



NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD C O M P A N Y

NEWS RELEASE

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North Carolina Railroad Company
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Elon, NC – The North Carolina Railroad Company (NCR) and Elon University held a ceremony today to dedicate the recently completed pedestrian railroad underpass at Elon University.

The underpass not only provides a safe avenue for pedestrians, but also serves as a connector for both sides of the campus. The tunnel beneath the tracks, connecting Lebanon Avenue to Trollinger Avenue, is the result of a 5-year joint project between NCR and Elon University. The \$2.5 million project was designed and built by HNTB Engineering and Crowder Construction Company based in Charlotte. It highlights NCR's dedication to improving safety throughout the corridor, and also marks the first time NCR has partnered with a university to undertake a project.

According to Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting safety around railroads, North Carolina ranked 9th among the states with the most rail trespasser fatalities in 2009 with 15 deaths. The state ranked 11th in crossing accidents in 2009 with 54 collisions, 30 of which resulted in injuries and 8 resulted in deaths.

"With 30 colleges and universities within a two-mile radius of the tracks along the corridor, this project has the potential to impact the safety of students, rail employees and the train industry—statewide," said Scott Saylor, NCR President.

In addition to the construction of the tunnel, the collaborative NCR-Elon University effort consisted of other safety measures surrounding the underpass, including extensive landscaping and fencing, to ensure pedestrians are channeled toward the safe passage. In addition, six video cameras and an emergency phone were installed within the underpass as added protection for its travelers.

"This underpass 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."

About The North Carolina Railroad Company

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. NCCR 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. NCCR's mission is "To maximize the value of the North Carolina Railroad Company's properties for the people of North Carolina through partnerships that drive economic growth, enhance freight and passenger service, improve safety and respect the natural environment."

About Elon University

Elon University is a selective, independent, private university renowned as a national model for engaged learning, along with excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and professional programs. Its rich intellectual community is characterized by active student engagement with a faculty dedicated to excellent teaching and scholarly accomplishment. The underpass improvements reflect the university's dedication to making the campus safe for its students, their families, its employees and its visitors.

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