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NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TRACK AND RAIL CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS FROM REID (SOUTH OF SALISBURY) TO NORTH KANNAPOLIS ALONG THE NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD / NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TIP P-5206 (Formerly P-3414P) Rowan County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold an informal, open-house-style Design Public Hearing for the above-mentioned railroad project on Monday, December 5, 2011, from 6-8 p.m. at the Kannapolis Train Station (Amtrak/Meeting Room), located at 201 South Main Street.

NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments and/or questions will also be provided and is encouraged. Interested citizens may attend at any time. There will not be a formal presentation.

The proposed project would include the construction of approximately 11-miles of second track generally on the west side of the existing track from south of Salisbury to Kannapolis. Three new bridges are also proposed as part of the project to separate automobile and train traffic at Peeler Road, Kimball Road extension, and 24th Street extension. The proposed improvements will begin approximately one mile north of Peach Orchard Road (State Road 2359) and will extend to just south of East 18th Street in Kannapolis.

The proposed project will improve passenger train reliability by allowing passenger and freight trains to quickly and efficiently move around each other, aid in future growth of passenger train traffic, and provide railroad tracks that will be able to support higher speeds. In addition, replacing selected railroad crossings with new bridges built either over or under the road and closing other crossings will reduce the risk of vehicle/train collisions, improve safety for vehicle and rail passengers, reduce vehicle and train traffic congestion, and reduce train horn noise. Improved safety measures are proposed where at-grade road crossings cannot be closed.

The environmental assessment document (EA) prepared for this project and a copy of the map is available for review at the NCDOT, District 1 Engineer's Office, located at 4770 South Main Street in Salisbury, 28147.

For more information, contact Eileen Fuchs of NCDOT-Human Environment at (919) 707-6067 or via email at: eafuchs@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Fuchs as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.