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Norfolk Southern breaks ground for intermodal facility at Charlotte airport

Charlotte Business Journal by Jen Wilson, Associate Editor/Online

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Norfolk Southern Corp. broke ground Wednesday for its long-proposed Charlotte Regional Intermodal Facility at Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

[Norfolk Southern \(NYSE:NSC\) and the city of Charlotte signed a lease for the facility in March.](#) The 200-acre freight hub, known in the industry as an intermodal facility for its combination of transportation (rail, ship, truck and air), will open late next year.

The \$92 million operation will replace Norfolk Southern's intermodal facility at North Davidson and North Brevard streets.

"Today's groundbreaking is a big deal for the city of Charlotte and our community," Charlotte Mayor [Anthony Foxx](#) says [in a press release](#). "Norfolk Southern Corp. and the city of Charlotte have been working on this agreement since it was envisioned 15 years ago by the airport and Charlotte businesses."

"Charlotte is a key hub on the Norfolk Southern intermodal system and on our Crescent Corridor, a new rail intermodal network under development stretching from New Jersey to Memphis and New Orleans," says [Wick Moorman](#), chief executive of Norfolk Southern. "This facility will greatly expand our ability to handle intermodal traffic and move more freight off the nation's overburdened highway system and onto the rails."

City officials estimate the intermodal hub will generate \$9 billion in economic impact and create 5,000 jobs over the next 20 years. With the relocation from Norfolk Southern's 40-acre facility uptown, the center city will be relieved of 500 tractor-trailer trips each day.

The hub "places Charlotte even more in the manufacturing, distribution, transportation and economic growth business," Foxx says.

Norfolk Southern, based in Norfolk, Va., is a major transporter of coal and industrial products, operating about 20,000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia and serving every major container port in the eastern United States through its Norfolk Southern Railway subsidiary.

Jen Wilson coordinates the Charlotte Business Journal's online operations, chronicles local events for CBJ Seen and takes photographs.

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