

From: [Diane Kaese](#)
To: [Stevens, Karen](#); [Tabachnick, Alan](#)
Subject: Re: Proposed Harsimus Branch Abandonment, Section 106 Public Meeting Confirmation
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 8:30:55 PM

Alan,
My apologies for the poor connection. Thank you Verizon.
My testimony is below for the public meeting on 28 September 2023.
Sincerely,
Diane Kaese
917 414 8097

My name is Diane Kaese. I am the president of the Historic Paulus Hook Association. The HPHA is an interested party in this matter and does not agree with the proposed Memorandum of Agreement.

Conrail illegally sold this historic right-of-way over twenty years ago. Without some eagle-eyed Jersey City residents this sale would have gone unnoticed and provided a developer the right to tear down a significant element of transportation history. The embankment is not only locally significant, but it also has state and national significance.

The vast number of hours and that have gone into saving this amazing piece of engineering located between and adding to two historic districts is unknown. But it has been years of work to try to undo an illegal action that never should have occurred in the first place.

The parcels that make up the embankment are not just development sites for yet another residential tower. They are a part of our history and part of a viable transportation corridor that is sorely needed in this dense urban setting.

The damage that inappropriate development of the embankment can do to the adjacent historic districts, to the downtown and the greater metropolitan area cannot be calculated.

While I fully understand that the STB is tired of this long battle and would like to see this matter disappear, the STB has an obligation to protect this significant historic transportation element and to allow for a compatible 21st century reuse.

Although nothing anyone can do will mitigate years of time, I ask the STB to please abandon this transportation corridor with appropriate means of protection and mitigation that will allow for the preservation and reuse of this significant historic resource or not abandon it.

In the year 2023, I think we all can be a bit more creative than a few signs and a website that will never be maintained. Existing examples abound world-wide. Please review and use them for this rare piece of transportation history. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, don't allow it to be a missed opportunity.

Thank you.