



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

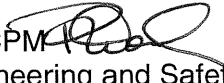
MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

November 14, 2007

Memorandum

To: Randall Brown
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM 
Director - Engineering and Safety

Subject: *Quarterly Report #40 – Ending September 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 third 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) – Project has been transferred to the Division of Highways for 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) – Plans have been forwarded to the Division R/W office with a request to begin the acquisition process. Plans have also been sent to the Utility Agent with a request to begin utility coordination/relocation.
- Newell-Hickory Grove Road safety improvements (Crossing No. 715 348T) in Charlotte – Plans are being revised to include new taper lengths on Old Concord Road to accommodate the new southbound left-turn lane.

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□ **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**

- High Point TSS - Design is complete for the improvements recommended. These projects will facilitate the closure of Grimes Street (Crossing No. 722 337T) and Taylor Avenue (Crossing No. 722 335J). The construction of the modifications at Ward Avenue (722 331G) to lower the roadway and raise the bridge have been delayed until later in the fall.
- Reedy Creek Road (SR 1650), (Crossing No. 630 662N) – The crossing was closed on August 27, 2007.
- Church Street (SR 1980), (Crossing No. 734 748M) in Durham. The Department and other stakeholders (including the municipality, railroads and private developers) are completing their evaluation of the options presented as a result of additional study and will be entering into an agreement for mitigation projects which will permit the closure of the Church Street crossing.

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

- 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. The school system still has yet to respond to the request for access.
- Public Service Company of NC (Crossing No. 630 659F), Cary– The plans and the driveway permit for the work on NC 54 have been approved. All stakeholders have signed the final agreement. The Town of Cary submitted plan review comments and necessary revisions to the plans have been made. Project issues remain pending approval of the NCRP for an alternate access roadway required by the Cary Fire Department.

□ **Gates & Locks**

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

□ **Rail View:**

- Data continues to be collected for trespasser hits and vehicular collisions as they occur. Conversion to wireless download access and a maintenance contract with NS for the system is being investigated.

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

- NCDOT is working with NS, NCRP and the Town of Clayton on a study to investigate the feasibility of a proposed grade separation. As per public involvement held in early 2007, the scope has been broadened to include grade separated vehicle access as well. A focus group meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2007 to discuss the alternative alignments. A Public Meeting should follow in January 2008.

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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