

Appendix C: NCDOT and SCDOT FEIS/ROD Correspondence



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

Christy A. Hall, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation
803-737-0874 | 803-737-2038 Fax

May 29, 2020

Kaycee Mertz, Project Manager
Division of Intermodal
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center - 600 West Peachtree NW
Atlanta, Georgia. 30308

RE: Atlanta – Charlotte Passenger Rail Investment Plan Tier 1 Draft EIS

Dear Ms. Mertz:

On behalf of the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), please accept our appreciation and support for the efforts of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in completing the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan for the Atlanta – Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor. This effort truly represents a collaborative, multistate partnership between our agencies and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), as demonstrated by the significant amount of public participation in each state.

SCDOT concurs with the decision of GDOT to select three route alternatives to advance for further evaluation in the Tier 1 EIS, out of the six route alternatives under initial consideration. Given that the Southern Crescent Corridor had the highest potential impact in five categories, and given the significant construction currently underway along the I-85 Corridor in South Carolina that would add highway capacity and reduce available right-of-way, SCDOT concurs with the identification of the Greenfield Corridor as the Preferred Corridor Alternative, and the decision to begin the process for identifying potential funding sources for future phases of this project.

Thank you again specifically for your efforts and those of GDOT in completing the Tier 1 EIS and Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan for the Atlanta – Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Christy A. Hall, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

CAH:dwf
File: OPT/dwf

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

April 15, 2020

Ms. Kaycee Mertz
Intermodal Planning and Environmental Manager
Division of Intermodal
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Ms. Mertz:

Thank you for your continued coordination with the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division on the Atlanta to Charlotte Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As you are aware, NCDOT provided comments during our conference call held on January 10, 2020. Additional comments in this letter are intended to supplement those previously provided.

As we understand, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) both support the Greenfield Alignment as the preferred alternative. NCDOT concurs with the Greenfield Alignment as the preferred alternative, provided additional studies are conducted as a part of the Tier 2 NEPA process to determine how the Greenfield Alignment can best access the Charlotte / Metrolina region.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this in more detail, please either contact Eddie McFalls at ebmcfalls@ncdot.gov (919) 707-4727 or me at jorthner@ncdot.gov (919) 707-4714.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jason T. Orthner

02D28249EE28403...

Jason Orthner, PE
Rail Director

cc: Julie White, Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation
James Bridges, PE, Manager, Planning and Development Branch
Eddie McFalls, PE, Planning Consultant, Planning and Development Branch

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1 S. WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601

From: Gatti, Jessie (FRA) <Jessie.Gatti@dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:14 PM
To: ebmcfalls@ncdot.gov
Cc: Winkle, John (FRA); Williford, Natalie (FRA); Brown, Randall (FRA)
Subject: Atlanta - Charlotte FEIS/ROD

Hi Eddie,

I am writing to provide notice that FRA will be issuing a combine FEIS/ROD for the Atlanta- Charlotte study. We felt that the circumstances of the project supported combing the FEIS/ROD rather than issuing a separate FEIS and ROD. Our environmental office asked that we provide notice to our DOT partners on this study in case you have any concerns. I've also linked US DOT guidance that helps to explain when we combine the FEIS/ROD versus issuing the documents separately. If you'd like to discuss, please let me know and we can set something up.

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/mission/transportation-policy/permittingcenter/337371/feis-rod-guidance-final-04302019.pdf>

Thank you,

Jessie Fernandez-Gatti
Community Planner
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590
202-493-0454

From: Gatti, Jessie (FRA) <Jessie.Gatti@dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:18 PM
To: fratedw@scdot.org
Cc: Winkle, John (FRA); Williford, Natalie (FRA); Brown, Randall (FRA)
Subject: Atlanta- Charlotte FEIS/ROD

Hi Doug,

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Thank you,
Jessie Fernandez-Gatti
Community Planner
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590
202-493-0454

From: Frate, Douglas W. <FrateDW@scdot.org>

Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 2:09 PM

To: Gatti, Jessie (FRA) <Jessie.Gatti@dot.gov>

Cc: Winkle, John (FRA) <john.winkle@dot.gov>; Williford, Natalie (FRA) <natalie.williford@dot.gov>; Brown, Randall (FRA) <randall.brown@dot.gov>; Lackey, Diane M. <LackeyDM@scdot.org>

Subject: RE: Atlanta- Charlotte FEIS/ROD

Jessie,

We have no concerns with the identified approach. We appreciate the opportunity for comment.

Thank you,
Doug

From: Gatti, Jessie (FRA) <Jessie.Gatti@dot.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:18 PM

To: Frate, Douglas W. <FrateDW@scdot.org>

Cc: Winkle, John (FRA) <john.winkle@dot.gov>; Williford, Natalie (FRA) <natalie.williford@dot.gov>; Brown, Randall (FRA) <randall.brown@dot.gov>

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