Jayne Kirkpatrick, Director, Public Affairs Prepared by: John Boyette, Public Affairs Specialist

For more information: Roger Krupa, Director, Raleigh Convention Center and Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 831-6011; or Bob Panella, Construction Management, 807-5575

Sept. 5, 2008

CONVENTION CENTER CONNECTOR PROVIDES CONVENIENCE TO GUESTS

Raleigh's new \$221.9 million convention center has all of the amenities of a state-of-the-art facility --- a spectacular exhibit hall, spacious meeting rooms, open reception areas and an elegant ballroom. There's also an underground pedestrian connector.

The connector attaches the convention center with the nearby four-star Marriott headquarters hotel and the underground Convention Center Parking Deck that serves the center and the hotel. By using the connector, conventioneers have easy access to all three locations without having to step outdoors, the ultimate convenience and comfort especially during times of inclement weather.

Built as part of the \$42 million underground Convention Center Parking Deck, the connector is actually a separate building from the convention center, hotel and parking deck. With two elevators and escalators, the connector takes pedestrians to all three levels of the underground parking deck, the hotel lobby and the convention center's Cabarrus Street lobby.

The connector costs \$4 million. Funding came from the Raleigh Convention Center, the Marriott Hotel and the City's parking fund.