SOUTH CAROLINA RAILROAD MAP AND LIST

Reference Title

South Carolina Railroad Map and List

Reference Revision and Year:

Version 1.0, 2026

Reference Introduction and Discussion

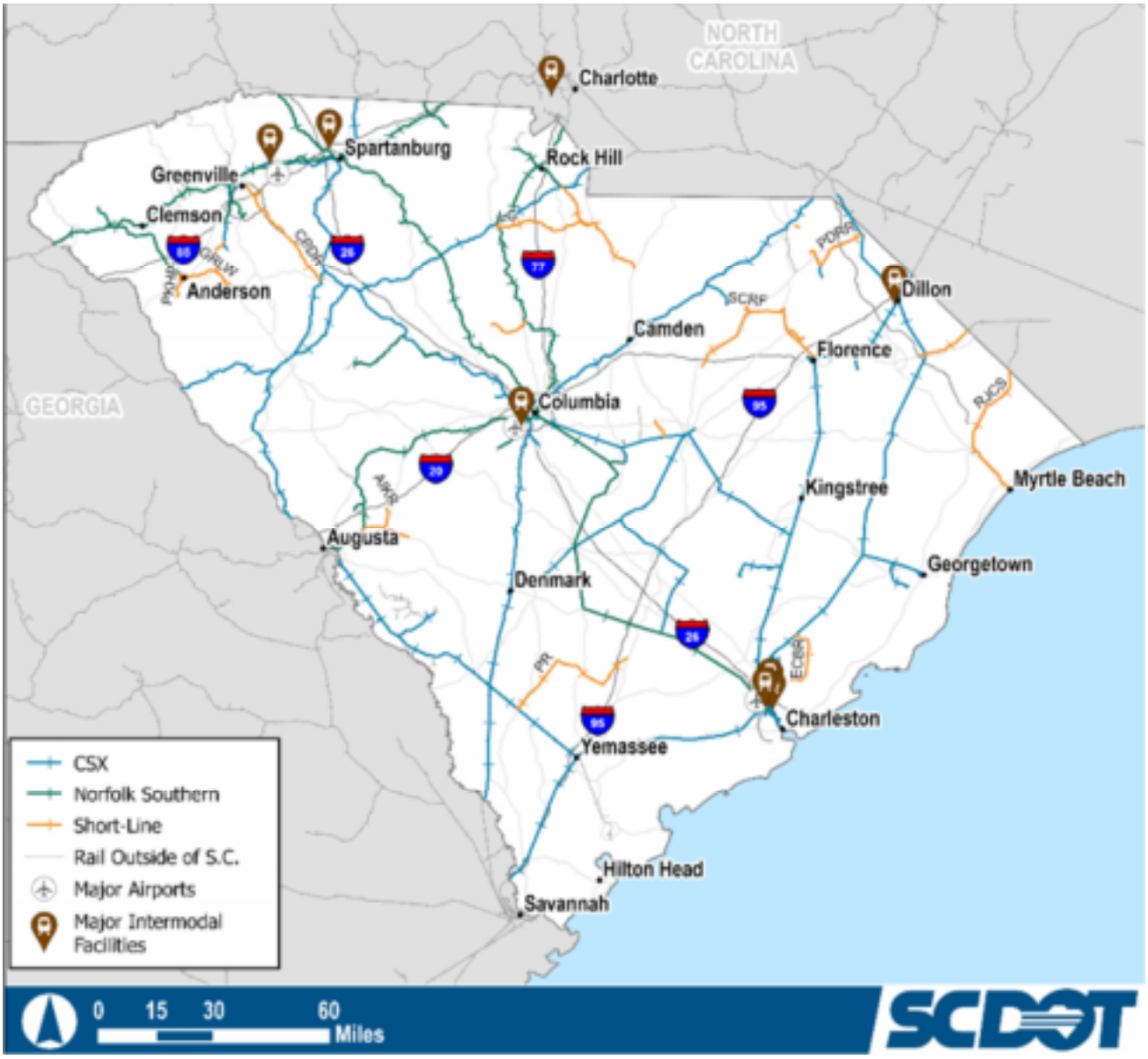
The South Carolina rail system is operated by several rail carriers. The carriers range in size from fairly small intrastate railroads to large rail systems serving the entire eastern U.S. Of the line haul railroads, two are Class I carriers and the remainder are local carriers or switching and terminal companies. The state itself is a freight railroad operator. Palmetto Railways, a branch of the South Carolina Department of Commerce, operates four railroad subdivisions. All rail lines within the state are single-tracked with the exception of the NS main track in the Upstate and the CSXT "A Line" that lies in the I-95 corridor. Neither line is completely double-tracked, but both have double-track segments of various lengths at several locations.

