

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
December 1, 2023
Part of
Public Record

Docket No. AB-1331-0

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY – ADVERSE ABANDONMENT –
GNP RLY, INC IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASH.**

**CITY OF WOODINVILLE COMMENT IN SUPPORT OF
SNOHOMISH COUNTY ADVERSE ABANDONMENT APPLICATION**

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The City of Woodinville, Washington (“the City”), a party to this proceeding, files this comment in support of Snohomish County’s Adverse Abandonment Application.¹ The City owns a recently railbanked line of railroad connected to and immediately south of the Snohomish County segment (“the Line”) for which the County seeks abandonment authorization.² The Line is the only link between the City’s railbanked right of way (the “Woodinville Segment”) and the national rail transportation system. For that reason, the City would oppose any proposed action that threatened to strand the Woodinville Segment and miles of additional railbanked right of way south of the Woodinville Segment.

In this case, however, Snohomish County amply documents the binding commitments of the County and the rail carrier GNP RLY, Inc. (“GNP”) to railbank the Line.³ In GNP’s King County abandonment proceeding the Board found that similar covenants and statements of intent committed GNP and the City to railbank the Woodinville Segment.⁴ As noted above, the parties to that proceeding promptly consummated the railbanking transaction. That precedent, coupled with the covenants and declarations cited by the County, provide adequate assurance that the relief

¹ Snohomish County, Adverse Abandonment Application, filed in this docket on Oct. 17, 2023.

² Notice of Trail Use Agreement Reached, *GNP RLY, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption – in King County, WA*, AB 1316X (filed June 8, 2023).

³ Snohomish County, Adverse Abandonment Application at 7-8 and 19 (citing a settlement agreement between GNP and the County that commits the parties to railbank the Line, a state court order that compels GNP to cooperate in railbanking the Line, a covenant to the same effect in the deed that conveyed the rail freight easement to GNP’s predecessor in interest and a letter from GNP’s counsel in this docket, declaring the carrier’s support for railbanking the Line).

⁴ *GNP RLY, Inc. – Abandonment Exemption – in King County, WA*, AB 1316X (STB served April 24, 2023), slip op. at 8.

requested by Snohomish County “will simply add to an existing trail,”⁵ and will not result in severance of the Woodinville Segment from the national rail network. On that foundation the City of Woodinville supports the County’s adverse abandonment application.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

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⁵ Snohomish County Adverse Abandonment Application at 7.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on December 1, 2023 I served an e-filed copy of the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, as listed below per the STB service list, by e-mail.

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