



NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD C O M P A N Y

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY NEWS RELEASE

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Raleigh, NC – The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRR) announced today the completion of the pedestrian underpass at Elon University, the culmination of a 5-year joint project between NCRR and the university. The underpass unofficially opened on May 21, 2010 but has now received final treatments on the landscaping and signage.

The underpass provides safe passage for pedestrians and links Lebanon Avenue to Trollinger Avenue, between which the NCRR rail line runs. The underpass is located east of Williamson Avenue.

“Safety along the NCRR line is a primary objective for our organization,” said John Atkins, chairman of the NCRR Board of Directors. “Rail corridors are for trains, not pedestrians. This underpass will keep the students and others in the Town of Elon out of harm’s way but still provide them access to safely get to and from campus.”

The project, a cooperative effort between the university and NCRR, is more than just a tunnel beneath the tracks. There has also been extensive landscaping and fencing was erected to ensure pedestrians are channeled towards the underpass and utilize it, rather than crossing the tracks. And because safety within the underpass must also be considered, the facility has six video cameras and an emergency phone. These additions reflect the university’s dedication to making the campus safe for its students, their families, its employees and its visitors.

“This is a great addition to the Elon University campus,” said Elon University President Leo M. Lambert. “We have hundreds of students who cross the tracks every day and they will be excited about having a safe way to get from one side to the other.”

While there have been no recent pedestrian accidents along the rail line in Elon, statewide there were 14 injuries and 15 fatalities for pedestrians on rail tracks reported in 2009 – a decline from 2008.

Although the underpass is open for pedestrian traffic, an official dedication is anticipated for late summer or early fall with the return of students to Elon. The project was designed and built by HNTB Engineering and Crowder Construction.

“The North Carolina Railroad Company is committed to the safety of rail passengers, rail employees and the public in communities along our corridor,” said Atkins. “We are proud of this project, its reflection of our mission with regard to safety, and appreciative of Elon University for working in partnership to make the underpass a reality.”

The North Carolina Railroad Company owns and manages the 317-mile rail corridor extending from Morehead City to Charlotte. The railroad carries 60 freight trains and eight passenger trains daily. NCRR is the state’s oldest corporation and remains at the forefront of rail improvements and partnership development to promote jobs and rail-served industry across the state. It touches nearly a quarter of the state’s economy.

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