Amtrak also operates in South Carolina but does not own any rail lines. The Crescent line operates on NS track through Clemson, Greenville, and Spartanburg. The Palmetto and Silver Meteor lines operate on CSX track through Yemassee, Charleston, Kingstree, Florence, and Dillon. The Silver Star line connects Savannah with Denmark, Columbia, Camden, and points north and east on CSX track.

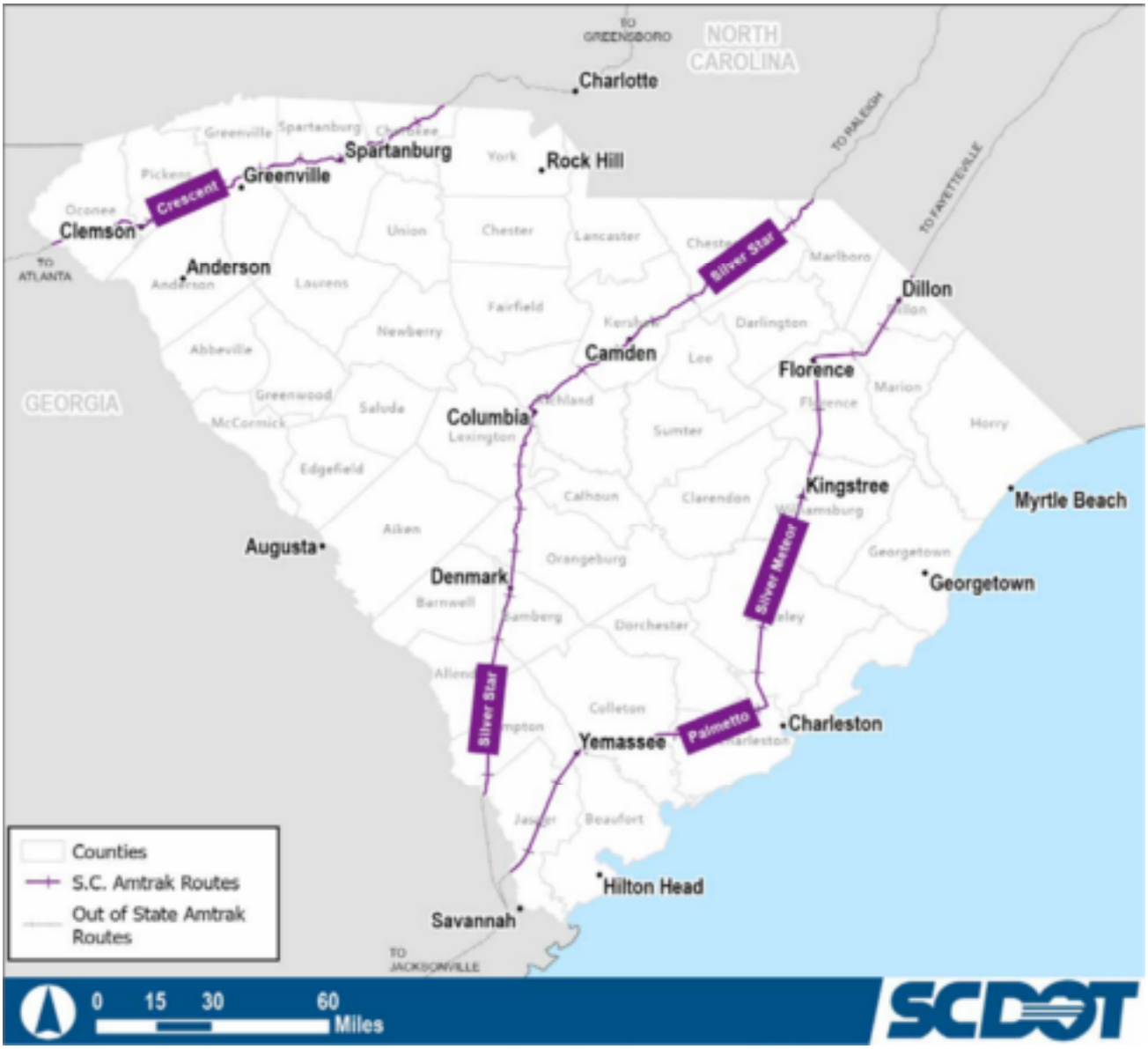
Reference Description

Coordination may be required by the BITL when inspecting SCDOT roadway and highway bridges over active railroads. Inspectors are encouraged to confirm the correct railroad entity is being used to complete the feature and railroad feature fields.

Freight Rail Routes



Amtrak Routes



- CSX Transportation (CSXT)
- Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.
    - Carolina Piedmont Railroad (CPDR)
    - South Carolina Central Railroad (SCRF)
- Gulf and Ohio Railways (Lancaster and Chester Railway (L&C))
- Norfolk Southern Railway (NS)
- Palmetto Railways (PR)
- Pee Dee River Railway Corporation (PDRR)
- Pickens Railway Company (PICK and PKHP)
- R.J. Corman Railroad (RJCS)
- Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation (WCRSC)
    - Greenville & Western Railway Company (GRLW)
    - Aiken Railway Company (AIKR).

CSX Transportation (CSXT)

CSX and its subsidiaries provide rail-based freight services in the Eastern United States, including traditional rail service, intermodal transport, rail-to-truck transfers, and bulk commodity operations. At the end of 2023, CSX owned 1,219 miles of track in South Carolina, plus an additional seven miles owned but not operated and an additional 44 that are leased, not owned.5 Including trackage rights, CSX operates nearly 1,280 mainline miles in South Carolina.

Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.

