



**Proposed Private Crossing Closures and Alternate Access Improvements
North Carolina Railroad (NCRR)/Norfolk Southern (NS) Railway at Gordon Thomas Drive
(TIP No. P-4405I), Greenbriar Drive (TIP No. P-4405J), and Byrdsville Road
(TIP No. P-4405K), Orange County**

Overview:

The purpose of the proposed crossing closures is to provide safety improvements along the Raleigh to Charlotte high-speed rail corridor. By building alternate access to safer crossings, NCDOT will reduce train and vehicle conflicts along the corridor as described in NCDOT's Private Crossing Safety Initiative. The proposed improvements include:

- Gordon Thomas Drive (TIP No. P-4405I) – Alternate access to Old NC 10 (SR 1710) is proposed using Paschall Drive and Dove Creek Road (SR 1715) or Murphey School Road (SR 1714).
- Greenbriar Drive (TIP No. P-4405J) – Alternate access to SR 1710 is proposed using a new roadway connecting Greenbrier Drive to Spruce Pine Trail in the Whispering Pines subdivision.
- Byrdsville Road (TIP No. P-4405K) – Alternate access is proposed using a new roadway connecting Byrdsville Road to Walter Clark Drive and NC 86.

Benefits:

Benefits associated with these projects include:

- An “always open” way of crossing the tracks, preventing delays due to passing or stopped trains.
- Safety for motorists – when crossing bridges, conflict with trains is prevented, thus saving lives.
- Safety for rail travelers – no risk of a motor vehicle getting under and derailing a train and causing train crew and/or passenger injuries (as happened in Mebane in May of 2010).
- Safety for school children – they would not have to walk across tracks or ride a bus across tracks.
- Noise – a closed crossing does not require a train to blow its horn.

Timeline:

October 2003	NCDOT identified Crossings in Private Crossing Safety Initiative Report (PCSI)
December 2009	NCDOT updated PCSI Report recommendations
September 21, 2012	Project team notified public agencies that the environmental study is underway
December 20, 2012	Responded to Orange County's project comments dated Nov. 5, 2012
January 7, 2013	Held Citizens Informational Workshop #1 for Gordon Thomas Drive & Greenbriar Drive crossings
January 14, 2013	Held Citizens Informational Workshop #2 for Byrdsville Road crossing
February 2013	Evaluating preliminary environmental impacts within study areas

