



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 3, 2006

Memorandum

To: James A. Smailes, PE
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM *Nancy Stone*
Assistant Director for Engineering and Safety

Subject: *Quarterly Report #35*, North Carolina Federal Grant Report; Sealed
Corridor and Various Projects: TIP Project No. P-3419; Next Generation
High Speed Rail Grant

During the fourth quarter of 2005 and first quarter of 2006, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has completed the following tasks under Federal Railroad Administration grants awarded for use on the Sealed Corridor and related projects in North Carolina (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. Design has been completed and the project is now in the agreement phase.
- Four-quadrant gate system upgrade with Signal Preemption at Orr Road (Crossing No. 715 350U) in Charlotte. Waiting on preemption plans from the city.
- Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Hoskins Street (Crossing No. 722 351T) in High Point. Engineering revisions have been requested from NS.
- Four-quadrant gate system upgrade 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. Project has been completed.
- Four-quadrant gate system at West Point Avenue (Crossing No. 722 334C) in High Point. Project has been completed.
- Widening of Caldwell Road (Crossing No. 715 332W) and installation of concrete median separators in Harrisburg - Gannett Fleming project in right-of-way acquisition phase for the roadway portion of the project. The crossing signal project has been authorized for construction.
- Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827), (Crossing No. 715 339U), Charlotte - Gannett Fleming completing 90% roadway design plans. Right-of-way authorization has been requested.

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- The City of Charlotte is developing traffic signal design (with advanced preemption) at the NC 49/Pavillion Boulevard intersection with Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827). Norfolk Southern was authorized to prepare fully engineered plans, estimates and materials list for crossing safety improvements.
 - Gannett Fleming is developing plans for widening and safety improvement at the McLean Road crossing (Crossing No. 715 343J) in Charlotte.
 - Newell-Hickory Grove Road safety improvements (Crossing No. 715 348T) in Charlotte – Gannett Fleming submitted preliminary plans to NCDOT Rail Division and is waiting for approval by NCRR before proceeding to final plan preparation.
 - Preliminary plans for construction of a “hammerhead” type turnaround south of the existing Rocky River Road (SR 2828) crossing (715 346E) in Charlotte have been completed. This improvement will facilitate the permanent closure of this crossing.
- **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**
- Upon completion of the Guilford College Road project (State TIP No. U-2913A), near Jamestown, the SR 1550 (Stanford Road) at-grade crossing (Crossing No. 722 357J) will be permanently closed. The permanent crossing closure is anticipated by April 2006.
 - Gannett Fleming is revising design plans for improvements to Sugar Creek Road at N. Davidson Street, which will accommodate a left-turn lane onto Davidson and installation of a traffic signal. These improvements will facilitate the permanent at-grade crossing closure of Craighead Road (Crossing No. 715 355D) in Charlotte.
 - Design is currently underway for improvements recommended in the High Point TSS. These projects will facilitate the closure of Grimes Street (Crossing No. 722 337T) and Taylor Avenue (Crossing No. 722 335J).
 - Powell Drive (SR 1342), (Crossing No. 630 650U), West Raleigh – Ralph Whitehead submitted a November 2005 Traffic Analysis Report for review and comment. NCDOT Rail Division requested and received written support from the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) for a permanent closure of this crossing.
 - The public hearing for Reedy Creek Road is scheduled for April 6, 2006. NCDOT is currently working on public information for this hearing. NCDOT Rail Division requested and received written support from the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) for a permanent closure of this crossing.
 - NCDOT (Division of Highways and Rail Division) is discussing options for a permanent crossing closure at Church Street (SR 1980) (Crossing No. 734 748M) in Durham.
- **Private Crossing Safety Initiative (PCSI):**
- **Crossing Closures**
 - An agreement is being developed between the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railway Company and Thomas & Howard Company. Thomas & Howard Company will be responsible for preliminary engineering, donation of necessary right-of-way, contract administration and construction for an alternative access road to Maxfield Road (SR 3025), near Greensboro, to facilitate the permanent at-grade crossing closure of the Thomas & Howard private crossing (Crossing No. 722 963P).
 - Preliminary plans for a third alternative showing the proposed closure of Ethel Lane (Crossing No. 724 377C) and Jukebox Road (Crossing No. 724 378J) were developed and will be presented to property owners to determine project feasibility.
 - NCDOT met with the landowner and representative from Raleigh Paving Company and Contec concerning the Recreational Ventures crossing (Crossing

No. 630 652H). Raleigh Paving had approached the Contec Corporation (which owns the property behind Raleigh Paving) requesting that they be allowed an easement across Contec's property to construct an alternative driveway access. This alternative driveway access will facilitate the closure of the private crossing. NCDOT will continue to work with both parties involved to help advance this safety project.

- NCDOT will investigate the feasibility of constructing an alternative access and closing the driveway for the Gladys Doster property (Crossing No. 715 329N) as this location was requested by NCRP for investigation as a potential PCSI closure.
- NCDOT and the consultant team, NCRP, NS, CSX, TTA and representatives from PSNC met on the proposed closure of the PSNC Gas Company crossing (Crossing No. 630 66A). The participants were receptive to the concepts presented. NCDOT and the consultant team is soliciting funding commitments from the participants to construct the project and will proceed further when commitments are in place.
- Rail Safety Consultants has been assigned the task of investigating the feasibility of closing the crossing near Rocky Ridge (NS-access, MP-358.1) and is working with NS.

- **Special Signage & Crossbucks**
 - Norfolk Southern has installed all the "STOP/PVA" sign packages at the 28 private crossings along the Sealed Corridor at their cost as a contribution to the project.

- **Gates & Locks**
 - Agreements with NCRP, NS and property owners to cover installation and maintenance of locked/gated locations are being drafted.

- **Rail View:**
 - NCDOT is working to obtain speed indication from the system and working with Amtrak to develop a speed table conversion. Once completed, NCDOT will work with SAIC to develop the necessary software patch for the Rail View System.

- **Clayton Pedestrian Grade Separation:**
 - NCDOT has completed renderings of the proposed pedestrian grade separation and has developed a scope of services for the Public Involvement Program. NCDOT is also in the process of selecting a consulting engineering firm to move forward with the design of the planned improvements.

- **Slope Stabilization Project:**
 - An engineering evaluation has been completed. The results of the study determined that it was not feasible to construct a soil nail wall. A final report is currently being prepared for submittal to FRA to close out this project.

Nancy Horne will be handling these quarterly reports in the future. If there are any questions concerning this report, please contact her at (919) 715-3686 or nhorne@dot.state.nc.us and she will coordinate with the specific project engineer.

James A. Smailes, PE

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

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