

The Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum



Ways to Support

Money: This is the easiest and most efficient way to make your pledge.

Personal Property: Stocks, bonds, and money market accounts are another way to donate. Fair market value generally dictates your tax deduction.

Real Estate: Land, buildings, homes are all candidates for donation, but they must first be approved by the Depot Authority.

Life Insurance: A fully-paid policy or new policy is acceptable- both have tax deductible benefits.

Retirement Plan: Certain types of retirement plan benefits can be tax deductible; consult your tax advisor.

Remember, the Newton Depot Authority is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Donations to the Authority are tax deductible.

Operating Budget & Fundraising Goals

Heritage Education

STEM Programming	25,000
Museum Operations	80,000

Museum Expansion

Community Plaza (Newton Streetscape Project)	100,000
Interpretive videos and interactive technology	20,000
Expanding Indoor Museum	15,000
Interpretive and Interactive Signage, Street Signs, etc	15,000

Historic Preservation

Establishment of Auditorium	10,000
Establishment of Research Archive	10,000
Restoration of Rolling Stock	25,000

Shop & Yard Expansion

Renovation of warehouses into Shop	15,000
Rail Yard Expansion	10,000
Smaller Covered Rolling Stock Car Barn	50,000

Capital Campaign Consultant	x
Campaign Marketing	x
Grant Writing Consultant	x
Campaign Gift Coordinator/Software	x

Grand Total **\$400,000**

Financing

The campaign is designed with a three-year pledge payout period, ending in December 2019; however, it can comprise four tax years. Since construction is anticipated to begin and end before all pledge payments are collected, a construction loan may have to be secured to provide the necessary funding. Pledge receipts will be used to pay the financing required by this loan.

Construction Timeline

Capital Campaign Begins	Apr 1, 2017
Capital Campaign Ends	Dec 31, 2017
Plaza Ground Breaking	Oct 1, 2017
Plaza Completed	May 31, 2018

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These railroads extracted vital raw materials for the national economy, and in return brought civilization—people and goods—to the regions they served. Many were built to exploit booms in mineral wealth or forest products, but continued to serve their remote communities long after the boom days were over.

The Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum wants to prevent the history of these lines from being forgotten. Most of the railroads have been scrapped. Through the efforts of authors, photographers, museums, and preservation groups, a handful of narrow gauge artifacts and operations remain today. But there needs to be accessible exhibits where the public can learn the story of narrow gauge in a coherent, comprehensive, and entertaining manner. railroad, as it focuses on the narrow gauge and short line companies that fed larger, regional companies like the mighty Southern Railway and its rival, the Seaboard Air Line.

In just a few short years, we have built the largest collection of vintage narrow gauge equipment anywhere in the Southeast, and given the rarity of the artifacts, this roster can never be duplicated or rivaled.

When the museum opened in 2012, barely a thousand visitors came through every year. However, since the addition of the Rolling Stock Pavilion and Model Railroad Center, our attendance in 2016- a scant 5 years later- was nearly 15000 visitors.



The Alexander Railroad has graciously donated one of its vintage locomotives to the museum as part of their effort to preserve local history. We need your support to expand our rail yard and shop facilities to accommodate items like this.



While we anticipated that our world-class museum would thrive, we had no idea that it would attract the thousands of people that it has. The City of Newton is even using the "Depot District" as a cornerstone in its forward-looking "Streetscape" modernization.

To continue to meet our growing demand, we need your help, and your financial support, to continue to grow and improve our campus, our educational capabilities, and our historic preservation projects.

Why Support This Effort ?

Unique: While abundant in other parts of the country, there is no other museum in the southeast that focuses on narrow gauge railroading.

Educational: The museum will be a superb tool in educating students about the history of the area with a true "hands-on" experience. The subject matter is popular with all ages and all demographics.

Economic Sense: The museum site is located conveniently between the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, Tweetsie Railroad in Boone, and the Great Smokey Mountains Railroad in Dillsboro. Rather than a competitor, the museum is complementary to these organizations and can create a draw in the into the region.

Proven: Previous campaigns have netted more than \$1.5 million dollars in funds and in-kind donations. Attracting 15k visitors per year in a formerly distressed area is a winner on all educational, economic, and political agendas.

All Aboard! Campaign

to expand the

Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Short Line Museum



Newton Depot Authority

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Our Message

The Southeastern Narrow Gauge & Shortline Museum is a collaborative effort of the Newton Depot Authority and the local chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS). The Depot Authority was founded in 1995 in order to preserve the historic Newton, NC depot and the Alexander Chapter-NRHS, founded in 1979, is the oldest railroad preservation society in western North Carolina.

In 2012, our organizations agreed to honor a niche of railroad history that is largely forgotten in this age of mega-corporations and mass-media entertainment. Namely, NARROW GAUGE & SHORTLINE RAILROADS comprised an important chapter in the development of transportation systems in the United States, North America, and, indeed, worldwide. Hundreds of small railroads reached into remote and undeveloped regions, connecting them to the rest of the nation.

