

CSX Shipping Hub to Locate in Edgecombe County

By Administrator
Tuesday, 19 July 2016 12:58 -

CSX will open a new intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County. Known as the Carolina Connector (CCX), this critical infrastructure project will bring jobs and economic opportunity to eastern North Carolina and position the state as a leader in enhanced freight movement.

CCX

will transfer containerized cargo between trains and trucks, processing more than 260,000 containers per year initially. Building the facility is expected to create 250 to 300 short-term jobs in engineering, technical services and construction. Conservative estimates indicate that the hub is expected to create 1,500 jobs throughout North Carolina as a result of the terminal's operations.

"This historic project is part of our 25-year vision for transportation because it facilitates efficient and cost-effective movement of goods, which is critical for job creation and economic growth," said Governor Pat

McCrory

. "The Carolina Connector will be a game-changer for our state's economy, supporting North Carolina's agriculture, ports and position as the Southeast's No. 1 state for manufacturing jobs."

CSX

will invest \$160 million in the project.

CSX

serves nearly two-thirds of the American population through a rail network spanning 23 states, two Canadian provinces and the District of Columbia. In North Carolina,

CSX

maintains an intermodal

terminal in Charlotte, bulk transfer terminals in Charlotte, Raleigh, Wilmington and Winston-Salem and major rail yards in Hamlet and Rocky Mount.

CCX

will directly employ 149 workers at salaries averaging \$64,047 per year. Currently, the average annual wage in

Edgecombe

County is \$32,725.

"In partnership with the State of North Carolina and Rocky Mount,

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CSX

is proud to bring this transformational project to eastern North Carolina which will provide cheaper, faster and more environmentally-friendly connections for North Carolina's businesses and ports to domestic and international markets. Rocky Mount's vision for economic development, strategic location on the

CSX

network, and our existing rail operations and long-standing community ties make it an ideal choice for the Carolina Connector," said

CSX

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Michael J. Ward. "We look forward to partnering closely with the Rocky Mount community to create jobs and economic opportunities."

Helping facilitate

CSX's

choice of North Carolina for the project is a Job Development Investment Grant (

JDIG

) approved earlier today by the Economic Investment Committee. Under the terms of the grant, CSX

is eligible to receive as much as \$4.3 million in total reimbursements. Payments will occur in annual installments pending verification by two state agencies that the company has fulfilled job creation and capital investment requirements.

"The Carolina Connector

intermodal

hub will do far more than provide new jobs in Rocky Mount," said Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla

, III. "It will enhance connections among suppliers and buyers in a way that spins off exciting opportunities for job growth throughout North Carolina."

Intermodal

hubs improve efficiency in distributing containerized goods, primarily consumer and household products, from the point of production to retailers and consumers. Transporting goods by rail offers numerous benefits including reduced truck traffic and wear and tear on highways, improved air quality and highway safety, and more environmentally-friendly and cost effective movement of freight. One

intermodal

train can carry the load of 280 trucks.

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“The close proximity of Rocky Mount to CSX’s main north-south line, I-95 and the future I-87 and I-42 corridors, as well as convenient access to the Raleigh economic center made this an ideal location for a regional transportation hub,” N.C. Transportation Secretary Nick Tennyson said. “This project builds on the investments we have made in our rail system, our ports and other infrastructure to help us meet growing logistics demands and improve the movement of goods throughout North Carolina.”

North Carolina’s Transportation Department will contribute \$100 million for track improvements as well as terminal infrastructure through the state’s new transportation funding formula, which Governor McCrory championed to take the politics out of transportation planning.

The hub, expected to open in 2020, and related track improvements are expected to take two years to construct once all necessary environmental permits are obtained. Carolinas Gateway Partnership, the local economic development organization, controls nearly all of the land needed for the facility, which is located along CSX’s main rail line in a primarily industrial area.

Since Governor McCrory took office in January 2013, North Carolina’s economy has generated nearly 280,000 net new private-sector jobs.

Many partners were involved in the development of this project including North Carolina’s Commerce, Transportation and Revenue departments as well as the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., Edgecombe County, the Carolinas Gateway Partnership and North Carolina Wesleyan College.