
TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES

MAJOR HIGHWAYS

North Carolina Highways

- 78,000-mile highway network.
- Largest state-maintained system in the nation.
- A North Carolina location provides same-day access to all eastern US markets.
- Five major interstate highways intersect North Carolina: Interstates 26, 40, 77, 85 & 95.

Gaston County Highways

- Three interstate highways serve Gaston County: Interstates 40, 85, & 77.
- Major US highways run through Gaston County: US Highways 29, 74, & 321.
- Major state highways run through Gaston County: NC Highways 7, 16, 27, 161, 273, 274, 275, & 279.

TRUCKING SERVICES

More than 50 trucking companies provide freight services to Gaston County businesses. Carolina Western Express, Frederickson Motor Express Corporation, CF Motor Freight, GSI Transportation, Interstate Air Freight Systems Corporation and Yellow Freight are only a few.

AIRPORTS & AIR CARGO

North Carolina Airports

- Three major international airports.
- 13 regional airports.
- 32 of the East Coast's "million plus" population centers within two hours' flight time.

Gaston County Airport Access

Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is located just minutes east of Gaston County in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is served by 6 major and 4 commuter airlines with 517 scheduled commercial departures daily and 8.4 million passenger boardings a year. US Airways provides direct flights to London, Germany, Paris and Nassau.

Gastonia Municipal Airport is located in Gaston County providing commuter access to Gaston County. The facility has one lighted runway of 3,500 feet and one unlighted runway of 2,500 feet.

RAILWAYS

- North Carolina is the hub of an East Coast rail network with 3,600 miles of track throughout the state.
- Gaston County is served by Norfolk & Southern Railway, CSX Transportation and Amtrak.

PORTS

- North Carolina has two modern, deep-water ports.
- North Carolina has an intermodal terminal network.
- North Carolina offers inland ports to reduce total shipment costs by consolidating individual truckloads.
- Foreign Trade Zones are in operation at both NC ports, as well as Charlotte and Research Triangle Park.
- Gaston County Ports: Wilmington, NC, Morehead City, NC, and Charleston, SC.

INTERMODAL TERMINAL NETWORK

North Carolina's intermodal terminal network, the first of its kind in the nation, provides better, less expensive, and more convenient inland transportation services for cargo shipment to the port of Wilmington. Currently, there are two inland intermodal terminals—the Charlotte facility, established in 1984, and the Greensboro terminal, established in 1987.

The intermodal network directly links the Piedmont's largest manufacturing centers, Charlotte and Greensboro, to the port of Wilmington. Both terminals serve as consolidation points for import and export cargo. Substantial cost savings result from the direct, high volume truck and rail transport of combined product shipments to and from the port.

Greensboro offers shippers free match-loading assistance to avoid empty rail hauls, thereby further reducing costs. One-day, non-stop rail service is available from Charlotte through a Seaboard System SPRINT train.

Inland ports provide direct assistance to companies and help them to avoid delays in preparing cargo for shipment. Shipping containers are available for fast delivery to carriers for transport to the port.

The intermodal terminal network offers North Carolina businesses more competitive transportation services and provides a lower cost alternative to many current systems.

For additional information, contact:

Charlotte Intermodal Terminal
5400 Hovis Road
Charlotte, NC 28208
704-398-2076

Greensboro Triad Terminal
6211 Swiggett Road
Greensboro, NC 27409
919-294-9614
919-294-9615
919-294-9616

Port of Wilmington
2202 Burnett Boulevard
P. O. Box 9002
Wilmington, NC 28401
919-763-1621

FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE

Since 1934, when Congress first passed the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, several important changes in the actual legislation and in U. S. Customs Service regulations have fostered development and utilization of the zones across the nation. North Carolina currently boasts four established zones, dispersed across the state, each operating independently.

Foreign-Trade Zone

A foreign-trade zone is a site within the United States where foreign and domestic merchandise is generally considered by the U. S. government as being outside the U. S. Customs territory in international commerce. Foreign or domestic merchandise may enter this enclave without a formal customs entry or the payment of customs duties or government excise taxes, and without a thorough examination.

If the final product is exported from the United States, no U. S. Customs duty or excise tax is levied. If the final product is imported into the U. S., customs duty and excise taxes are due only at a time of transfer from the foreign-trade zone and formal entry into the U. S. on the product itself or its imported parts, whichever is lower. Spoiled, damaged or waste goods may be disposed of or re-exported without payment of duty.

Economic Benefits to Zone Users

Foreign-Trade Zones provide a myriad of economic advantages for businesses involved in international trade. Primarily, merchandise may be manipulated, used in a manufacturing process, inspected, combined with other domestic or foreign materials, displayed for sale and/or re-exported without payment of duty. Savings on personal property, sales and use taxes are possible since state and local governments generally do not impose such taxes on items housed in FTZ's. Additional savings on interest, labor and shipping costs may also result from FTZ use.

The economic benefits for communities housing FTZ's are numerous. The intent of the original FTZ Act was to stimulate international trade and thereby create new jobs. These new jobs are in companies engaged in international trade, as well as those in spin-off industries. New capital investment, generated by firms which might otherwise have located in foreign countries, is another important advantage. This growth in new investment activity also spurs development of support industries.

Governing Body of FTZ's

Although supervised by U. S. Customs, the zone is officially considered to be outside of U. S. territory.

