

Success Stories in Rail Investment

**Cary Depot
North Carolina**

When North Carolina inaugurated the Carolinian in 1990, it did not stop in Cary, NC. Local leaders, motivated in part by the daily run of intercity passenger and freight trains through the center of the village, worked to establish a station stop, and passenger train service returned to Cary in 1995 when the Piedmont service began. But passengers were required to wait for and board trains from a trackside platform with no shelter or services.

A creative solution was found by building a much-needed NCDOT Drivers' License office by the tracks, with a waiting room and a phone with a direct line to Amtrak for train ticketing. The station opened in 1996.

In 2006, NCDOT and the Town of Cary constructed a platform to serve the Amtrak Silver Star, bringing the number of trains served to six per day. The DMV outgrew its space and relocated in 2008. Midday Piedmont service was added in 2010. Two million dollars in funding was provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and a major expansion of the station was approved. Completed on time and within budget, the new facility opened in September 2011, adding extra parking, a large waiting room, baggage handling, a ticket machine, and Amtrak staffing.

Now the fourth most active station in North Carolina, the Cary Depot served 89,000 passengers in Fiscal Year 2013. The station is slated to become even more active when the state adds two new Piedmont service frequencies to the current eight daily trains in 2017, and as the Triangle Transit Authority develops its plans for commuter rail service.

PARTNERS

Town of Cary, NC, Triangle Transit Authority, NC Department of Transportation – Rail Division and Division of Motor Vehicles, North Carolina Volunteer Train Host Association, US Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration

The Amtrak station in Cary, NC



RESULTS

Economic Development

- Federal investment created approximately 21.8 job years for Cary, NC
- While the Cary Depot was evolving, the town's population nearly tripled from 50,000 to 147,000
- More than a dozen locally owned shops and eateries have opened near the station in the past year
- The town is preparing to break ground on a seven-acre, \$5.2 million signature downtown park just south of the station in 2015
- In conjunction with park construction, the town will invest \$8 million in streetscape improvements

RIDERSHIP

- The Cary Depot served 89,000 passengers in FY 2013
- Eight trains serve the station daily

FUNDING

The NCDOT received \$2 million in ARRA funding for station construction.

For more information, please visit www.ncbytrain.org