North Carolina are also moving forward through FRA's Corridor ID program.

The inaugural round of Corridor ID selections has the potential to:

Establish new high-speed service between Charlotte to Atlanta, linking the Southeast and providing connection to Hartsfield-Jackson Airport;

Establish new service between Winston-Salem with Raleigh, with intermediate stops in Durham and elsewhere, complementing the state supported Piedmont and Carolinian services;

Establish new service between Asheville and Salisbury in western North Carolina;

Establish new service west of the Charlotte Gateway Station and likely extending it to Kings Mountain;

Establish new service connecting Fayetteville with Raleigh;

Establish new service connecting Raleigh to Wilmington;

And, improve existing state-supported Carolinian service between Charlotte and Washington, DC.

FRA has also announced projects that will make communities and freight rail safer, like the Rail-Crossing Engagement, Planning, and Innovative Revitalization effort, funded by FRA's Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, which will grade separate or close three crossings in East Durham to improve connectivity, and of course safety in partnership with the Durham County Government.

Through FRA's CRISI program, we're funding projects like the Railroad Trespass Initiative Overtime Response Project, which will expand trespassing education and protect people from unnecessary risks in partnership with the City of Greensboro, and the Blue Ridge Short Line Safety and Capacity Expansion Project, which will improve bridges and track along a 72-mile rail network.

Under Secretary Buttigieg's leadership, FRA is proud to make these investments.

Since the beginning of the Biden-Harris Administration, USDOT and FRA has been focused on supporting projects that advance our core goals of safety, economic strength and competitiveness, equity, and sustainability.

FRA remains laser-focused on advancing these priorities.

This is our opportunity to modernize America's rail infrastructure and grow a safer, cleaner, and more equitable rail system—one that Americans need and deserve.

All of us at FRA are excited about today's progress and the opportunities ahead to invest even further in passenger rail, both in this region and across the country.

This is a great day for the people of North Carolina and so many others who utilize Amtrak services.

I also know there are more great days ahead.

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, we're going to keep tackling long-standing infrastructure needs, supporting communities across the country, and reversing a half-century of federal underinvestment in rail.

FRA looks forward to our continuing work together, and I look forward to celebrating even more milestones like this one.

Again, congratulations to Amtrak and the City of Durham on cutting the ribbon on the ADA-accessible Durham Station.

Thank you.