

Because rail access is vital to many prospective industries, the North Carolina Department of Commerce (NCDOT) began the rail industrial access program to provide an incentive to locate or expand their facilities in North Carolina. This funding helps ensure that companies have the railroad tracks needed to transport freight and materials. The program uses state funds to assist in constructing or refurbishing tracks required by a new or expanding industry to encourage economic development. Funding for the projects is contingent upon application approval prior to the industry making their decision to locate or expand their facility in North Carolina and at least 50% matching funds from private and or local sources.

Local governments, community development agencies, railroad companies and industries are eligible for funds to improve rail access. Approval of requests is based on economic benefit of the project including the number of potential new jobs that will be created, the amount of capital investment, rail use and the area's economic conditions.

### Eligible Costs:

Eligible costs for program funding include:

- site preparation - including grading and drawings
- track construction
- switches
- grade crossings and signals.

Costs such as engineering, relocation of utilities, right-of-way acquisition and rail dock are not eligible for RIAP funding.

### Project Requirements

The following is required for NCDOT funding consideration:

1. Project Application
2. County/city support resolution
3. Industry commitment certification
4. Railroad commitment certification
5. Industry Safety Pledge

### Application

Applications for Rail Industrial Access funds can be obtained from the NCDOT online at [www.bytrain.com/industrial](http://www.bytrain.com/industrial) or call (919) 733-7245 ext. 274.

## Project Selection Criteria

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will use the following criteria and point system when evaluating rail industrial access applications:

Project Points	
<b>Employment in the first 2 years of operations</b>	
50-99 employees	4 pts.
100-199 employees	8 pts.
200-299 employees	12 pts.
300+ employees	16 pts.
<b>Capital investment in the first 2 years of operations</b>	
\$5-14 million	2 pts.
\$15-24 million	4 pts.
\$25-34 million	6 pts.
\$35 million	+ /8 pts.
<b>Annual rail carloads</b>	
50-199	2 pts.
200-349	4 pts.
350-499	6 pts.
500+	8 pts.
<b>Distressed County or Appalachian Regional Commission eligible</b>	
Yes	2 pts.
No	0 pts.
<b>Shortline Preservation</b>	
Yes	2 pts.
No	0 pts.
<i>Note: Points are awarded based on economic benefits. A minimum score of 8 points is required for project funding.</i>	