



NORTH CAROLINA
RAILROAD
C O M P A N Y

NEWS RELEASE

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KINSTON, NC – Improvements to enhance safety, speed and economic development on the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) in downtown Kinston are nearing completion.

The first phase of the improvements related to track realignment will be completed this afternoon with the reopening of the Queen Street grade crossing by the morning of August 14, 2010. The work on the project includes track, roadway and drainage improvements in the corridor extends from just east of Mitchell Street on the west to just east of North Street

As soon as the paving work is completed today for safe passage of vehicles on the North Queen Street at-grade crossing, the barricades will be removed and the road will be opened.

“This track realignment project will permit increased train speed from the current 10 mph to 25 mph, enabling trains to clear in-town crossings more quickly,” said Craig Groce, Consulting Engineer for NCRR. “Faster trains will reduce traffic delays at crossings and the project will improve clearances allowing today’s larger rail cars to pass through, opening up eastern North Carolina for more rail-served industries.”

The total budget for the track alignment and relocation is \$3.3 million. The project is funded out of North Carolina Railroad Company revenues, and not taxpayer dollars.

The next phase of the project will involve improvements to the track and public utilities at the grade crossings at East Blount Street and North McLewean Street. As a result, with Queen Street opened the crossings at Blount and McLewean will be closed to allow workers to excavate the new track location and upgrade the utilities and drainage structures in the crossings

The project is currently scheduled to have both the tracks and the utilities work complete by September 1 on both Blount and McLewean crossings. By this time trains will be operated on the new track alignment. No work will affect the grade crossings until after early September.

On Tuesday, September 7, workers will close the Queen Street crossing again to remove the old track on the old alignment, improve the drainage facilities, and complete the final paving on the crossing. The schedule calls for Queen Street to be reopened at the close of business on September 17.

Following the reopening of Queen Street in mid-September, final grading of the project will take place and no further closure of the grade crossings is currently planned. Final completion of all work is expected by early October.

“We appreciate the cooperation and partnership of the downtown citizens, businesses, and the City of Kinston as the project approaches completion,” said Groce.

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 ten 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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