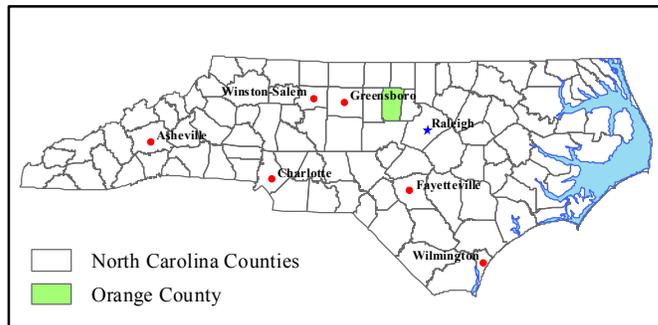
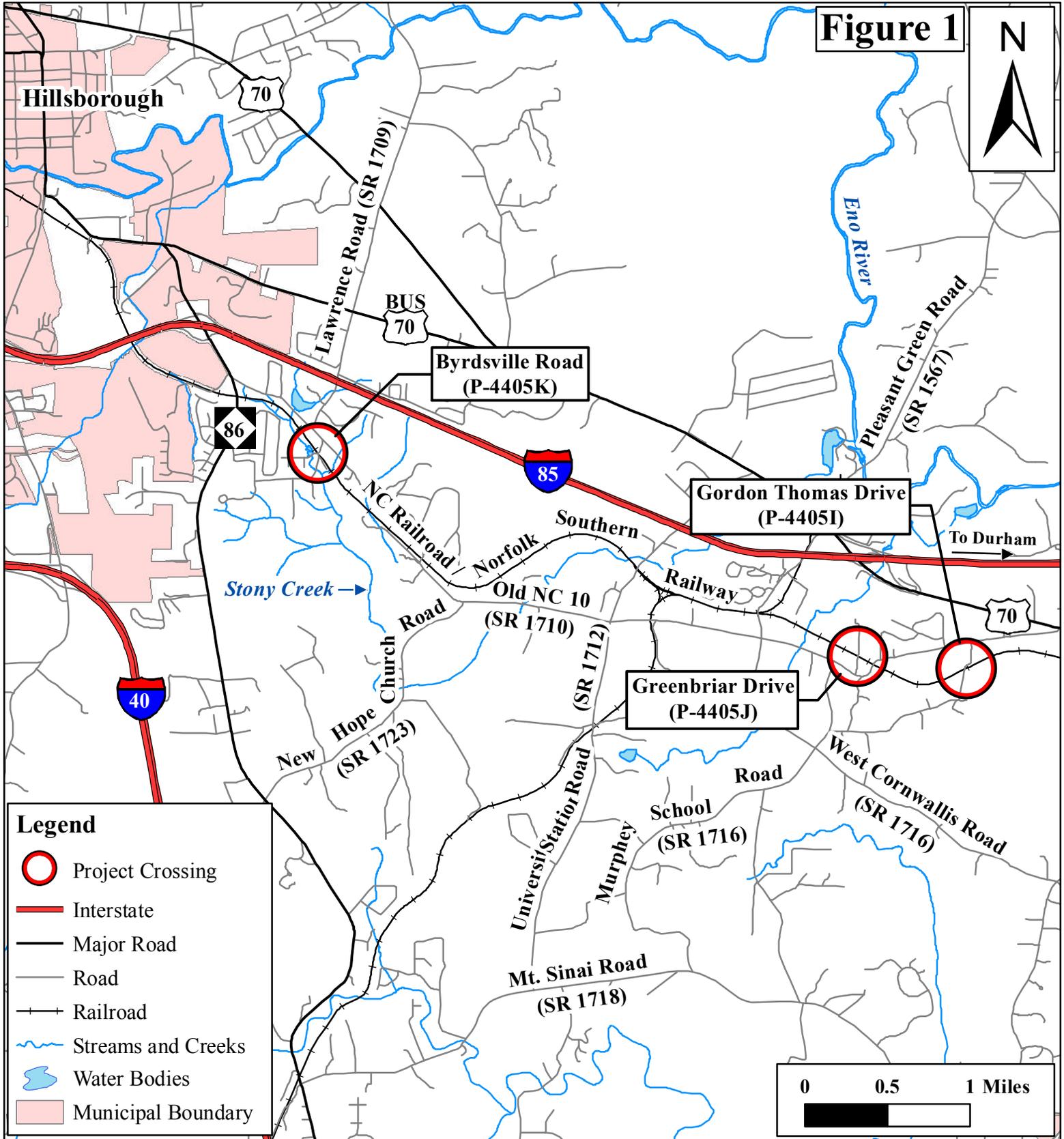
Public Outreach Activities:

- Mailed workshop notices to residents and issued media releases prior to workshops in December 2012.
- Hand delivered and posted announcements (English and Spanish) for Byrdsville Mobile Home Park residents.
- Provided Spanish language translators during workshops.
- Approximately 30 people attended the Gordon Thomas Drive & Greenbriar Drive workshop and voiced concerns about:
 - For Gordon Thomas Drive, access to a state roadway; privacy and safety along Paschall Drive; and elevated traffic volumes and noise levels on Paschall Drive. For Greenbriar Drive, potential wetland and stream impacts; and access to relocated mailboxes.
- Approximately 20 people attended the Byrdsville Road workshop and voiced concerns about:
 - Consistent state maintained access through the mobile home park; reduced property values due to sole access through the mobile home park; and roadway maintenance costs from the new access road.

Next Steps:

Spring 2013	Complete Environmental Assessment
Summer 2013	Conduct traffic impact analysis for extending Byrdsville Road to Walter Clark Drive and NC 86
Fall 2013	Finalize Crossing Improvements in Final Environmental Document
Early 2014	Complete Final Design and Begin Right of Way Acquisition
Early 2015	Begin Construction

Figure 1



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 RAIL DIVISION

Figure 1 - Project Vicinity Map
P-4405I, J, & K
Private Crossing Safety Initiative Crossings at Gordon Thomas Drive, Greenbriar Drive, & Byrdsville Road
Orange County

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