



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

August 11, 2008

Memorandum

To: Randall Brown
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM
Director - Engineering and Safety

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Worley".

Subject: *Quarterly Report #44 – Ending June 30, 2008*, North Carolina Federal Grant Report; Sealed Corridor and Various Projects: Next Generation High Speed Rail Grant

During the second quarter of 2008, 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:**

- Back Creek Church Road (SR 2827), (Crossing No. 715 339U), Charlotte – The environmental document was approved by the FHWA on May 8th. A public hearing map is being prepared and then the date for the hearing will be set.
- McLean Road, Charlotte (Crossing No. 715 343J) – Right of way acquisition paperwork is being completed. The Division 10 construction office will handle the project construction. An engineering estimate for construction has been completed.
- Newell-Hickory Grove Road (Crossing No. 715 348T), Charlotte – The City of Charlotte has a future sidewalk and roadway improvement project planned along Old Concord Road. Discussions are ongoing as to how to proceed with the tree removal in the right of way to coincide with the future plans. The Utilities Coordination Unit has approved the use of TELICS (a utilities coordination private firm) as a sub-consultant to Gannett Fleming to handle the utility relocations for the project. Our External Audit Unit is in the process of reviewing and approving the cost proposal submitted by Gannett Fleming and TELICS.
- Klumac Road (SR 2541), (Crossing No. 715 273W), Salisbury – The environmental document and functional design have been completed. Work has begun on the right-of-way plans.

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❑ **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). A meeting was held May 5th, 2008 to discuss the projects utility and right-of-way issues. The city has provided some minor plan revisions and has requested the project surveyor to provide plats and legal descriptions which will be used to acquire the project right-of-way.
- Hopson Road (SR 1978), (Crossing No. 734 746Y) and Church Street (SR 1980), (Crossing No. 734 748M) in Durham. The Department has added the Church Street closure to the environmental document being prepared for the Hopson Road Grade Separation. A supplemental scope has been developed by the consultant to complete the additional work. The Department is expected to hold a Public Informational Workshop this fall for the entire project.

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

- Public Service Company of NC (PSNC) crossing (Crossing No. 630 659F), Cary – Plans have been approved by the Town of Cary and North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Copies of the approval documents have been provided to PSNC for their corporate records. The Town of Cary requires the payment of an inspection fee; the request has been forwarded to PSNC. PSNC is developing an agreement with North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR) for an emergency access driveway from Trinity Road. NCR and CSX are finalizing a separate agreement as required by their lease arrangement pertaining to access to facilities served by the railroad in order to be able to sign the PSNC agreement for emergency access. Once these agreements are executed the project may move to construction.
- Thomas & Howard crossing, (Crossing No. 722 963P), Greensboro- Plans have been updated to meet the requests of the District Engineer. The Rail Division is working toward getting an agreement signed concerning the private crossing and on authorization to allow the Right-Of-Way acquisition to begin.
- Rankin Fryar crossing, (Crossing No. 722 972N), Milepost H 6.77 near McLeansville- A term sheet for the signal agreement has been developed and sent out to the project stakeholders for review and comment. The Fryar's have requested a breakdown of the yearly maintenance costs; the request has been forwarded to Norfolk Southern and their response is still pending.
- Ethel Lane crossing (Crossing No. 724 377C), and Juke Box Road crossing (Crossing No. 724 378J), China Grove – Rail Division is proceeding with development of alternative access to the properties served by these two crossings. A request to the Environmental & Planning Branch to begin preparation of an environmental document has been made. Eminent domain procedures may be required to obtain necessary right-of-way.

❑ **Gates & Locks**

- Location reviews and 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. Once the Bach-Simpson event recorders have been installed on all locomotives, the goal is to synch Rail View to the recorders for more accurate data collection, specifically speed through the corridor and at impact.

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

- NCDOT continues to finalize the feasibility report regarding a proposed vehicle/pedestrian grade separation. Comments received from the municipality and public at the March 6, 2008 public workshop is being incorporated into the report. The Department anticipates holding the next Stakeholder's meeting this fall to present the report.

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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