

Railroad bridge to be restored

New Leaf Society, companies
joining together on project

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Work to make a longtime community eyesore more attractive starts Monday.

The North Carolina Railroad Co. and Norfolk Southern Railroad are teaming with the New Leaf Society in Alamance County to refurbish and landscape the 75-year-old railroad bridge on West Webb Avenue in the Glen Raven area.

The bridge, constructed in 1938 near the intersection of N.C. 87 and N.C. 100, has been a target for graffiti for decades. The DOT said Norfolk Southern Railway will clean and paint the bridge with a special coating that resists graffiti. Crews will apply it to the lower portions of the bridge to protect it from street art.



Scott Muthersbaugh / Times-News

Layers of paint flake off the railroad bridge that spans Webb Avenue at the Burlington city limits. Efforts to clean up the bridge will start Monday.

The work also includes cleaning and painting all exposed steel surfaces and both abutments. The bridge is comprised of two reinforced concrete abutments supporting a ballast deck steel truss span measuring about 170 feet.

"When the project is complete, the bridge will be completely refurbished with new paint on the structure, and new landscaping," said North Carolina Railroad president Scott Saylor.

New Leaf Society has committed to enhancement plantings around the bridge, once the rehabilitation work is completed. Rett Davis, who heads the New Leaf Society, said the work represents a huge commitment from both rail companies to improve an unsightly entry point into Burlington and Elon.

The work will be a hindrance to traffic for the next three months, according to the state Department of Transportation. One lane will be closed on West Webb Avenue starting Monday.

The project is scheduled to begin Monday and take about 12 weeks to complete. Work will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays only during that three-month period. Congestion should be anticipated by drivers during peak times.

Travelers should expect varying lane closures. One lane of West Webb Avenue will remain open at all times throughout the duration of the project. The DOT is asking drivers to take an alternate route, including Church Street (U.S. 70) or University Drive, and allow extra time to reach their destinations.

For travel information any time, call 511, visit www.ncdot.gov/travel or follow NCDOT on Twitter at www.ncdot.gov/travel/twitter.