

From: [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
To: [Maureen Crowley](#)
Cc: [Stephen Gucciardo](#)
Subject: RE: Hold the Date: Proposed Harsimus Branch Abandonment, Section 106 Online Public Meeting, September 28, 2023
Date: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:53:00 PM

Hi. We will be sending out a more detailed reply to your first email in the next day or so. We appreciate your disseminating the information to your contacts as much as you are able. We are mailing meeting information to properties adjacent to the Embankment blocks with an invitation to attend the meeting. We are also sending emails to over 1,000 people who have provided comments or input over the years on this case. In addition, Maggie O'Neill with Jersey City is sharing the meeting information with her network across the city, which is very helpful. And we are placing an advertisement in a local paper (both paper version and online) starting mid-next week. This is a robust outreach effort to the general public in the area, in addition, of course, to the core Consulting Parties. I apologize for not responding sooner but hope this overview information is helpful.

Alan Tabachnick

Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E St SW
Washington, DC 20423

202-245-0367 (o)
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alan.tabachnick@stb.gov

From: Maureen Crowley <mcrowley@embankment.org>
Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 1:42 PM
To: Tabachnick, Alan <alan.tabachnick@stb.gov>
Cc: Stephen Gucciardo <gucciardos@comcast.net>
Subject: Fw: Hold the Date: Proposed Harsimus Branch Abandonment, Section 106 Online Public Meeting, September 28, 2023

Hello, Alan,

The Coalition will do its best to inform people about this upcoming meeting, but we'd especially like to know if you plan to send mail to the owners of properties adjacent to the Branch, as they would be most immediately affected by demolition and redevelopment of the Embankment and the rest of the Branch - very likely including years of direct adverse effects to their properties and the well-being of residents.

Thank you for whatever info you can timely provide,

Maureen

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Maureen Crowley <mcrowley@embankment.org>

To: Tabachnick, Alan <alan.tabachnick@stb.gov>

Cc: Danielle Gosselin <danielle.gosselin@stb.gov>; Evelyn Kitay <evelyn.kitay.ctr@stb.gov>; Barbara Miller <barbara.miller@stb.gov>; Elizabeth Webster <elizabeth.webster@stb.gov>; Karen Stevens <karen.stevens@stb.gov>; Stephen Gucciardo <gucciardos@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 11:30:57 AM EDT

Subject: Re: Hold the Date: Proposed Harsimus Branch Abandonment, Section 106 Online Public Meeting, September 28, 2023

Good morning, Alan,

Thank you for setting up a public meeting. As the Coalition stated previously, we think the meeting should be in-person, here in Jersey City where the site that is the subject of a board decision so important to residents of the City and County is located. We reiterate our request for such a meeting.

We also have the following questions about the virtual meeting:

1. Who are the "Interested Parties" that received your notice and presumably will be invited to the virtual meeting? We would like to point out again that members of the general public may not be aware of the STB proceedings and/or especially the implications, both personal to them and for the region's future, of the board's expected decision. We also point out that not everyone has access to the internet or the skills necessary to navigate virtual meetings, so this meeting will necessarily be open only to a technically adept segment of the public you are able to reach.
2. Do the "interested parties" include property owners and residents along the Harsimus Branch who will be most directly affected by the board's decision? Or are these simply the contacts you have from the consulting parties or past commenters? Please publish a list of those you contacted.
3. What actions will you be taking to publicize this virtual meeting to the general public, not just "interested parties"?
4. What is the anticipated capacity of the virtual meeting?
5. How will the comments previously submitted and those presumably to be gathered at this planned meeting be presented to the board when it makes its decision regarding abandonment? The relationship of OEA, its recommendations to the board, and the board's ultimate decision remains opaque to us.

Sincerely,
Maureen Crowley, Coordinator
Embankment Preservation Coalition

On Monday, August 28, 2023 at 04:16:35 PM EDT, Tabachnick, Alan <alan.tabachnick@stb.gov> wrote:

To: Interested Parties

Re: Hold the Date – Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Online Public Meeting on September 28, 2023 re: Conrail's proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch in Jersey City, NJ, Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X)

The Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is hosting a Section 106 public meeting online, on September 28, 2023, in the pending rail-line abandonment proceeding referenced above. The meeting will be held virtually and will start at 5:00pm Eastern and conclude at 9:00pm Eastern.

The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the case and the status of the Section 106 process, and to provide the public with an additional opportunity to comment on the current status of the case.

Meeting details, including the agenda, log-in information, and other logistics will be circulated at least two weeks prior to the September 28 meeting. We encourage your participation and look forward to meeting with you, providing you with an update on the status of the case and the Section 106 process, and hearing your comments.

Alan Tabachnick

Federal Preservation Officer

Surface Transportation Board

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