



NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD C O M P A N Y

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD COMPANY **News Release**

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Trains to Increase Speed through Kinston

Reduced traffic delays at crossings expected with speed increase

RALEIGH – After months of work along the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) through downtown Kinston, the payoff should come to motorists after December 20 – with fewer delays thanks to speedier trains through town. According to NCRR, even the slight increase in speed will make train passage through downtown more efficient and reduce delays at crossings.

“Thirty miles per hour doesn’t sound fast, but it means trains pass through three times faster than before,” said Scott Saylor, NCRR President. “Thanks to this work on track realignment in Kinston over the last few months, we now have a straighter section of track with better clearance which can accommodate trains at 30 mph rather than 10 mph. Motorists should experience shorter delays at crossings in the next few weeks as train speed increases.”

The track realignment was undertaken in partnership by NCRR - which funded the project with NCRR revenues - and Norfolk Southern Railway, which is responsible for operations and maintenance of the rail line and which performed the work. This project and others in the area represent improvements to enhance safety, speed and promote economic development on the North Carolina Railroad and for the communities it serves. The rail line through Kinston carries three to five freight trains per day.

“This project will benefit not only motorists in Kinston, but businesses served from Raleigh eastward towards the State Port in Morehead City - without taxpayer dollars,” said Saylor. “The NCRR is proud of our investments in this part of the state and our role in supporting economic development.”

On December 13, 2010, NCRR and Operation Lifesaver NC will conduct a Safety Blitz to educate motorists at railroad crossings in Kinston. Drivers will be provided information about the train speed increase as well as crossing safety.

“Trains passing through town more quickly will help delays, but drivers and pedestrians need to be just as careful,” said Vivian Speight-Bridges, Operation Lifesaver NC state coordinator. “Look, listen and live – be aware of your surroundings when near railroad tracks and don’t get distracted.”

“We certainly appreciate the support and patience of Kinston residents and city officials over recent months,” said Saylor. “We hope their patience is rewarded by getting to and from work a little faster, with fewer rail crossing delays.”

The North Carolina Railroad Company owns and manages the 317-mile rail corridor extending from Morehead City to Charlotte. The railroad carries 50-60 freight trains and ten 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.

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