

OEA  
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SERVICE DATE – FEBRUARY 15, 2024

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

**SUPPLEMENTAL FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Docket No. AB 55 (Sub-No. 813X)**

**CSX Transportation, Inc.—Abandonment Exemption—  
in Worcester, Mass.**

**ABANDONMENT TYPE**

The time for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA) has expired in this:  
(X ) Notice of Exemption ( ) Petition for Exemption ( ) Regulated Abandonment

**( ) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

**(X) NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

On October 30, 2023, CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed a verified notice with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50 seeking authority to abandon approximately 0.38 miles of rail line between milepost QBU 4.2 and milepost QBU 4.58 on the Albany Division, Boston Subdivision, Fitchburg Branch in Worcester County, Massachusetts (the Line). By decision served December 15, 2023, the Board imposed a historic preservation condition pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (Section 106 condition).

The Section 106 condition requires CSXT to: (a) retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all historic properties including sites, buildings, structures, and objects within the Area of Potential Effect that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) until the Section 106 process of the NHPA has been completed; (b) report back to the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) regarding any consultations with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO) and the public; and (c) not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

**Comments**

On February 8, 2024, OEA received a letter from SHPO dated January 29, 2024 stating that a determination of “no historic properties affected” would be appropriate for the proposed abandonment. Accordingly, pursuant to the Section 106 regulations of the NHPA at 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(d)(1), and following consultation with SHPO and the public, OEA has determined that the proposed abandonment would not affect historic properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in

the National Register. The documentation for this finding, as specified in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11(e), consists of CSXT's historic report, all relevant correspondence, and the EA (Draft, Final, and Supplemental Final), which have been provided to the SHPO and made available to the public through posting on the Board's website at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov).

### **Conclusions**

For the reasons stated above, OEA recommends that the Board remove the Section 106 condition imposed in its December 15, 2023, decision.

By the Board, Danielle Gosselin, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis.