



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

QUENTIN L. MESSER, JR.
PRESIDENT

May 5, 2025

VICTORIA RUTSON
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 20423-001

RE: ER25-489 Lake State Railway Company West Shore Spur Abandonment, Saginaw, Saginaw County (STB)

Dear Victoria Rutson:

We have received your request for review of the above-cited undertaking at the location noted above. The information that you have sent has prompted us to ask for additional details. Please send the following information so that we may complete our review:

- Based on the mapping submitted, it is unclear where exactly the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and the project limits are within Sections 13 and 24.
 - Please submit a figure that shows the APE on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle mapping for the area. Please ensure that this mapping is at a scale that the APE and project limits are clearly visible without the aid of a hand lens. Other map features should also be clearly discernable.
 - Please indicate whether the railroad tracks or rail ties will be removed. If so, please indicate whether the current grade is altered. Please describe any other possible ground disturbance that may result from project-related activities.
- Please photograph the location where the project will be taking place. If the project covers a large area, please provide several views.
- The SHPO has stated that in many instances, the Area of Potential Effects is not simply the project's physical boundaries or right of way. It is important to understand this. The area of potential effects includes all locations where the project may result in changes in traffic patterns, land use, public access, etc. In addition, indirect, as well as direct, effects must be considered. The project submitted includes changes that will likely have a visual effect on the surrounding properties. Please revise your APE to include properties that will be visually affected by the project.
- Please make a determination of eligibility for any properties or potential historic districts within your revised APE. 36 CFR § 800.4(c) requires the federal agency, or their designated representative, to apply the National Register criteria (36 CFR § 63) to properties that have not previously been evaluated for National Register eligibility and determine whether any of the National Register criteria are met. When submitting the determination of eligibility, please indicate whether the person making that determination meets the professional qualifications outlined in 36 CFR § 61 (enclosed).



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The NHPA requires federal agencies or their designated representatives to consult with any Native American Tribe who attach religious or cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by the agency's undertakings per 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2)(ii). Additionally, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers may have a different or more nuanced understanding of the project areas than the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Additional information can be submitted through online through our [Additional Information Portal](#).

Please note that the Section 106 review process cannot proceed until we are able to consider the information requested above. This letter does not clear the project. If you have any questions, please contact Katlyn Burns Yancho, Historian, at 517-256-3416 or by email at burnsyanchok@michigan.gov. Please direct questions about archaeology to Amy Krull, Federal Projects Archaeologist (krulla@michigan.gov, 517- 285-4211).

Please reference our project number in all communication with this office regarding this undertaking. Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment, and for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katlyn Burns Yancho', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Katlyn Burns Yancho
Historian
for Ryan Schumaker
State Historic Preservation Officer

AK:KMBY

Copy: Thomas J. Litwiler, Lake State Railway Company, c/o Fletcher & Sippel LLC