



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

EO - 4020

Office of Environmental Analysis

November 16, 2023

Chris Merritt, SHPO
Utah Department of Cultural & Community Engagement
3760 South Highland Drive
Millcreek, UT 84106

Re: Cultural Resources Inventory in Support of the Proposed Savage Tooele Rail
Line Project, Tooele County, Utah

Mr. Merritt,

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board's) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is pleased to submit this Cultural Resources Survey Report (Report) in support of the Board's historic review of a new rail line proposed by Savage Tooele Railroad (STR). STR has filed for Board authority to reinstitute common carrier freight rail service over an approximately six-mile segment of a former branch line, the former "Warner Branch" segment, and to construct approximately five miles of new rail line within the Lakeview Business Park (LBP), currently under development in Grantsville, Utah. The federal action is the Board's decision to authorize with appropriate conditions, or deny, construction and operation of the proposed rail line.

As part of the Board's review process, OEA is preparing an Environmental Assessment that assesses the potential environmental and historic impacts of the proposed rail line. OEA is evaluating the potential impacts to historic properties, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), the Section 106 implementing regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800), and the Board's environmental regulations (49 C.F.R. Part 1105).

Consistent with past practice and the Board's regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(b)(1), OEA focused the Section 106 review on the Area of Potential Effects (APE). OEA has defined the APE for the proposed rail line, in coordination with your office, as the entirety of the design footprint, known as the below-ground APE, which includes access roads, the 11-mile existing and required Right-of-Way (ROW) corridor, and all easements (temporary and permanent). The APE also includes a 250-foot radial buffer, known as the above-ground APE, to account for any potential atmospheric impacts (i.e., setting, visual, noise, etc.) to historic properties.

On behalf of OEA, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Metcalf), OEA's third-party contractor, conducted background research, field survey, and documentation of four historic resources within the APE. The Warner Branch of the Western Pacific Railroad (42TO505), currently abandoned, crosses through the APE, and was previously determined eligible for listing on the

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Warner Branch retains integrity, and documentation of this resource has been updated. In addition, two historic residential properties (STRR01 and STRR03) were documented in Marshall, Utah. OEA has determined that STRR01 is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C, and STRR03 is not eligible because it does not meet any of the NRHP criteria. Finally, the Lincoln Highway (42TO1077) documentation was also updated within the APE, and OEA has determined that the portion of the Lincoln Highway within the APE is non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the resource due to its lack of integrity.

Based on the findings in the attached Report, OEA has determined that the proposed rail line would have no adverse effect on any historic property located within the APE. If you have any questions about the Report, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Alan Tabachnick, the Board's Federal Preservation Officer, at alan.tabachnick@stb.gov or 202-245-0367.

Sincerely,

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

Attachments:

- Cultural Resources Inventory Report: Savage Tooele Rail Line Project, Tooele County, UT

Cc: Chris Hansen, Section 106 and 404 Compliance, Utah SHPO
Terry Miner, Era City Council
Brent D. Hunt, Settlement Canyon Chapter, Sons of Utah Pioneers
Albert Bottema, Settlement Canyon Chapter, Sons of Utah Pioneers
Glen Stevens, Settlement Canyon Chapter, Sons of Utah Pioneers