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WACHOVIA CORP/ NC  
Form 425  
July 23, 2001

Filed by SunTrust Banks, Inc.  
Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities  
Act of 1933 and deemed filed pursuant to  
Rule 14a-12 under the Securities Exchange  
Act of 1934

Subject Company: Wachovia Corporation  
Commission File No. 1-9021

Date: July 23, 2001

This filing contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, (i) statements about the benefits of a merger between SunTrust Banks, Inc. and Wachovia Corporation, including future financial and operating results, cost savings and accretion to reported and cash earnings that may be realized from such merger; (ii) statements with respect to SunTrust's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts; and (iii) other statements identified by words such as "believes", "expects", "anticipates", "estimates", "intends", "plans", "targets", "projects" and similar expressions. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of SunTrust's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from the anticipated results or other expectations expressed in the forward-looking statements: (1) the businesses of SunTrust and Wachovia may not be integrated successfully or such integration may be more difficult, time-consuming or costly than expected; (2) expected revenue synergies and cost savings from the merger may not be fully realized or realized within the expected time frame; (3) revenues following the merger may be lower than expected; (4) deposit attrition, operating costs, customer loss and business disruption, including, without limitation, difficulties in maintaining relationships with employees, customers, clients or suppliers, may be greater than expected following the merger; (5) the regulatory approvals required for the merger may not be obtained on the proposed terms or on the anticipated schedule; (6) the failure of SunTrust's and Wachovia's stockholders to approve the merger; (7) competitive pressures among depository and other financial institutions may increase significantly and may have an effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; (8) the strength of the United States economy in general and the strength of the local economies in which the combined company will conduct operations may be different than expected, resulting in, among other things, a deterioration in credit quality or a reduced demand for credit, including the resultant effect on the combined company's loan portfolio and allowance for loan losses; (9) changes in the U.S. and foreign legal and regulatory framework; and (10) adverse conditions in the stock market, the public debt market and other capital markets (including changes in interest rate conditions) and the impact of such conditions on the combined company's capital markets and asset management activities. Additional factors that could cause SunTrust's results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in SunTrust's reports (such as Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and available at the

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SEC's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>). All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the proposed transaction or other matters attributable to SunTrust or any person acting on its behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements above. SunTrust does not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events that occur after the date the forward-looking statements are made.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SENT TO A SHAREHOLDER OF WACHOVIA CORPORATION.

[SunTrust Banks, Inc. Letterhead]

July 20, 2001

[Name]  
[Address]

Dear [ ]:

I appreciate your interest in our merger proposal with Wachovia. Your opinions are important to us.

While I am hesitant to comment on any competitor's strategic decisions, your assessment of First Union's proposed name swap is right on target. Regardless of what you call it, the First Union deal is inferior, we believe, to SunTrust's. In fact, our proposal is much more closely aligned with the interests of Wachovia's shareholders, customers, employees and communities.

In contemplating any merger, SunTrust is concerned with more than just "the numbers." We're equally focused on the culture, product line and business philosophy of any potential partner. With Wachovia, it couldn't be a better fit. Both institutions have a long and proud history of service and performance. Our products and markets mesh well. And we both emphasize the importance of personal relationships.

I don't believe that's the First Union message. As you conveyed in your letter, financial institutions can treat customers in vastly different ways. First Union emphasizes certain strategies that we believe are not compatible with either Wachovia or SunTrust. We believe that makes First Union's potential partnership with Wachovia highly problematic.

In our view, the strategic, financial and business advantages of a SunTrust-Wachovia combination are compelling. And we are prepared to see this through to the end. But regardless of how it's decided, you should know that SunTrust has never been better positioned for success.

Thank you for your investment in our company.

Sincerely,

/s/ L. Phillip Humann  
L. Phillip Humann  
Chairman, President and  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Don't forget to sign, date and return your BLUE proxy card immediately to vote "AGAINST" the First Union merger.

On May 14, 2001, SunTrust delivered a merger proposal to the Board of Directors

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of Wachovia. Subject to future developments, SunTrust intends to file with the SEC a registration statement at a date or dates subsequent hereto to register the SunTrust shares to be issued in its proposed merger with Wachovia. Investors and security holders are urged to read the registration statement (when available) and any other relevant documents filed or to be with the SEC, as well as any amendments or supplements to those documents, because they contain (or will contain) important information. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the registration statement (when available) and such other documents at the SEC's Internet web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The registration statement (when available) and such other documents may also be obtained free of charge from SunTrust by directing such request to: SunTrust Banks, Inc., 303 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30308, Attention: Gary Peacock (404-658-4753).