

Passenger Rail Task Force

RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL

September 20, 2010

Mayor Charles Meeker
Raleigh City Council
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Mayor Meeker and Councilors:

The Passenger Rail Task Force respectfully submits the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Passenger Rail Task Force was directed by the Raleigh City Council to evaluate the West Street Extension proposal in the vicinity of the Boylan wye;

WHEREAS, the Raleigh City Council in its September 9, 2010 letter to NCDOT Rail Division on the subject of Southeast High Speed Rail recommended no impact on the residential properties of South Saunders Street near Rosengarten Park;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives described as L2-OVER and L2-UNDER in the HDR Engineering study known as the S. West Street Extension Alternatives Study dated 3-01-2010 would impact the residential properties of South Saunders Street near Rosengarten Park;

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Railroad (NCRR) and the Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) have stated their companies' firm commitments to preserve the full width of their respective corridors, rights-of-way, and private properties in the Boylan wye area and do not want either open trenches if a tunnel is constructed under their properties or piers and bents if a bridge is constructed over their properties;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives described as L1-OVER-1, L1-OVER-2, and L1-OVER-3 in the HDR Engineering study known as the S. West Street Extension Alternatives Study dated 3-01-2010 would cause a bridge to be constructed with piers and bents touching the private rights-of-way of the NCRR and NS in the vicinity of the Boylan wye;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives described as L1-UNDER and, L1-(MOD) UNDER in the HDR Engineering study known as the S. West Street Extension Alternatives Study dated 3-01-2010 would tunnel under the private rights-of-way of the NCRR and NS in the vicinity of the Boylan wye;

WHEREAS, the Passenger Rail Task Force was unable to obtain right-of-way records and/or statements from CSX Railroad or TTA to determine whether any of the proposed West Street extension alternatives might encroach on private property owned or controlled by those entities;

WHEREAS, the Passenger Rail Task Force on July 12 participated in a two-hour workshop and detailed briefing with Q&A led by Eric Lamb of Raleigh Public Works Department to learn about the West Street extension proposal and heard public comments, including many from Rosengarten Park residents and landowners opposing the West-to-South Saunders alternatives;

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WHEREAS, the Passenger Rail Task Force on July 19 deliberated for two hours on the merits of the West Street extension proposal alternatives and heard public comments, including many from Rosengarten Park residents and landowners opposing the West-to-South Saunders alternatives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Passenger Rail Task Force recommends that the West-to-West extension south going under the NCRR corridor in the vicinity of the current Amtrak Station of the Boylan wye area is the optimal solution, contingent upon the project as finally engineered being cleared with and signed off by TTA, NCRR, NS Railway, and CSX Railroad, all entities with rights-of-way and/or property ownership in the Boylan wye area, to ensure private rights-of-way and properties are not encroached upon.

Sincerely,

Maha A. Chambliss, PE
Co-chair, Passenger Rail Task Force

William A. Allen III
Co-chair, Passenger Rail Task Force

Passenger Rail Task Force members:

Gerry Cohen	Dan Douglas	Paul Morris
Daniel Coleman	Saf Fahim	Adam Terando
Fred Day	Betsy Kane	Stephen Votino