

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
EASTERN FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAY DIVISION

Heartland Corridor – Clearance Project
Quarterly Status Report
October 31, 2006

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

The Heartland Corridor Clearance Project will enable double-stacked international maritime and domestic containers to be transported by rail between the Hampton Roads region of Virginia and locations in the Midwest by increasing tunnel clearances and modifying other overhead obstructions in western Virginia, West Virginia, and through to Columbus, Ohio. The Heartland Corridor was designated as a Project of National and Regional Significance under the recently enacted SAFETEA LU legislation.

WORK COMPLETED / COMMENTS:

Memorandum of Agreement with States:

The Memorandum of Agreement between FHWA, EFLHD, and the states of West Virginia, Ohio, and Virginia was completed on July 11, 2006. This document describes the Project as the “Clearance Project” that consists of all work to allow double-stacked freight trains to run between the Hampton Roads region in Virginia and Columbus, Ohio. FHWA, EFLHD is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the overall schedule for the entire Project, as well as for the management of the Federal funding

Memorandum of Agreement with Railroad:

The Memorandum of Agreement between FHWA, EFLHD, and Norfolk Southern Corporation (Railroad) was completed on August 8, 2006. This document lays out the roles and responsibilities for the Environmental Planning, Design and Construction of the Heartland Corridor Project. FHWA, EFLHD will be doing the environmental compliance work and the Railroad will be doing the design and construction. This is the basic operating agreement between EFLHD and the Railroad as to how this project is to be completed, relative to both engineering and funding roles and responsibilities.

WORK IN PROGRESS / COMMENTS:

Preliminary Engineering:

The Railroad’s Request for Proposal for the preliminary engineering was posted on WV DOT’s website on June 29, 2006. A pre-bid meeting to give a briefing of the project to prospective engineering firms was held July 6, 2006 in Bluefield, WV. Several proposals were submitted and a selection panel rated Hatch Mott MacDonald as the most qualified firm. The selection panel was made up of representatives from the Railroad, FWHA, WV Division Office, and FHWA, EFLHD. The Railroad signed a contract with Hatch Mott MacDonald to complete the preliminary engineering for the project on September 29, 2006.

NEPA Compliance:

EFLHD conducted a site visit the week of October 16, 2006 to review the type of work to be completed at each impacted tunnel or bridge and to document the surroundings conditions. Representatives of Norfolk Southern (NS) and their design consultant, Hatch Mott MacDonald, also participated in the site visit.

Project Funding:

EFLHD has been working with FHWA HQ to facilitate the transfer of funds to Federal Lands, EFLHD from the states. No funds have been transferred to date.

MILESTONES:

	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Advertisement of PE contract:		June 29, 2006
PE Pre-bid meeting:		July 6, 2006
MOA with states signed:		July 11, 2006
PE Selection Panel:		August 2, 2006
MOA with railroad signed:		August 8, 2006
Award of PE contract:		September 29, 2006
EFLHD receipt of FY 05 and 06 funding:	November 2006	
Advertisement of CE contract:	December 2006	
EFLHD receipt of FY 07 funding:	January 2007	
Preliminary engineering completed:	March 2007	
Award of CE contract:	March 2007	
Completion of NEPA document:	April 2007	
Final construction documents completed:	May 2007	
Award of 1 st CN contract:	May 2007	
Award of 2 nd CN contract:	July 2007	
Award of 3 rd CN contract:	September 2007	
Award of 4 th CN contract:	September 2007	
EFLHD receipt of FY 08 funding:	January 2008	
EFLHD receipt of FY 09 funding:	January 2009	
Completion of 1 st CN contract:	2009	
Completion of 2 nd CN contract:	2009	
Completion of 3 rd CN contract:	2009	
Completion of 4 th CN contract:	2009	