

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR  
THE PROPOSED RALEIGH UNION STATION – PHASE 1  
AND ASSOCIATED TRACK IMPROVEMENTS

TIP Project No. P-5500

Wake County

The N.C. Department of Transportation and the City of Raleigh are proposing to construct a new passenger train station in Downtown Raleigh, which will be called Raleigh Union Station in Wake County. The proposed project will serve as the first phase of a multimodal transportation center for NCDOT's state-sponsored Piedmont and Carolinian intercity passenger rail service, Amtrak's Silver Star long distance service, the planned Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) corridor service, a planned Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) commuter service, a proposed TTA light-rail network, and regional and local bus service. The project also includes the construction of a 6,500-foot long rail siding approximately 2.5 miles south of the proposed new station along the North Carolina Railroad.

The proposed project will provide a larger passenger station facility that will be able to accommodate existing and future passenger demand. The proposed station will also have two passenger train loading/unloading tracks, enabling it to accommodate the proposed increase in passenger train frequencies.

Current train operations in the proposed station area involve CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern, and Amtrak. The proposed track improvements will allow through movements of freight trains to bypass the station when a passenger train is serving or laying over at the station. Currently, when a passenger train is stopped at Raleigh Station, it blocks all other train movements.

Additional right-of-way will be required for the project. Right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in May 2014 with construction scheduled to begin in June 2014.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NCDOT has prepared a combined Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed project. The EA is a federally required environmental document that describes the need for the project and evaluates the project's concept for potential social, economic, and environmental effects. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is a federally required document that evaluates the alternatives considered and their potential impact(s) to parks or historic resources.

A Design Public Hearing Map of the proposed design has also been developed. The EA/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation and the hearing maps are available for public review at the following locations:

- NCDOT 5<sup>th</sup> Division, 1<sup>st</sup> District Office, 4009 District Drive, Raleigh
- City of Raleigh Construction Management Office, One Exchange Plaza, 219 Fayetteville Street, Suite 801, Raleigh.

The EA/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation will also be available for download and viewing on the project website at the following link:

<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/raleighunionstation/>

Anyone desiring that a public hearing be held on the proposed project may make such a request by sending a registered letter to Ms. Diane Wilson, Senior Public Involvement Officer, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, phone (919) 707-6073, or email [pdwilson1@ncdot.gov](mailto:pdwilson1@ncdot.gov). Please make requests by April 16, 2014. If additional information is desired, contact Ms. Wilson.