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## INFORMATION:

### **Update on Proposed Grade Separation of the CSX Transportation Railroad and the Norfolk Southern Railroad**

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In January 2010, the United States Department of Transportation announced that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) was the recipient of a \$545 million award from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for railroad improvements statewide. Approximately \$247 million was designated for Charlotte area projects, one of which was the Norfolk Southern/CSXT Mainline Grade Separation project near Uptown. This project was anticipated to cost \$129 million.

Since that announcement, NCDOT has evaluated numerous alternatives to construct the grade separation project within the timeframe and budget specified by the ARRA program but has determined that the project deadline and budget cannot be met. Therefore, this project is being deleted from the work program at this time.

The letter from the Federal Railroad Administration allowing NCDOT to reprogram the remaining \$117.6 million of funding from this project to other qualifying projects is attached. The other ARRA projects still proceeding in Charlotte are the North Carolina Railroad Double Track Project (from northeast Charlotte to Concord) and the NCDOT Locomotive and Railcar Southeast High Speed Rail Maintenance Facility.

**ATTACHED: [Letter from the Federal Railroad Administration](#)**

### **CMPD Steele Creek Division Station Named as a 2013 Sustainable Business Award Finalist**

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The Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Steele Creek Division Station was recently named a 2013 North Carolina Sustainable Business Award finalist by the state chapter of the U.S Green Building Council (USGBC). Each year the North Carolina Chapter of the USGBC recognizes individuals and organizations dedicated to sustainability. On September 25, the CMPD Steele Creek Division Station was recognized for outstanding building design and construction in the Small Commercial category. This Division Station also earned LEED Gold in May 2013.

The 12,500-square-foot division station is at the corner of Westinghouse Boulevard and South Tryon Street, making it highly visible and accessible to the neighborhood. Exterior walls were constructed with insulated concrete forms, which provide energy efficiency, fire resistance and an excellent sound barrier. Interior lighting included high performance T8 technology, occupancy controls and day lighting features. Heating and cooling demands are met with a

closed-loop geothermal system, which circulates a water-based solution through underground pipes, absorbing the earth's heat and returning it to the building. This process is reversed in the summer when cooling is needed. This system uses less energy than traditional HVAC systems. The geothermal system also provides hot water for the facility, including showers. Absorbed heat is reduced by using a reflective white membrane roof and a concrete parking lot instead of asphalt.

The combination of these features yield energy use 39% below the design baseline. Additional environmentally-friendly elements include: 53% of construction waste diverted from the landfill; use of recycled content; procurement of regional materials (< 500 miles from project site); elimination of irrigation for landscaping; designated green space exceeding local zoning requirements by 25%.

The City of Charlotte's Policy for Sustainable City Facilities provided a highly collaborative and integrated approach to implementing sustainable aspects into the design, construction and operation of the new CMPD Steele Creek Division Station. The facility opened in September 2012 and serves more than 100 police officers and administrative personnel. It's anticipated this facility will be in operation for 50+ years on a 24/7 basis, and its energy efficient features will result in savings over its entire lifetime.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

[City Council Follow-Up Report](#)

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