



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE
PARKS DEPARTMENT

City Hall, 710 E. Mullan Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814-3958
208-292-5766 – Fax 208-769-2383

City of Coeur d'Alene
710 E Mullan
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814-3958
September, 24, 2020

AB 33 (Sub-No. 346X)

301116

Gabriel S. Meyer
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs & Compliance
Rail Customer & Public Assistance program1 So. Pyramid Way

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
September 24, 2020
Part of
Public Record

Re: State Highway 41 UPRR "Feeley" Industrial Spur Abandonment

Dear Mr. Meyer:

My name is Monte McCully, Trails Coordinator for the City of Coeur d'Alene and I'm writing to express that the City of Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation Department greatly supports abandonment of the Union Pacific Railroad Coeur D'Alene Industrial "Feeley" Spur to accommodate the State Highway 41 expansion project. These enhancements will allow us to connect the existing Prairie Trail in Coeur d'Alene with the proposed Highway 41 Trail creating pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the county.

In the spring of 2020, Idaho Transportation Department began the expansion project of State Highway 41 to a four lane with divided median facility. The Coeur d'Alene Parks Department is in favor of the abandonment of the industrial spur which would remove four at grade public rail crossings including one that traverses the SH 41 corridor project between Prairie Avenue and Lancaster Rd., the project limits, as well as the at-grade crossings at Prairie Avenue, Meyer Rd., one private crossing, and three future public at-grade rail crossings upon build-out of the local road system proposed by the City of Post Falls.

Abandonment of the "Feeley" Spur would also allow for further the expansion of Prairie Avenue, which is currently on the National Highway System (NHS) register servicing east/west users between Post Falls and US 95 in Coeur D'Alene/Hayden. As well as continuation of the Prairie Trail Shared Use Path System which starts in Coeur D'Alene and runs northwest 4 miles across town linking parks, schools, neighborhoods and businesses ending at Huetter Road, along the same "Feeley" Spur railroad grade we are in support of UPRR abandoning.

Idaho Transportation Department is also in the process of constructing a grade separation for UPRR mainline north on the highway to improve corridor functionality and reduce delay to commercial freight movements as well as local and commuter traffic. Approval to abandon the industrial lead is crucial to the functionality of the highway system and critical to the multi-modal transportation plan envisioned by the Department, Federal Highway Administration, MPO, Cities and local road authorities.

The Coeur d'Alene Parks and Recreation Department respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board take this critical abandonment into consideration as well as expedite the process for purposes of the construction of the state highway system on this critical freight corridor. If I can be of further assistance in making this necessary abandonment please contact me.

Sincerely,

Monte McCully
Trails Coordinator
City of Coeur d'Alene
Parks Department
(208) 819-3256



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IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
600 W. Prairie Ave. • Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-8764
(208) 772-1200 • itd.idaho.gov

September 24, 2020

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have, on September 24, 2020, served copies of this Petition for Reconsideration on all parties of record in this proceeding.



William J. Roberson
Idaho Transportation Department
Program Manager

Idaho Transportation Department and our partners are in support of the abandonment of the CDA Industrial Lead in-light of the expansion of the State Highway 41 and Prairie Ave. The department respectfully requests your consideration as well as an expeditious resolution in this matter.
