



NEWSRELEASE

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North Carolina and Virginia Stations Remain the Busiest in the Southeast Driven by High Demand

Multiple departures, flexible service boosting growth

WASHINGTON — Train travel is booming across the U.S., with North Carolina and Virginia seeing some of the highest traffic in the Southeast. In Fiscal Year 2024, the top stations in the region were the [Staples Mill Road Station](#) in Richmond, Va., and in [Alexandria](#), Va., [Charlotte](#), N.C., [Raleigh](#), N.C., the *Auto Train* Station in [Lorton](#), Va., and [Norfolk](#), Va.

Trains operating to these cities offer customers the flexibility and convenience of frequent service and the ability to travel to multiple destinations in the Northeast, Southeast and for longer, overnight trips to locations as far south as Jacksonville, Orlando and Miami. The [Auto Train](#) provides daily, nonstop service between Lorton, Va., and Sanford, Fla.

“The strong ridership reflects the demand for train travel and the strategic investments North Carolina and Virginia are making to offer the public a viable transportation option,” said [Jennifer Mitchell](#), Amtrak Executive Vice President of Strategy & Planning. “Thanks to our state partners, infrastructure projects are underway so we can bring more service and continue to provide customers an exceptional travel experience.”

[Amtrak](#) achieved an all-time [ridership record](#) in Fiscal Year 2024, welcoming a historic 32.8 million customers as demand for train service continues to grow in markets across the nation.

[Amtrak Virginia](#), sponsored by the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA), offers 12 daily trains to the Staples Mill Road Station in Richmond for service to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York, and Boston. Customers can also access additional Amtrak service for travel to Raleigh, Charlotte, Savannah, Ga., and other cities as far south as Miami.

In addition to Richmond, Amtrak Virginia also serves Alexandria, Manassas, Newport News, Norfolk, Roanoke, and 11 other Virginia communities.

“With our key location connecting the Southeast with the Northeast, the growing ridership to and from our stations shows that Virginia is vital to the expansion of rail service on the East Coast,” said [DJ Stadtler](#), Executive Director of VPRRA. “We look forward to increasing those numbers as our Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative expands rail service through the Commonwealth by

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acquiring railroad right-of-way, increasing rail capacity, and reworking passenger and freight operations to improve reliability.”

In [North Carolina](#), the *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* trains offer daily roundtrips for travel between Raleigh, Charlotte, and other cities in between. The *Carolinian* travels daily from New York to Charlotte, and stops at the Staples Mill Road Station in Richmond, Va., and Alexandria, Va. Both trains are sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and operated by Amtrak.

“Record ridership for NC By Train since 2022 demonstrates the increasing importance of intercity rail in North Carolina as a transportation option and as an important part of economic development and benefits throughout the state,” said [Jason Orthner](#), NCDOT Rail Division director. “We’re excited to continue this trend of growth while working to improve and expand service across North Carolina and the Southeast.”

Station	FY 2024 Ridership	Routes
Richmond – Staples Mill Road	464,881	Amtrak Virginia service to Washington, D.C., New York, and Boston Additional service to Charleston, Savannah, and Miami
Alexandria, Va.	358,629	Amtrak Virginia service to Washington, D.C., New York, and Boston Additional service to Chicago, Charleston, New Orleans, Savannah, and Miami
Charlotte, N.C.	328,008	Service to Raleigh, Washington, D.C., New York, and New Orleans
Lorton, Va.	265,818	<i>Auto Train</i> service to Sanford, Fla., near Orlando



Raleigh, N.C.	261,008	Service to Charlotte, Washington, D.C., and New York
Norfolk, Va.	227,505	Amtrak Virginia Service to Richmond, Washington, D.C., New York, and Boston

About Amtrak®

For more than 50 years, Amtrak has connected America and modernized train travel. Offering a safe, environmentally efficient way to reach more than 500 destinations across 46 states and parts of Canada, Amtrak provides travelers with an experience that sets a new standard. Book travel, check train status, access your eTicket and more through the [Amtrak app](#). Learn more at [Amtrak.com](#) and connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority was established in 2020 to promote, sustain, and expand the availability of passenger and commuter rail service in the Commonwealth. VPRA is committed to delivering and expanding its state-supported Amtrak Virginia passenger rail service. The Commonwealth of Virginia first launched state-supported service in 2009 with one roundtrip between Washington, DC and Lynchburg, VA. Since that time, the Commonwealth’s service has grown to include eight roundtrips daily with stops at 18 stations along four corridors. For more information, please visit [vapassengerrailauthority.org](#).

State-sponsored North Carolina’s Amtrak

The *Piedmont* and *Carolinian* trains are sponsored by NCDOT and operated by Amtrak. The service is paid for through state funding and passenger fares. North Carolina’s Amtrak fleet of two trains provides daily service to Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, nine other North Carolina cities, and to the Northeast. Complete schedule information is available at [ncbytrain.org](#). Reservations are required. Travelers should book early for best fares. Tickets can be purchased at station ticket windows, automated ticket kiosks at all stations or online at [ncbytrain.org](#).

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