

Tabachnick, Alan

From: Evan Bender <evan.bender@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 12:59 AM
To: Tabachnick, Alan
Subject: Re: Harsimus Branch Abandonment (Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X)) - Follow Up

Mr. Tabachnick,

Thank you for hosting the public meeting last week and for providing a forum for the community to comment on the proposed Harsimus Branch Abandonment. I did not speak, as my general sentiments on the matter were well represented by my neighbors who did. However I do want to share a small anecdote suggested by my wife that speaks to the depth of feeling that residents have for the Sixth Street Embankment, the weight of history that it carries, and the continuity it brings to the fabric of life here.

My wife's great grandparents immigrated to this country in the early twentieth century, landing in Jersey City for some years and starting a family before ultimately settling nearby in West New York. Fast forward about a century, my wife and I moved to Seventh Street with our one-year-old son to start our own family. Knowing her grandfather had been born somewhere in Jersey City, she asked her great uncle Sidney, last living member of that generation and now in his nineties, what he remembered. "We lived near the Embankment" he told us. Though he had only lived in that apartment for a few years as a small child, this was the landmark he retained ninety years later.

With this hint, scouring old Census records, we were ultimately able to find the exact address of the house on Third Street where her grandfather was born. Sidney has since passed away and my own son is now nearly five. I expect that, ninety years from now, this landmark will also remain in his memory. I sincerely hope that the Embankment itself remains as well.

By way of contrast, in the late 19th century my own ancestor managed a locomotive works adjacent to the Pennsylvania Railroad yards that the Harsimus Branch once served. Today the site of the locomotive works is a parking lot. In the absence of the physical structure, this is an interesting factoid, rather than a living memory.

Respectfully,

Evan Bender
 272 7th Street
 Jersey City

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 4:30 PM sara bender <g.saranoh@gmail.com> wrote:

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> You can also submit comments via email to Alan.Tabachnick@stb.gov, and written comments can be mailed to:
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> Alan Tabachnick, Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW,
> Washington, DC 20423-0001,
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> Attention: Environmental Filing, Docket No. AB 167 (Sub-No. 1189X).
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> If you have any questions, please contact me via the email address above or by phone at 202-245-0367.
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> Alan Tabachnick
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