



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

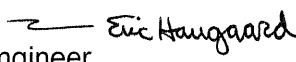
MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 13, 2005

Memorandum

To: James A. Smailes, PE
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Eric Haugaard, PE 
Crossing Project Engineer

Subject: *Quarterly Report #33*, North Carolina Sealed Corridor Project;
TIP Project No. P-3419; Next Generation High Speed Rail Grant

During the first quarter of 2005, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has completed the following tasks as part of the Sealed Corridor project (all involve Norfolk Southern Railway, unless otherwise noted):

□ **Projects in Design Phase:**

- Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Ragsdale Road (Crossing No. 722 354N) in Jamestown
- Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Orr Road (Crossing No. 715 350U) in Charlotte
- Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Hoskins Street (Crossing No. 722 351T) in High Point
- Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Driver Street (Crossing No. 630 471D) in Durham
- Four-quadrant gate system at Holts Chapel Road (Crossing No. 722 956E) in Greensboro
- Four-quadrant gate system at West Point Avenue (Crossing No. 722 334C) in High Point
- Long-gate arm installations at O'Ferrell Street (Crossing No. 722 961B), Ward Road (Crossing No. 722 962H), and Maxfield Road (Crossing No. 722 964W) in Greensboro
- Central Avenue Extension (Crossing No. 724 391X) in Landis - Gannett Fleming submitted final construction plans to NCDOT Rail Division for review and comment.
- Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827) (Crossing No. 715 339U) in Charlotte - Gannett Fleming submitted preliminary plans to NCDOT Rail Division for review and comment.

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- McLean Road (Crossing No. 715 343J) in Charlotte- Gannett Fleming submitted revised plans to NCDOT Rail Division that incorporated comments from the North Carolina Railroad and Charlotte Department of Transportation.
- Sugar Creek Road (SR 2975) (Crossing No. 715 352H) in Charlotte - Gannett Fleming submitted to NCDOT Rail Division preliminary construction plans for review and comment. These plans were modified to comply with requirements from the North Carolina Railroad Company.

□ **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**

- A Crossing Closure Agreement between the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railway and North Carolina Railroad Company was executed for Hoover Street (Crossing No. 722 321B, Milepost Main 306.62) in Thomasville, Davidson County, NC. Upon completion of the Peace Street grade separation, NCDOT Project U-3122, this crossing will be permanently closed. Crossing closure is anticipated in July 2005.
- A Crossing Closure Agreement between the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railway and North Carolina Railroad was executed for Stanford Road (SR 1550) (Crossing No. 722 357J, Milepost Main 293.11) in Jamestown, Guilford County, NC. Upon completion of the Guilford College Road, NCDOT Project U-2913A, this crossing will be permanently closed. Crossing closure is anticipated by December 31, 2005.

□ **Private Crossing Safety Initiative (PCSI):**

- Crossing Closures
 - On January 27th, special private crossing signs were installed at Thomas & Howard (Crossing No. 722 963P, Milepost H 4.25) in Greensboro.
 - On February 1st, a meeting was held with representatives of Thomas & Howard Company, NCDOT Division 7 (DOH) and NCDOT Rail Division to discuss improvements to facilitate permanent closure of the Thomas & Howard crossing (Crossing No. 722 963P, Milepost H 4.25) in Greensboro.
 - NCDOT Rail Division has authorized preliminary engineering to begin on determining the feasibility of a project that will close the Juke Box Rd. (Crossing No. 724 378J, Milepost Main 341.54) and Ethel Lane (Crossing No. 724 377C, Milepost Main 341.39) crossings and provide alternate access.
 - NCDOT Rail Division is responding to some other property owners that have inquired about projects or incentives to close private crossings on the corridor.
- Special Signage & Crossbucks
 - NCDOT proposed for NS to upgrade 28 private crossings along the Cary-Charlotte corridor by installing new warning signs and supports. Each crossing will receive retroreflective stop, private crossing, cross-bucks, and multiple track (where required) signs. Reflective strips will be added to the posts. NS will procure all sign materials and provide all labor.
 - NCDOT will reimburse NS 100% for the actual costs of the new signs, posts, hardware, and installation using federal funds from the PCSI (Private Crossing Safety Initiative) program.
 - NS will be responsible for maintenance of signs.

- NCDOT/NS/NCRP would do this work under a supplement to the NCRIP Master Agreement. NS will provide an estimate to NCDOT for the agreement, then submit bills to NCDOT for actual costs.
- Gates & Locks
 - Field investigations of locked/gated locations have been conducted.
 - Master agreements with NCRP to cover installation and maintenance of locked/gated locations are being drafted.
- NS will resume their ROW Enhancement program to improve sight distance at private crossings by clearing vegetation along tracks.

Please contact me at (919) 715-7509 if you have any questions.

EWH

cc: David D. King, NCDOT
Patrick B. Simmons, NCDOT
Paul C. Worley, CPM, NCDOT
Dorene Creech, NCDOT
Ellen Holding, NCDOT
Max Tate, FHWA
Tom Drake, FRA
Bill Barringer, NS
Adam Mastrangelo, NS
Rick Ray, NS
Shelby Stevenson, CSXT

(Note to Dorene Creech: Please submit a copy of this progress report to Mr. Smailes with the appropriate financial reports as soon as possible)

(Note to Ellen Holding: Please include this report on the Sealed Corridor web site)