

Meeting Notes : Savage Tooele Railroad Project

9/6/22 – 2PM (EST)

Attendees:

OEA - Andrea Poole
VHB - Valarie Discafani, Alan Summerville, Ian Leidner
Savage Tooele Railroad (STR) - Phillip Hoskins
Wilcox Law Firm - Tom Wilcox

Agenda

Introductions

Project Overview

Savage provided background on the firm's history in logistics handling and operation of short-line railroads throughout the US, including one in Utah. They provided an overview of the proposed rail project in Tooele County, Utah, which would connect the Union Pacific (UP) mainline with an under construction 1700-acre business park to the south in the City of Grantsville. The Environmental review will be based on preliminary design, which is between 10 and 30 percent.

Project Risks

Waters of the US. Savage has engaged the services of a wetlands consultant. The consultant walked the portion of the alignment identified by existing wetlands maps to identify potential wetlands areas, where access was granted. Group discussed that a jurisdictional determination from the US Army Corps of Engineers may not be necessary if wetlands impacts are fully avoided.

Environmental Review Process

OEA provided an overview of the Work Plan. OEA, with consultant partner, conducts environmental review. OEA will make a recommendation to the Board based on the results of the review.

- Savage to provide input on data request and at periodic coordination meetings
- Savage indicated their intension to submit a letter to OEA requesting an EA be conducted rather than an EIS. OEA will make the determination based on agency input and the site visit.

Meeting Schedule and Next Steps

- Overall schedule for the environmental review will be approximately 10 months unless an EIS is determined the appropriate review level.
- VHB to draft letters to agencies for input on key issues to be addressed.
- OEA/VHB to determine path forward with Waters of the U.S. prior to the site visit.

Action Items

- Savage: Provide contact information for agency individuals with whom they have been coordinating. Provide Waters of the US reports to date. Complete.
- VHB: Prepare list and contact stakeholder agencies. Complete.
- VHB: Research a comprehensive plan and/or regional planning document(s) for the study area. Savage was unaware of any plans for the town or region.
- OEA/VHB: Send information request to Savage including proposed project mapping and data on alignment and/or at-grade highway crossing alternatives being considered. GIS format.
- OEA/VHB: Conduct site visit in late September/early October.
- OEA to send workplan to team. Complete.

- OEA will set up a monthly meeting schedule for team. Likely first Tuesday of the month (afternoon).

End

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Site Visit Next Week

- Site visits planned on Wednesday 10/12 and Thursday 10/13 from 9am to 1pm.
- Savage confirmed that site visit will not involve walking on active rail tracks, therefore steel-toe boots, safety vests and/or hard hats are optional but not required.
- Safety goggles or sunglasses recommended as the group will be traveling through the project area on side-by-sides.
- Site visit will include identification of the presence of streams in the business park area and of native vegetation and wetlands in the project area.
- Site visit will help determine contents of first information request and EA methodologies.

Ongoing Work

- VHB in process of sending out agency and tribal consultation letters
- VHB working on EA schedule

Action Items

- Savage: To send rail design files, including sidings and switching tracks to VHB and OEA.
- Savage: To send PDF plans to VHB for printing.
- VHB: To print plans to bring to Utah for use before and during site visit.
- VHB: To report on scoping comments at next monthly meeting.

End

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Wilcox Law Firm - Tom Wilcox

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Site Visit (10/12-10/13)

- Toured the Project area. Viewed existing conditions and areas of the proposed Project improvements.
- OEA/VHB met with Savage, Romney Group, and local officials.
- Regionwide considerations observed included water availability and development growth.

Updates from OEA

- Beginning to formulate methodologies for environmental technical sections.
- Collecting initial comments from agencies and tribal contacts. There are few more weeks for additional comments to be submitted.
- A comment from Tooele County expressed interest in grade separation at Route 138. Plans and/or traffic studies at State Route 138, and Erda Way, requested by OEA if available.

Updates from Tom Wilcox on Savage's Work

- Will be submitting letter to OEA requesting an EA not an EIS. OEA indicated that letter can be submitted at any time; however, OEA will not respond with a determination until after the agency and tribal response period is complete.
- Savage continues discussions with Union Pacific regarding access.

Ongoing Work and Schedule

- Information Request #1 is being developed by OEA/VHB and will be sent to Savage/Wilcox.
- OEA/VHB will be beginning to draft chapters 1 and 2 of the EA; however, the chapters cannot be completed until the items in Information Request #1 and the purpose and need are received from Savage/Wilcox.
- OEA/VHB are in process developing approaches for the technical sections of the EA. The approaches cannot be completed until after the agency and tribal responses period is complete.

Action Items

- OEA: To submit Information Request #1 to Savage.
- Savage/Wilcox: To provide materials requested in Information Request #1.
- Savage/Wilcox: To provide Project purpose and need write-up.
- Savage/Wilcox: To provide plans and/or traffic studies at State Route 138 and Erda Way if available.

End

Meeting Notes: Savage Tooele Railroad Project
12/6/22 – 2PM (EST)

Attendees:

OEA - Andrea Poole
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Savage - Philip Hoskins
Wilcox Law Firm - Tom Wilcox

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Wetlands Delineation Recap

- VHB provided an overview of the wetland delineation conducted in November
- Key locations discussed in more detail and how they relate to the project footprint and potential need for a USACE nationwide permit
- Information from the wetlands delineation will be available when the draft EA is published

Agency Comments

- Over 40 letters sent to Federal, state, and local agencies and tribes
- VHB provided a summary of responses to comments so far
 - Nine comment letters have been received from agencies including USEPA, Utah SHPO
 - Three comment letters were received from other organizations not on the agency list

EIS Waiver

- Tom Wilcox submitted letter to OEA requesting an environmental assessment rather than an environmental impact statement

Ongoing Work and Schedule

- EA completion is anticipated in late Spring based on current schedule dependent on information received and on-going coordination
- Savage is in the process of responding to Information Request #1 from OEA
- OEA/VHB will begin to draft chapters 1 and 2 of the EA and will be completed after the items in Information Request #1 are all received

Action Items

- Savage/Wilcox: To provide materials requested in Information Request #1
- VHB: To provide OEA with summary of agency responses
- VHB: To provide OEA with wetland delineation memo

End