The Genesee & Wyoming Inc. is a short line railroad holding company that operates over 100 railroads across 43 states and 5 Canadian provinces. In South Carolina, Genesee & Wyoming has two properties: the Carolina Piedmont Railroad and the South Carolina Central Railroad Company.

The Carolina Piedmont Railroad's (CPDR) operation as a short line began in 1990 when RailTex, Inc. purchased a 33-mile mainline branch from CSX and began providing rail service between Laurens and East Greenville as its Carolina Piedmont Division. In 2012, Genesee & Wyoming acquired the short line, which continues to operate as Carolina Piedmont Railroad. CPDR interchanges with CSX at Laurens.

Operations began on the South Carolina Central Railroad (SCRF) in 1987 when RailTex, Inc. purchased two disconnected segments of railroad from CSX located in Florence, Darlington, Chesterfield, and Lee Counties. The oldest line segment connected Cheraw and Florence through Society Hill and was constructed prior to the Civil War. In 2012, Genesee & Wyoming acquired SCRF as part of its overall acquisition of RailAmerica. The Cheraw to Florence segment was abandoned shortly after Genesee & Wyoming's acquisition. Today, SCRF operates one segment that connects and interchanges traffic with CSX at Florence and extends to Bishopville via Darlington, Floyd, and Hartsville.

Gulf and Ohio Railways (Lancaster and Chester Railway (L&C))

Gulf and Ohio Railways acquired the Lancaster and Chester Railway (L&C) in 2010. Unlike many short lines, L&C has never been operated by CSX or NS. LC's existence dates to 1896 when it operated on a three-foot narrow-gauge railroad that reached Lancaster from Chester. The L&C borrowed money to upgrade the track in 1902 and by 1913, was operational with multiple steam locomotives and boxcars. The L&C operates along a 64-mile track connecting Chester with Kershaw. L&C interchanges with both CSX and NS at Chester.

