



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity**

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

301193

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Proceedings
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 20, 2020
Part of
Public Record

Re: AB-33 (Sub-No. 346X) Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Kootenai County, Idaho

The Idaho Transportation Department, ITD requests that the Surface Transportation Board issue a Notice of Interim Trail Use or Abandonment for an approximate 1.16-mile portion of the Coeur D'Alene Industrial Lead, between milepost 1.09 and milepost 2.25, in Coeur D'Alene, Kootenai County, Idaho (the Line). The Line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 83854. The Department requests a waiver of the filing fee, based on the fact that it is a state government entity the request on behalf of the general public. §49 C.F.R. 1152.2(e) (1).

Background: In the spring of 2020, the department began an expansion project of State Highway 41 to a four lane divided median facility. The abandonment of the line is crucial to the state highway system, as well as the functionality of the SH 41 corridor. This abandonment, if approved, would eliminate three high impact at-grade public rail crossing in the area; one which crosses the construction project on SH 41, one that bisects Prairie Avenue which is a major north/south arterial listed on the National Highway System inventory and one on Meyer Rd a major collector in the area. Along with the current construction on SH 41, the local road authority has acquired expansion funding for Prairie Avenue and is programmed for major improvements in the FY22 which will address significant congestion, movement of commerce and safety between SH 41 and US 95.

ITD and our partners, the Cities of Coeur D'Alene, Post Falls and Rathdrum along with the local highway district and the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization have combined resources, and with the abandonment of this segment of the Line, have committed to the continuation of a shared use path known as Prairie Trail which resides on the same previously abandoned railroad grade to the south. The Prairie Trail provides multi-modal access to the Coeur D'Alene area and intersects the Centennial Trail a 63 mile, State Park, two-state National Recreation Trail which is a treasure for Inland Northwest residents and visitors. Connectivity of the Prairie Trail, the Centennial Trail and the shared use north/south trail constructed with the SH 41 project would provide users connectivity and alternative means of mobility for access to the cities, businesses and economic vitality to the Coeur D'Alene, Post Falls and Rathdrum area.



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STATE OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under §16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and §49 CFR 1152.29 with respect to the Line, Idaho Transportation Department and our partners are willing to assume full responsibility for: (1) Managing the right-of-way, (2) any legal liability arising out of the transfer or use of the right-of-way, and (3) the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right of way. The property extends from railroad milepost 1.09 to railroad milepost 2.25, a distance of 1.16 miles in Kootenai County, Idaho. The right-of-way is part of a line proposed for abandonment in Docket No. **STB AB-33 (Sub-No. 346X)**. A map of the property depicting the Line is attached.

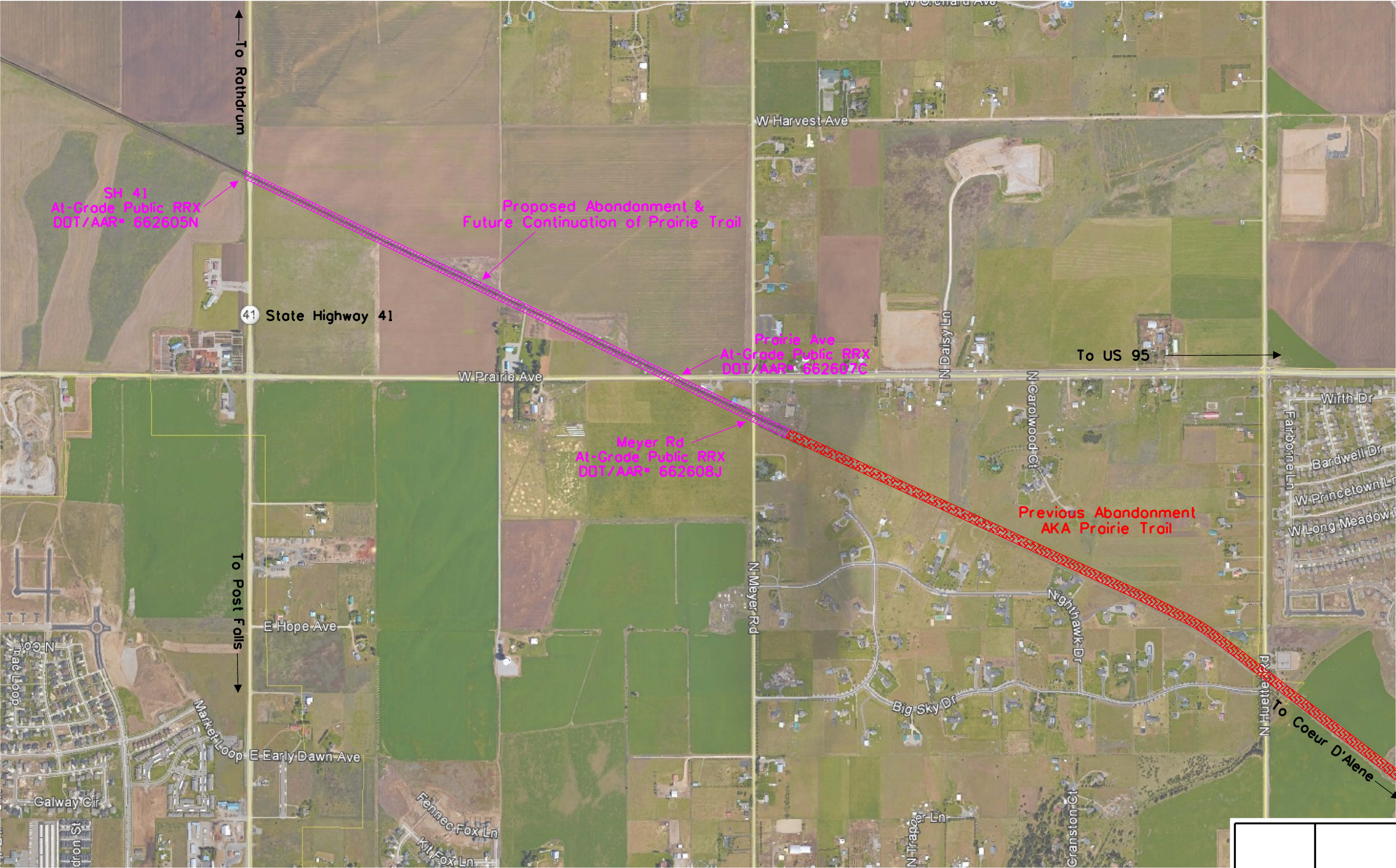
Idaho Transportation Department acknowledges that use of the Line is subject to continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service. A copy of this statement is being served on the Union Pacific on the same date it is being served on the Board.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Union Pacific Railroad Company care of Jeremy Berman at 1400 Douglas Street, Mail Stop 1690, Omaha, Nebraska 68179-1690 by U.S. Mail, first class and email on this day, October 16, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Damon Allen, P.E.
District Engineer

cc: All Parties of Record 10/20/2020



REVISIONS			
NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

DESIGNED	wjr
DESIGN CHECKED	wjr
DETAILED	wjr
DRAWING CHECKED	wjr

CADD FILE NAME
DRAWING DATE: OCTOBER 2020

IDAHO
TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT



DISTRICT 1

PROJECT NO.
A020(098)

CDA INDUSTRIAL SPUR EXHIBIT
SH 41, E PRAIRIE AVE TO BOEKEL RD, KOOTENAI CO

English
COUNTY KOOTENAI
KEY NUMBER 20098
SHEET 1 OF 1