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CHEROKEE NATION®

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Deputy Principal Chief

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June 10, 2024

Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW,
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Athens Transportation Partners, LLC – Abandonment Exemption

Ms. Diana Wood:

The Cherokee Nation (Nation) is in receipt of your correspondence about **Athens Transportation Partners, LLC – Abandonment Exemption**, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment upon this project. This communication is intended for government-to-government consultation with a sovereign federally recognized Tribal Nation. Information received in consultation will be deemed confidential unless explicit consent is provided by the Nation.

The Nation maintains databases and records of cultural, historic, and pre-historic resources in this area. Our Historic Preservation Office (Office) reviewed this project, cross referenced the project's legal description against our information, and found no instances where this project intersects or adjoins such resources. Thus, the Nation does not foresee this project imparting impacts to Cherokee cultural resources at this time.

However, the Nation requests that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) halt all project activities immediately and re-contact our Office for further consultation if items of cultural significance are discovered during the course of this project. Additionally, the Nation requests that the STB conduct appropriate inquiries with other pertinent Historic Preservation Offices regarding historic and prehistoric resources not included in the Nation's databases or records.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Wado,

Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cherokee Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office
elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org
918.453.5389