North Carolina FTZ Locations:

Zone #57 – Charlotte Piedmont Distribution Centers Post Office Box 7123 Charlotte, NC 28217 704-588-3277 704-588-2867 TMX: 810-621-0465	Zone #66 – Wilmington
Zone #93 – Durham Triangle J Post Office Box 12276 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 919-549-0551 919-549-9390	Zone #67 – Morehead City NC State Ports Authority P. O. Box 9002 Wilmington, NC 28402 919-763-1621 TWX: 510-937-0330

PARCEL CARRIERS

Nearly a dozen companies provide parcel shipping services to businesses in Gaston County, North Carolina:

<u>Company Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>
BAX Global	800-532-6227
Delta Air Lines, Inc. --DASH	800-352-2746
Eagle Courier	704-869-8944
Emery Worldwide	800-443-6379
FedEx	800-463-3339
Fly Carolina Aviation	704-864-4363
Greyhound Package Express	704-865-1661
Southeast Airmotive Corp.	704-359-8403
United Parcel Service	800-742-5877
US Postal Service	800-275-8777

WATER & SEWER RATE SCHEDULES

Since both water and sewer service providers are determined by location, and rates will vary by provider, please contact Marc Bolick or Darlene Ritter at 704.825.4046 for further assistance.

AVERAGE ELECTRICAL USAGE BY TYPE OF SERVICE

As with water and sewer service, electrical service providers are determined by location, and rates will vary by provider. Please contact Marc Bolick or Darlene Ritter at 704.825.4046 or visit Duke Power Company's website at www.dukepower.com for further assistance.

The City of Gastonia and Duke Energy are two of the major electrical service providers in the Gaston County area. Both companies offer electrical incentives to qualified businesses. You may access a copy of their electrical riders on the Gaston County Economic Development Commission's website at www.gaston.org.

NATURAL GAS SERVICES: SCANA-PSNC ENERGY

Please call Marc Bolick or Darlene Ritter at 704.825.4046 or visit SCANA's website at www.scana.com for rates and additional information.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: AT&T TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

When manufacturing firms expand or relocate, they're likely to consider North Carolina. In fact, our state leads the nation in attracting this line of business. Over the last few years, service-sector companies requiring extensive telecommunications have located here as well. Businesses like airline and hotel reservation centers, credit card processing operations, catalog companies, telemarketers and customer service centers all thrive in North Carolina. So do modern, high-tech manufacturers.

A key reason for their success is access to information. AT&T has invested billions of dollars to give you this access. We are North Carolina's largest and most advanced telecommunications provider. Our sophisticated digital and fiber-optic technologies serve more than half the state. From the mountains to the coast, we penetrate both metropolitan and rural areas with state-of-the-art service. When you add the state's impressive business resources to AT&T'S telecommunications strengths, you can see why we're at the top of relocation lists.

We've prepared for your future in North Carolina by laying the groundwork with digital and fiber-optic technology. This means AT&T can transmit voice, data, video, text and graphics in multimedia format faster and more accurately than ever before. Digital technology has fostered local, intra-LATA and inter-LATA Common Channel Signaling⁷ (CCS⁷), as well as the next generation of telecommunications, including ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network). This type of technology is used in 'smart switches' to allow AT&T to tailor an array of cost-effective services into a system that exceeds each customer's varied telecommunications need. One hundred thousand miles of fiber optics connect all our digital switching offices. This network carries billions of bits of information in the form of laser pulses through threads of glass at the speed of light. Almost all central offices are connected with fiber to the points of presence (POP's) of interexchange carriers. Since interoffice lines are buried, weather conditions are not a threat to your communications, even in such adverse conditions as a hurricane. AT&T's diverse facilities provide alternate or redundant transmission routes in the event a primary truck is cut. Self-healing facilities reroute calls instantly if a major cable is damaged.

Imagine information as 'goods' that need to get to market. Now imagine a 1,000-lane superhighway that transports these goods at the speed of light. This is broadband technology and it's the foundation of the North Carolina Information Highway. This advanced infrastructure is the world's first network based on asynchronous transfer mod (ATM) synchronous optical network (SONET) technology. It consists of high-speed, computerized switches located in telephone company central offices throughout the state. Fiber-optic cables connect the switches and flash bits of information at almost 186,000 miles per second. Data transmissions are almost instantaneous. Two-way video transmissions are simultaneous and sharper than a television broadcast. Over the last few years, BellSouth pioneered the Vision Carolina distance-learning initiative and the VISTAnet high-speed medical imaging project within North Carolina. These trials confirmed broadband access to information and markets. Employees will be trained onsite through video connections with universities and community colleges. Virtual presence will be achieved with supplier-partners.

Total Quality Management (TQM) literally has turned business upside down. The customer is first, feedback starts production, processes are continually refined and communication is crucial up and down the line. AT&T is a leading TQM company and your business will benefit from our commitment to quality. We take great pride in offering a wide range of innovative solutions for your telecommunication needs. Where you need central office-based features or a single piece of equipment, AT&T's custom-designed systems will help you gain a competitive edge, then stay flexible as your business grows and changes."

For additional information, contact:

Mr. Todd Lanham
Director Regulatory External Affairs
AT&T-North Carolina
704-417-8141
toddlanham@bellsouth.com

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL: GASTON COUNTY LANDFILL

- Predicting 28 additional years depending on future permitting.
- Current landfill is on a 310-acre site.
- Available capacity: Approximately 800,000 cubic yards
- Sub-Title "D" land waste cell for all solid wastes.
- The County has construction & demolition debris cell.

Wastes not accepted at Landfill:

- Hazardous wastes
- Infectious wastes
- Free liquids
- Radioactive wastes
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Recyclables
- PCB's
- Asbestos

Residential Recyclables:

- Scrap metal
- Commercial tires
- White goods
- Aluminum/steel cans
- Cardboard
- Glass
- Plastic
- Oil
- Batteries
- Commercial yard waste & pallets