

From: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 6:51 AM

EI-32818

To: Jared Taylor <jtaylor@heritageacademyaz.com>

Cc: Kathleen Lopez <klopez@heritageacademyaz.com>; Phoebus, Elizabeth (Betsi) <Betsi.Phoebus@jacobs.com>; Buckley, Maggie <Maggie.Buckley@jacobs.com>

Subject: RE: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Hello Jared and Kathleen,

Thank you for the additional information. After we've had the chance to process inbound commentary from our initial outreach, we will develop virtual meetings schedules as several different state and local entities have already begun requesting these.

Adam

From: Jared Taylor <jtaylor@heritageacademyaz.com>

Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 7:49 PM

To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>

Cc: Kathleen Lopez <klopez@heritageacademyaz.com>

Subject: Re: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Hi Adam,

Thank you for this follow up email and additional information. We operate a high school on the corner of Germann and 196th in Queen Creek. Currently we are building a school for grades P-8 and a school for autistic children across the street in Mesa on the corner of Germann and 80th street (same as 196th, just on the Mesa side) The new schools will be operational in the Fall of 2022.

I appreciate your sensitivity to the impact on schools and the surrounding area. We are currently far enough away from the existing UP line that rail sounds do not impact our operations. A new line on Pecos may have more sound, but I don't think it will have a prohibitive effect on our operations provided there are not constant train whistles or loud noises made from activities such as connections, repair/overhaul, loading/unloading, etc. The further North any new rail line could be positioned would benefit not only our schools, but the three other schools which are South of Pecos, but within 2 miles of this area.

While we don't have a bus system our parents arrive from over 30 different zip codes in the region. This means that our traffic is heaviest between 7:30 - 8:00am and 3-4pm Mon-Thursday. I know you probably can't bind future UP schedules, but having excess at-grade crossings and trains blocking traffic at these times would increase our tardy rates. Carefully locating these crossings or requiring UP to install bypass systems will help not only the surrounding school systems, but also the public safety in the area.

I have a background in municipal planning/governance and would be more than happy to join any future meetings to discuss optimal ways to ensure traffic flow during key hours for our schools and other schools in the area. I would also be willing to share our most recent traffic study if that would be helpful in your planning process.

I hope this information is useful. Please let me know if I can be of any future use. I'll CC my Principal on this email and ask her to add anything that may be helpful.

Regards,

Jared

On Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 5:21 PM Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov> wrote:

Hello Jared,

Happy New Year, and apologies for just not getting back to you. I was only made aware of your response today.

I am the project manager at the Office of Environmental Analysis within the Surface Transportation Board in charge of this environmental review. At this early stage, we are evaluating constraints within the project area that could affect the development of alternatives to be carried forward through the review. The way these projects typically work, a railroad applicant will approach the Board with the intent to construct a rail line connecting an area without rail service to an existing rail line. The applicant, in this case UP, often submits its initial preferred alignment, along with a rationale as to why they've selected that route, but it is on us, the lead federal agency, based on current environmental laws, to devise and evaluate practicable alternatives that would meet the railroad's stated purpose and need.

At present, the railroad's preferred alternative aligns closer to the north end of the project area that we sent you in our initial letter, sticking close to the southern edge of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, closer to E. Pecos Road and running between agricultural lots. No alternatives have yet been developed that approach Germann Road at 88th St., but we are still in the early stages of alternative development.

What would be particularly helpful to us would be any information about bus routes or sensitive receptors that could be affected by different alignments in the project area. I don't think it would be in any community's best interest to see a new rail line running so close to a school that noise would disrupt education, which is why we do this early outreach to a wide range of local, state, and federal offices with jurisdiction or local facilities in the project area.

If you have any other questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please reach out to me directly at adam.assenza@stb.gov or by phone at 202-245-0301.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation.

ADAM ASSENZA

Environmental Protection Specialist (he/him)

Office of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board

P: 202-245-0301

E: Adam.Assenza@STB.gov

From: Buckley, Maggie <Maggie.Buckley@jacobs.com>

Sent: Monday, January 3, 2022 1:08 PM

To: Assenza, Adam <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>

Cc: Phoebus, Elizabeth (Betsi) <Betsi.Phoebus@jacobs.com>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

From: Jared Taylor <jtaylor@heritageacademyaz.com>

Sent: Friday, December 10, 2021 6:32 PM

To: Buckley, Maggie <Maggie.Buckley@jacobs.com>

Cc: Kathleen Lopez <klopez@heritageacademyaz.com>; Wade Melchin <wmelchin@heritageacademyaz.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

Hi Maggie,

Thank you for this notice. I operate a school in this area. In order to provide meaningful feedback, we would need more information on what is proposed that would be near 80th and Germann where our schools are located.

Please provide more information and we'd be happy to share our thoughts on any impact.

Regards,

Jared

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kathleen Lopez** <klopez@heritageacademyaz.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 10, 2021 at 3:58 PM

Subject: Fwd: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

To: Jared Taylor <jtaylor@heritageacademyaz.com>, Shalisa Arnold <shalisa.arnold@heritageacademyaz.com>

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Buckley, Maggie** <Maggie.Buckley@jacobs.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 10, 2021 at 3:46 PM

Subject: UPRR Pecos Industrial Rail Access and Train Extension (PIRATE) Preliminary Environmental Consultation

To: klopez@heritageacademyaz.com <klopez@heritageacademyaz.com>

CC: Adam.Assenza@stb.gov <Adam.Assenza@stb.gov>, Phoebus, Elizabeth (Betsi) <Betsi.Phoebus@jacobs.com>

Hello Ms. Lopez,

The Union Pacific Railroad Company intends to seek authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate six miles of new rail line in Maricopa County, Arizona. An initial agency consultation letter is attached that provides additional information about the project and requests your agency's input regarding the proposed rail line by January 10, 2022. This letter was also mailed to your office on December 9, 2021. Please let us know if you prefer to receive future correspondence by mail or electronically and the preferred point of contact for your agency.

If you have any questions, please contact Adam Assenza, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis Project Manager, at (202) 245-0301 or Adam.Assenza@stb.gov. We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

Thank you,

Maggie Buckley | [Jacobs](#) | Environmental Project Manager (she/her)

O: 425.233.3117 | M: 206.949.5955 | maggie.buckley@jacobs.com
[999 W Riverside Avenue, Suite 500 | Spokane, WA 99201 | USA](#)

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Sincerely,

Kathleen Lopez

Kathleen Lopez

Principal

Mathematics Teacher

klopez@heritageacademyaz.com

480-461-4400 * hagateway.com

"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty." - Thomas Jefferson