



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 25, 2007

Memorandum

To: James A. Smailes, PE
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM 
Director - Engineering & Safety

Subject: *Quarterly Report #36 – Ending September 30, 2006*, North Carolina
Federal Grant Report; Sealed Corridor and Various Projects: TIP Project
No. P-3419; Next Generation High Speed Rail Grant

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. A field investigation to revise plans was held.
 - Four-quadrant gate system upgrade with Signal Preemption at Orr Road (Crossing No. 715 350U) in Charlotte. Authorized 8/25/2006.
 - Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Hoskins Street (Crossing No. 722 351T) in High Point. Engineering revisions have been received from NS.
 - Four-quadrant gate system upgrade with Signal Preemption at Driver Street (Crossing No. 630 471D) in Durham. Engineering plans requested from NS.
 - Caldwell Road (SR 1173), (Crossing No. 715 332W) – Plans have been submitted to the Project Engineer and the Division 10 r/w agent for acquisitions.
 - Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827), (Crossing No. 715 339U), Charlotte – Public meeting was held on May 25, 2006. Gannett Fleming conducted additional field observations and traffic counts to address the Back Creek ARP Church's concerns.
 - McLean Road crossing (Crossing No. 715 343J) – Revised plans completed. Plan comments from the City of Charlotte received on April 19th.
 - Newell-Hickory Grove Road (Crossing No. 715 348T), Charlotte – Awaiting NCRR approval.
 - Rocky River Road (SR 2828), (Crossing 715 346E) Charlotte - Preliminary plans were sent out on 12/9/2005.

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❑ **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**

- SR 1550 (Stanford Road) at-grade crossing (Crossing No. 722 357J) was permanently closed on 6/1/06.
- Sugar Creek Road (Crossing No. 715 352H) in Charlotte – Right-of-way plans were sent to Division 10, the District Engineer, and the City of Charlotte on 11/21/2005. Further activity on the project is pending a meeting with the City of Charlotte to discuss the overall crossing safety program.
- Grade Separation of Sugar Creek Road (Crossing No. 715 352H) in Charlotte – The latest Federal Transportation Bill included an earmark of \$2.4M for construction of a grade separation project at this location. NCRRT has set aside @10M in their Capital Program for the project. Norfolk Southern has indicated that they will pay 5% of the project costs. Support for the project from the Mecklenburg-Union MPO is pending. On April 27th, 2006 a meeting was held in Raleigh to discuss the project and determine the next steps in implementation. A Feasibility Study including alternative analysis and environmental assessments may be recommended.
- 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 – Project on hold due to pending TTA Regional Rail project and the lack of a schedule or funding for the Blue Ridge Road grade separation.
- Reedy Creek Road (SR 1650), (Crossing No. 630 662N) – A Technical Review Committee meeting was held on June 30, 2006. Board of Transportation approval needed.
- 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. The Department has contracted with a private engineering firm for planning and design services.

❑ **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).
- Ethel Lane (Crossing No. 724 377C) and Jukebox Road (Crossing No. 724 378J) Gannett Fleming staff met with Location and Surveys onsite May 24th, going over the alignment to be staked in the field.
- 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.

- Gladys Doster property (Crossing No. 715 329N) – Gannett Fleming continuing dialogue with representatives of the property owner with potential alternatives to the crossing.
- PSNC Gas Company crossing (Crossing No. 630 659F) – Funding commitments have been stated and an agreement between involved parties is being drafted.
- 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.

- **Gates & Locks**
 - Agreements with NCCR, 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 has selected a consulting engineering firm to move forward with the design of the planned improvements. A planning team has also been selected to handle the public involvement process.

- **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. 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.

cc: Roberto Canales, PE, NCDOT
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Nancy Horne, PE, NCDOT

Ellen Holding, NCDOT

(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)