Norfolk Southern Railway (NS)

Norfolk Southern Corporation, through its subsidiary Norfolk Southern Railway Company, is primarily engaged in the rail transportation of raw materials, intermediate products, and finished goods primarily in the Southeast, East, and Midwest. At the end of 2023, NS owned 658 miles of track in South Carolina, plus an additional 37 miles owned but not operated. Including trackage rights, NS operated over 762 miles of rail lines in South Carolina, 661 of which considered mainline mileage.

Palmetto Railways (PR)

Palmetto Railways, previously known as South Carolina Public Railways (SCPR), is a division of the South Carolina Department of Commerce. It operates four subdivisions, each of which was a separate common carrier railroad prior to coming under SCPR ownership. The four subdivisions and the short line previously operated include the following

- Charleston Subdivision – formerly the Port Utilities Commission of Charleston (PUCC);
- North Charleston Subdivision – formerly the Port Terminal Railroad of South Carolina (PTR);
- Charity Christ Subdivision – formerly the East Cooper and Berkeley Railroad (ECBR);
- Salkehatchie Subdivision – formerly the Hampton and Branchville Railroad (HB).

Palmetto Railways provides switching services to all the terminals of the Port of Charleston (South Carolina State Ports Authority), interchanging with both CSX and NS. Currently, Palmetto Railways is constructing a 25-mile rail line to serve the Camp Hall Commerce Park and the Volvo Plant in Berkeley County. Currently, Palmetto Railways is constructing a rail line to serve the Scout Motors Plant in Richland County.

Pee Dee River Railway Corporation (PDRR)

In 1882, the South Carolina Pacific Railway was chartered by the General Assembly, and the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railway began leasing and operating in 1884. CSX later acquired the line. CSX abandoned the line in 1987; it was then purchased by Marlboro County and leased to the Pee Dee River Railway (PDRR), a subsidiary of the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Company. Today the 20-mile line continues to provide service from McColl to Marlboro via Tatum and Bennettsville along with a spur from Bennettsville to Breeden. PDRR interchanges with CSX at McColl.

Pickens Railroad Company (PICK and PKHP)

The Pickens Railway Company (PICK and PKHP) traces its origins back to the Easley-Pickens line from 1898, when the original Pickens Railroad began service with a connection with the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad track at Easley. Although the Easley to Pickens segment was railbanked in 2013, the railroad continues to operate in Anderson County between Homeland Park and Honea Path. PKHP interchanges with NS at Anderson and with CSX in Belton.

R.J. Corman Railroad (RJCS)

The R.J. Corman Railroad Group (RJCS) operates 19 short line railroads in 11 states, including Carolina Lines in South Carolina. RJCS acquired the former Carolina Southern Railroad in 2015 and invested capital to restore freight service along the line. RJCS and Horry County received a TIGER grant in 2016 to perform significant upgrades along the line, which were completed in 2021. RJCS provides service to Conway, Homewood, Loris, Myrtle Beach, Mullins, and Nichols. RJCS interchanges with CSX at Mullins.

Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation (WCRSC)

The Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation (WCRSC) operates two short line railroads in South Carolina: the Greenville & Western Railway Company (GRLW) and Aiken Railway Company (AIKR). GRLW began service in 2006. It owns and operates an 11-mile mainline CSX branch that serves Belton, Cheddar, Williamston, and Pelzer in Anderson County. GRLW interchanges with both CSX at Pelzer and the Pickens Railway (PKHP) at Belton. GRLW also has interchange access to NS at Anderson via its PKHP connection at Belton. Since 2012, AIKR has leased and operated track in Aiken County from NS. AIKR's 13-mile mainline between Warrenville and Oakwood is the original South Carolina Canal & Railroad Company line, which was chartered in 1827 and began operating in 1830. AIKR's 6.5-mile industrial lead line connects Aiken and North Aiken. AIKR interchanges with NS at Warrenville.