



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 #38 – Ending March 31, 2007*, North Carolina Federal Grant Report; Sealed Corridor and Various Projects: TIP Project No. P-3419; Next Generation High Speed Rail Grant

During the first quarter of 2007, 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. No change since last report.
  - Four-quadrant gate system with Signal Preemption at Hoskins Street (Crossing No. 722 351T) in High Point. Authorized for construction on 3/2/2007.
  - Four-quadrant gate system upgrade with Signal Preemption at Driver Street (Crossing No. 630 471D) in Durham. Engineering plans under review.
  - Caldwell Road (SR 1173), (Crossing No. 715 332W) – 3 of 4 right of way parcels have been acquired by Division 10. Plan revisions are complete and have been provided to the Rail Division.
  - Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827), (Crossing No. 715 339U), Charlotte – Project in r/w acquisition by Division 10 R/W staff. Revised r/w plans were sent out 2/26. Signal design has been completed by Norfolk Southern. Waiting on utility relocation plans from Duke Energy.
  - McLean Road, Charlotte (Crossing No. 715 343J) – Division 10 has provided Gannett Fleming with marked up plans which have been revised. A request for a right of way and utility relocation estimate was sent to the R/W Branch on March 20<sup>th</sup>. An estimate is expected by the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.
  
- Newell-Hickory Grove Road safety improvements (Crossing No. 715 348T) in Charlotte – Division review requested to extend the taper lengths on both ends of the

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project. Gannett Fleming received notice to proceed with the revisions and authorization for additional surveying on 3/27. Survey data is expected by the end of April.

- Rocky River Road (SR 2828), (Crossing 715 346E) Charlotte – The crossing was permanently closed on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Gannett Fleming and the District Engineer are continuing to work to resolve issues with on abutting property owner. Upon final construction and restoration completion, Gannett Fleming will provide photographic documentation to Rail Division.
  
- **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**
  - 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) – The crossing was approved for closure at the September Board of Transportation meeting. The department is currently negotiating a closure agreement. The crossing is anticipated to close in August 2007.
  - 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. A public workshop is scheduled for April 3, 2007.
  
- **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 NCR for investigation as a potential PCSI closure.
    - PSNC Gas Company crossing (Crossing No. 630 659F) – CSX is providing comments and review on the agreement.

- 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 NCRR, 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. NCDOT converting Bach Simpson Recorders to provide direct inputs to Rail View.
- **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. Public charrettes were held on January 18, 2007 and February 8, 2007. A follow-up meeting among stakeholders is scheduled for April 26, 2007.
- **Slope Stabilization Project:**
  - Final report submitted to FRA in March 2007.

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](mailto:nhorne@dot.state.nc.us) and she will coordinate with the specific project engineer.

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bcc: Arthur Petteway, PE, NCDOT

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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)