



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

February 19, 2008

Memorandum

To: Randall Brown
Federal Railroad Administration

From: *For* Paul Worley, CPM
Director - Engineering and Safety

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur H. Pettway".

Subject: *Quarterly Report #41 – Ending December 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 final 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 is complete with the exception of the installation of the tubular markers on the concrete median.
- Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827), (Crossing No. 715 339U), Charlotte – an informational workshop on the project was held at the Back Creek Presbyterian Church on December 10th. Gannett Fleming has received utility plans from the NCDOT Utilities Coordination Unit. Ko and Associates is preparing the draft Categorical Exclusion for submittal to the Rail Division.
- McLean Road, Charlotte (Crossing No. 715 343J) – Right of way acquisition is underway by Highway Division 10 staff. The McLean Road Baptist Church has requested that sidewalk be extended across their entire frontage as part of the project. The Rail Division has agreed to this condition as long as the church donates all required right of way and easements. The right of way agent will meet with church leadership the week of February 4, 2008 to work out the agreement. The Utilities Coordination Unit has sent Gannett Fleming the utility plans. A spring 2008 let date is tentative.
- Newell-Hickory Grove Road safety improvements (Crossing No. 715 348T) in Charlotte – Preliminary plans have been completed and sent out on November 7th, 2007. Review comments received back from the Division of Highways (DOH) staff and the City. Plan revisions are currently being worked on.

MAILING ADDRESS:
RAIL DIVISION
ENGINEERING & SAFETY BRANCH
1556 MSC
RALEIGH NC 27699-1556

TELEPHONE: 919-715-8803
FAX: 919-715-8804

WEBSITE: www.bytrain.org

LOCATION:
CAPITAL YARD
862 CAPITAL BOULEVARD
RALEIGH, NC 27603

□ **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**

- High Point TSS - Grimes Street (Crossing No. 722 337T), Taylor Avenue (Crossing No. 722 335J), Ward Avenue (722 331G), and Prospect Street (Crossing No. 722 322N). All High Point projects are awaiting completion of the environmental documents. Norfolk Southern has completed work to raise the railroad overpass at Ward Avenue.
- Church Street (SR 1980), (Crossing No. 734 748M) in Durham. The Department has completed the additional studies and is finalizing the report. NCDOT will convene a TRC (Transportation Review Committee Meeting) on February 1, 2008 to discuss the project and any mitigation measures that need to be taken with regard to 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 County Schools has not made a final decision on allowing access. The school system still has yet to respond to the request for access.
- Public Service Company of NC (PSNC) crossing (Crossing No. 630 659F), Cary – Plans have been approved by the Town of Cary and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Copies of the approval documents have been provided to PSNC for their corporate records. PSNC is in the process of developing and executing an agreement with North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR) for an emergency access driveway from Trinity Road. Due to design changes requested by the Cary Fire Marshall concerning alternative emergency access to the PSNC property, the project design budget was exceeded. A supplemental agreement to cover cost overrun and other provisions is being developed for execution by all parties involved.
- Thomas & Howard crossing, (Crossing No. 722 963P), Greensboro- Serves two businesses and is located just off Highway 70 on the eastern edge of Greensboro. NCDOT is working towards finding a solution that will allow the closure of the private crossing and reroute the business traffic to the next adjacent crossing, which is Maxfield Road. The Rail Division is working with an engineering consultant; the landowner and the business owners served by the private crossing to design and construct a roadway to provide access out to Maxfield Road. The survey for Maxfield Road was recently completed and a meeting will be held soon with the land owner and business owners to discuss our next steps.
- Rankin Fryar crossing, (Crossing No. 722 972N), Milepost H 6.77 near McLeansville- Plan to construct project using recycled highway-rail grade crossing signals and gates provided by NCDOT, with NS to provide labor and equipment, and Rankin Fryar Landfill to pay for all future crossing signal maintenance. A term sheet for the signal agreement has been developed.

□ **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:**

- Data continues to be collected for trespasser hits and vehicular collisions as they occur. Interface with the locomotive event recorders is being investigated with the vendors involved.

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

- NCDOT is continuing to work with NS, NCRR and the Town of Clayton on a study to investigate the feasibility of a proposed vehicle/pedestrian grade separation. A focus group meeting was held on November 7, 2007 to discuss the alternative alignments. An additional alignment was identified and is being developed. There is a workgroup meeting scheduled for January 24, 2007, at which time a date will be set for the next Public Meeting.

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.

cc: Roberto Canales, PE, NCDOT
Patrick B. Simmons, NCDOT
Paul C. Worley, CPM, NCDOT
Diane Jones, NCDOT
Brad Hibbs, FHWA
Tom Drake, FRA
William Barringer, NS
Adam Mastrangelo, NS
Rick Ray, NS
Shelby Stevenson, CSXT

Randall Brown
Page 4

bcc: Arthur Petteway, PE, NCDOT
A. R. Thomas, PE, NCDOT
Nancy Horne, PE, NCDOT
Jahmal Pullen, EI, NCDOT
Jim Morrison, PE, NCDOT
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)