



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

June 4, 2009

**Memorandum**

To: Randall Brown  
Federal Railroad Administration

From: Paul Worley, CPM  
Director - Engineering and Safety 

Subject: *Quarterly Report #47 – Ending March 31, 2009*, North Carolina Federal Grant Report; Sealed Corridor and Various Projects: TIP Project No. P-3419; Next Generation High Speed Rail Grant

During the first quarter of 2009, 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 was held January 14<sup>th</sup> with Division 10 staff to discuss construction options. After discussion and review of the project cost estimate, Division 10 has elected to handle the signal work and construction surveying with its own forces and to let the remainder of the work to contract. Right-of-way acquisition has begun with an expected let date in June.
- 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. Minor revisions have been made to the project plans as the Division of Highways had requested. The utility relocations are underway.
- Newell-Hickory Grove Road (Crossing No. 715 348T), Charlotte – The City of Charlotte has contracted a private tree company to remove the trees along Old Concord Road that will be affected 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. This project is on hold pending environmental review by Division 10.

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

- 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.

□ **Projects in Construction Phase**

- 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 exit gates are not yet in operation and will not be activated until the railroad-preempted traffic signal is installed and operational. The railroad-preempted traffic signal is currently under construction.

□ **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). A meeting was held January 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss right-of-way acquisition and the possibility of shortening the projects timeline. A revised project schedule was developed and the City of High Point requested some design changes to the Taylor Avenue plans. Gannett Fleming completed all requested plan revisions and forwarded the updated plans March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Right-of-way acquisition is nearing completion and a June let date is anticipated.
- 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 Hearing Map review meeting on April 7, 2009. We are currently accepting comments from the public and working towards a Public Hearing in summer of 2009.

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

- Public Service Company of NC (PSNC) crossing (Crossing No. 630 659F), Cary - Final contract documents are being prepared. Rail Division approved quotes for a security fence and utility relocation and authorized PSNC to proceed. Water line plans have been submitted to the Town of Cary.
- 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), near McLeansville - North Carolina Railroad has completed the private property agreement and Norfolk Southern has been requested to prepare the private crossing agreement. NCDOT is awaiting review comments on the agreement from the Attorney General's office. Once both documents are complete, they will be forwarded to Fryar 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 business currently renting the site can be worked out. Rail Division would then be able to close and gate/lock the crossing. NCDOT Right of Way 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. Rail Division has requested an environmental review and appraisal of the property.

□ **Gates & Locks**

- Agreements with NCCR, 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. Rail View is proposed to be replaced with a new system with the upcoming locomotive rebuilds.

□ **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 held the final Stakeholder's meeting on January 27, 2009 to present the report, and awaits further direction from the Town on how to proceed.

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: James Westmoreland, PE, NCDOT  
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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)