



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

October 23, 2024

Reid Nelson
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

**RE: Docket No. AB 1332X—Athens Transportation Partners, LLC—
Abandonment Exemption—In Clarke County, Ga; Notification of Executed
Memorandum of Agreement**

Dear Mr. Nelson:

On April 23, 2024, Athens Transportation Partners, LLC (ATP) filed a notice of exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) seeking to abandon a line of railroad located in Clarke County, Georgia. The rail line proposed for abandonment extends approximately 6.5 miles from milepost F-MP 98.8 on the northern side of the Oconee River trestle bridge in Athens-Clarke County north to milepost F-MP 105.3 near East Broad Street in the city of Athens (the Line). The Board's approval of this abandonment is considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and is thus covered under its provisions.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is responsible for ensuring the agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental laws, including NHPA. In consultation with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Historic Preservation Division (SHPO), OEA determined that the Line, as part of the Macon-Athens Railway, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and abandonment-related salvage and removal of all railroad-related infrastructure within the right-of-way would have an adverse effect on the Line.

On October 22, 2024, OEA executed the attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the SHPO and ATP to resolve the adverse effect, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 800.6(b)(i)(vi) of NHPA's implementing regulations. The filing of the MOA with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the execution of its terms completes the Board's compliance responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA. The MOA and all correspondence related to this proceeding are available for viewing on the Board's web site at <https://www.stb.gov>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Alan Tabachnick, the Board's Federal Preservation Officer, by telephone at (202) 934-8469 or email at Alan.Tabachnick@stb.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danielle Gosselin".

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis