

## Railroad Crossing Safety

In Charlotte, trains operate daily crossing City streets. It is important for motorists and pedestrians to be cautious while approaching a railroad crossing or track.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) recommends the following tips for motorists at railroad crossings:

- Always expect a train at every highway-rail intersection.
- Freight trains do not travel on a predictable schedule and passenger train schedules frequently change.
- Trains ALWAYS have the right-of-way over ambulances, fire engines, cars and law enforcement.
- Always stop your vehicle when crossing gates are down or lights are flashing. Never try to drive around the gate. Look both ways, listen and proceed with caution.
- Never stop your car on railroad tracks. When approaching an intersection at railroad tracks, keep your car safely behind the white lines.
- Never race a train to a crossing.

For pedestrians, NCDOT recommends the following:

- Never walk or ride a bike on or near the railroad tracks - it's against the law.
- The tracks are not a trail, a shortcut or a place to rest.
- Trains cannot stop quickly. It is a simple law of physics: the huge weight, size and speed of the train dictate how quickly it can stop. Once the train is set into emergency braking, a 100-car freight train traveling at 55 mph will need more than a mile to stop — that's approximately 18 football fields.
- Never race a train to a crossing on your bike, skateboard or recreational vehicle. You will lose.

This information is provided by NCDOT's BeRailSafe campaign. For more information about railroad safety visit [BeRailSafe.org](https://www.ncdot.gov/BeRailSafe).