



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

LAW DEPARTMENT
ONE PARKWAY BUILDING
1515 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 1, 2025
Part of
Public Record

VIA E-Filing

Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Re: CSX Transportation Inc. – Abandonment Exemption – in Philadelphia County, PA STB Docket No. AB-55(Sub No 819X)
Request for Public Use Conditions

Dear Ms. Brown:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 1152.28, the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (City) respectfully requests that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) grant an issuance of a Public Use Condition barring CSX Transportation Inc. (CSXT) from removing or destroying any and all bridges, culverts, rail siding, roadbed, or other improvements on the line at issue in this proceeding and from selling or otherwise transferring any interest CSXT holds, if any, in the underlying real estate in the line at issue in this proceeding, other than for public uses for 180 days from the effective date of the decision authorizing the abandonment, unless the properties have first been offered, on reasonable terms, for sale for public purposes.

CONDITION SOUGHT

As stated above, the City seeks a condition barring CSXT from removing or destroying any and all bridges, culverts, rail siding, roadbed, or other improvements on the line at issue in this proceeding and from selling or otherwise transferring any interest CSXT holds, if any, in the underlying real estate in the line at issue in this proceeding, other than for public uses for 180 days from the effective date of the decision authorizing the abandonment, unless the properties have first been offered, on reasonable terms, for sale for public purposes.

PUBLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CONDITION

CSXT has filed to abandon approximately .69 miles of rail line extending between milepost BCE 1.41 and milepost BCE 2.1 on its Northern Region, Philadelphia Subdivision, Delaware Industrial Track in Philadelphia County, PA, traversing U.S Postal Zip Code 19148. This rail line extends from an area of the City near the Delaware River Waterfront around the Pennsport neighborhood of the City. This rail line would make an excellent trail, recreational facility, and potential local rail transportation option for residents and visitors to the City, providing a splendid opportunity for commuting and recreational use. The line can also help resolve gaps in connectivity in the region's network, particularly to areas underserved with access to the trail network and waterfront in the City. This rail line would help connect the City's bustling southern districts, the Navy Yard and Stadium area with the City's center eastern area via trail and rail on the waterfront. The City has worked for years with partners such as the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation and local organizations to plan and implement a regional trail and transportation network. Specific to this rail line, the City has implemented nearby trail improvements including the Delaware River Trail which runs along sections of the Delaware River nearby. As demonstrated in the attached map, this line would augment community trail and rail access. Currently there are no rail lines in the immediate area.

The City is particularly interested in a Public Use Condition including approximately 2,300 linear feet of rail line being abandoned by CSXT that lies North of the southerly line of Wolf Street and southwesterly of the northeast line of Christopher Columbus Boulevard. The City will use this section to enhance existing and planned public recreational trail connections and facilitate new recreational trails providing space for activity and connection specifically along a historically underserved section of the Delaware River waterfront. The limited number of public rights-of-way in this area creates a situation where this Public Use Condition is particularly beneficial.

PERIOD OF TIME CONDITION WOULD BE EFFECTIVE

The City respectfully requests that the condition be effective for the statutory maximum of 180 days from the effective date of the decision authorizing the abandonment.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE IMPOSITION OF THE TIME PERIOD

The City seeks to acquire the bridges, culverts, rail siding, roadbed, and other improvements as well as the underlying real estate interests pursuant for local passenger rail use, recreational facilities

and trail use. If that is not available then pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1247(d), the City seeks the land and improvements for trail purposes. The City recognizes that negotiations frequently take longer than 180 days. It is therefore prudent to request the statutory maximum 180-day Public Use Condition period.

WAIVER OF FILING FEES

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1), the City requests a waiver of filing fees because it is a local government entity.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Blake Andres

Blake Andres (332776 PA)

Assistant City Solicitor

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July 2025



Legend

Existing_Trails

Existing Rail Columbus
Blvd to Wolf St.

0 0.03 0.06 0.11 Miles
| | | | |

July 2025

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Request for Public Use Conditions was provided to counsel for Applicant, Melanie Yasbin, by email at Melanie@lgraillaw.com and sent by certified mail to Melanie Yasbin, Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD, 21204-4022 on this 1st day of August, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Blake Andres

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Request for Public Use Conditions was provided to counsel for Philadelphia Belt Line Rail Road Company, William A. Mullins, by email at wmullins@mullinslawgroup.net and sent by certified mail to William A. Mullins, Mullins Law Group, 2001 L Street NW, Suite 720, Washington D.C. 20036, on this 1st day of August, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Blake Andres

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