



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

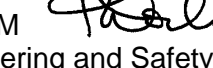
MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

August 17, 2007

Memorandum

To: Randall Brown
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM 
Director - Engineering and Safety

Subject: *Quarterly Report #39 – Ending June 30, 2007*, North Carolina Federal Grant Report; Sealed Corridor and Various Projects: TIP Project No. P-3419; Next Generation High Speed Rail Grant

During the second 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:**

- Caldwell Road (SR 1173), (Crossing No. 715 332W) – All necessary right of way has been obtained. Rail Division is working to complete the environmental document before the project proceeds to construction.
- Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827), (Crossing No. 715 339U), Charlotte – Prior to filing condemnation on any parcel, it has been determined that a Categorical Exclusion must be prepared and approved. The Rail Division's Environmental and Planning Branch has been requested to prepare the document. It is anticipated that preparation of the CE will take up to 9 months. Project plans forwarded on June 22nd for preparation of the document.
- McLean Road, Charlotte (Crossing No. 715 343J) – The right of way and utility relocation estimate has been forwarded to the Rail Division. Once a WBS number has been acquired the R/W staff will be requested to proceed with the acquisition. The environmental document is complete.
- Newell-Hickory Grove Road safety improvements (Crossing No. 715 348T) in Charlotte – New survey data to allow for the lengthening of the tapers on Old Concord Road has been received and the plans are being revised accordingly. City of Charlotte conducted a new tree survey and found only 4 healthy trees remaining that will be impacted by the project.

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❑ **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**

- Design is continuing 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). The City of High Point is also investigating the feasibility of closing Hoskins Street (Crossing No. 722 351T).
- Reedy Creek Road (SR 1650), (Crossing No. 630 662N) – The crossing is anticipated to close in late August 2007.
- NCDOT is investigating 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 was held April 3, 2007, and the consultant is following up as per comments received.

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

- Preliminary plans for an alternative access road to allow for the proposed closure of Ethel Lane (Crossing No. 724 377C) and Jukebox Road (Crossing No. 724 378J) were developed and presented to property owners. The project has been dropped due to the landowners' refusal to donate right of way based on project cost-benefit and funding availability.
- Gladys Doster access (Crossing No. 715 329N) – Gannett Fleming continues to work with the property owner on alternative access across the property of Harrisburg Elementary School. Cabarrus Co. Schools has not yet made a final decision on the access question. Mr. William Caudle, the current property owner, has been unsuccessful of late in getting a response from the school system representative.
- Public Service Company of NC (Crossing No. 630 659F), Cary– Driveway cuts at NC 54 have been completed by the Town of Cary as part of the roadway widening project. Funding and project work agreement for the alternate access to PSNC is expected to be executed in July 2007.

❑ **Gates & Locks**

- Agreements with NCR, NS and property owners to cover installation and maintenance of locked/gated locations await action by E&S staff.

❑ **Rail View:**

- NCDOT has speed functioning on the two F-59 engines. An older GP-40 engine continues to have technical issues. The video and audio are functioning. Plans are being developed to rewrite RailView programming on this locomotive. Conversion to wireless download access is being investigated. Data continues to be collected for trespasser hits and vehicular collisions as they occur.

❑ **Clayton Vehicle/Pedestrian Grade Separation:**

- NCDOT is working with NS, NCR and the Town of Clayton on a study to investigate the feasibility of a proposed pedestrian grade separation. As per public involvement held in early 2007, the scope has been broadened to include grade separated vehicle access as well. Ongoing meetings are being held to review and discuss proposals and related issues, with the goal of presenting options to the public in August 2007 for further comment.

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

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Ellen Holding, NCDOT

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

(Note to Diane Jones: Please submit a copy of this progress report to Mr. Brown with the appropriate financial reports as soon as possible)