



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

February 12, 2009

**Memorandum**

To: Randall Brown  
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM  
Director - Engineering and Safety 

Subject: *Quarterly Report #46 – Ending December 31, 2008*, 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 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 – Right-of-way process is underway. A meeting will be held January 14<sup>th</sup> with Division 10 staff to discuss construction options.
  - McLean Road, Charlotte (Crossing No. 715 343J) – Norfolk Southern has approved and executed the railroad agreement. Once NCRR completes its' engineering review and signs the agreement Division 10 will be able to advertise the project for bidding.
  - Newell-Hickory Grove Road (Crossing No. 715 348T), Charlotte – The City of Charlotte sent a letter December 10<sup>th</sup> to all property owners along Old Concord Road advising that the city would be removing all trees impacted by the roadway project. 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. TELICS will be asked to proceed when the trees have been removed and Rail Division gives permission to proceed with the next phase of the project.
  - Klumac Road (SR 2541), (Crossing No. 715 273W), Salisbury – The environmental document and functional design have been completed. Right-of-way plan design will begin soon.

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
RAIL DIVISION  
1553 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1553

TELEPHONE: 919-733-4713  
FAX: 919-715-6580

WEBSITE: [WWW.BYTRAIN.ORG](http://WWW.BYTRAIN.ORG)

**LOCATION:**  
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING  
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET  
RALEIGH, NC

❑ **Projects in Construction Phase**

- Central Avenue, Landis (Crossing No. 724 391X) – Project completed November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- Hoskins Street, High Point (Crossing No. 722 351T) – Four quadrant gates are under construction in coordination with NC Railroad Improvement Project as part of the double track restoration project. The traffic signal is currently being designed with preemption.

❑ **Anticipated Crossing Closures:**

- High Point TSS - Closure of Grimes Street (Crossing No. 722 337T) and Taylor Avenue (Crossing No. 722 335J) with mitigation projects at Ward Avenue (722 331G) and Prospect Street (Crossing No. 722 322N). The City Real Estate Agent reports that acquisition is underway and several parcels have been settled. Gannett Fleming completed all requested plan revisions and forwarded the updated plans along with estimates for all four projects to the City and Rail Division on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Hopson Road (SR 1978), (Crossing No. 734 746Y) and Church Street (SR 1980), (Crossing No. 734 748M) in Durham. The environmental document is being prepared for the Hopson Road Grade Separation and Church Street closure/alternate access. The Department held a Public Informational Workshop on October 30, 2008 for the project. We are currently accepting comments from the public and working towards a Public Hearing in spring of 2009.

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

- Public Service Company of NC (PSNC) crossing (Crossing No. 630 659F), Cary – Gannett Fleming submitted construction bid documents to PSNC for final approval. PSNC staff met with Gannett Fleming staff on December 16<sup>th</sup> to review the final documents and discuss utility relocation work. As a result, a short section of curb and gutter is going to be added to the beginning of the project to eliminate the need to move a fiber optic pull box. A late February or early March advertising for construction bids is anticipated.
- Thomas & Howard crossing, (Crossing No. 722 963P), Greensboro - Gannett Fleming forwarded revised plans to the District Engineer and Rail Division on November 7th. Due to budgetary constraints, the paving of Maxfield Road has been postponed. Rail Division is moving ahead with the environmental document and the right-of-way acquisitions so that the project will be ready to proceed when paving funds are restored.
- Rankin Fryar crossing, (Crossing No. 722 972N), Milepost H 6.77 near McLeansville North Carolina Railroad has completed the private property agreement and Norfolk Southern has been requested to prepare the private crossing agreement. Once both documents are complete, they will be forwarded to the Fryar's for approval.
- 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. Moffatt & Nichol has been authorized to proceed with the document and anticipates completion by June 30, 2009.

- Recreational Ventures Crossing (Crossing No. 630 652H) - Rail Division contacted the landowner concerning the Recreational Ventures crossing (Crossing No. 630 652H). The landowner is interested in selling the property to NCDOT if an agreeable price along with the relocation of the Raleigh Paving company (business currently renting the site) can be worked out. Rail Division would then be able to close the crossing. The NCDOT Right of Way office has agreed to assist the Rail Division in acquiring the property provided the Rail Division sets up funding and submits an official request to begin property investigations and negotiations. Rail Division will continue to work with all parties involved to help advance this safety project.

□ **Gates & Locks**

- Agreements with NCRR, NS and property owners to cover installation and maintenance of locked/gated locations await action by E&S staff. This work will be contingent on funds remaining after the above proposed crossing closures are complete.

□ **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 has completed the feasibility report regarding a proposed vehicle/pedestrian grade separation and the report has been finalized. The Department will hold the final Stakeholder's meeting on January 27, 2009 to present the report.

If there are any questions concerning this report, please contact Nancy Horne at (919) 715-3686 or [nhorne@ncdot.gov](mailto:nhorne@ncdot.gov) and she will coordinate with the specific project engineer.

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