

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
FINANCE DOCKET NUMBER FD 36912

ENTERED
Office of Chief Counsel
February 27, 2026
Part of
Public Record

FINANCE DOCKET NO. 36874

L. NEILL CARTAGE, INC.

-CONTINUANCE IN CONTROL-

PROVISO RAILROAD, INC. ACQUISITION EXEMPTION

FINANCE DOCKET NO. 36894

L. NEILL CARTAGE, INC.

-CONTINUATION IN CONTROL-

MASON RAILROAD, INC. ACQUISITION EXEMPTION

FILED

February 27, 2026
SURFACE

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. §1180.2(d)(2)

TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1180.2(d)(2), L. Neill Cartage Co., Inc. (hereinafter “Cartage”), a non-carrier, hereby submits that Verified Notice of Exemption from Board authority under 49 U.S.C. §1180(d)(2) requesting approval of the Surface Transportation Board to own and operate two Class III rail carriers located and operated in Cook County, Illinois, and in support thereof states as follows:

That L. Neill Cartage controls Proviso Railroad, Inc. which filed Verified Notices of Exemption on December 3, 2025, to acquire 712.5 feet of rail line, located in Berkeley, Illinois.

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SURFACE
TRANSPORTATION BOARD

That L. Neill Cartage controls Mason Railroad, Inc., which filed Verified Notices of Exemption on December 4, 2025, to acquire from Cartage 665 feet of rail line located in Bedford Park, Illinois.

Under 49 C.F.R. §1180.2(d)(2), continuance in control of multiple railroads is exempt from Board authority where (i) railroads would not connect with each other or any other railroad in their corporate family, (ii) the acquisition or continuance in control is not part of a series of anticipated transactions that would connect the railroads with each other or any other railroad in their corporate family, and (iii) the transaction does not involve a Class I carrier. Because Cartage owned only two Class III carriers, Proviso Railroad, Inc. and Mason Railroad, Inc., that do not connect with each other and are not anticipated to connect to one another, to continuance in control transaction is an exempt transaction pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1180(d)(2).

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §1180.4(g) and the applicable provisions of 49 C.F.R. §1180(6), Cartage submits the following information.

1180.6(a)(1)(i) *A brief summary of the proposed transaction.*

Cartage will control two non-connecting Class III carriers, Proviso Railroad and Mason Railroad. Cartage does not own or control any other railroads.

§1180.6(a)(1)(i) *Applicant's name, address, and telephone number.*

L. Neill Cartage
5400 Proviso Drive
Berkeley, Illinois 60163
708-547-7676

§1180.6(a)(1)(ii) ***Applicant's counsel:***

Max Callahan
Fulcrum Rail
180 North Wacker Drive, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-629-0222

§1180.6(a)(1)(ii) ***The proposed time schedule for the transaction's consummation:***

L. Neill Cartage acquired ownership and control of two Class III common carriers on September 1, 2025.

§1180.6(a)(5) ***A list of State(s) in which applicant carrier is situated:***

The operations of Cartage's two subsidiary rail carriers are located entirely within the State of Illinois.

§1180.6(a)(6) ***A map including the lines owned and operated by the railroad carriers in relationship to each other, short line connection, other rail lines in the territory, and the principal geographic points in the region traversed.***

Maps covering the areas of the proposed transaction are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

§1180.6(a)(7)(ii) ***Relevant agreements:***

Cartage has not and will not enter into any agreement specifically addressing its continuation in control of Proviso Railroad and Mason Railroad.

§1180.4(g)(1)(i) ***The level of labor protection imposed.***

Because the only carriers that are involved in this exemption are Class III carriers, labor protection measures are not necessary pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §11326(c).

§1180.4(g)(3) *Environmental and historic reporting requirements:*

Because Cartage's continuance and control of Proviso Railroad and Mason Railroad did not and will not result in changes that exceed the thresholds established in Section 1105.7(e)(4) or (5), no environmental review is required pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1105.6(c)(2). Additionally, because further STB approval is required to abandon any service and there are no plans to dispose of or alter properties subject to STB jurisdiction that are 50 years old or older, no historic report is required pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1105.8(b)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Max Callahan
Attorney for Applicant
Fulcrum Rail
180 North Wacker Drive, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312-629-0222
max@prptax.com

VERIFICATION

I, Rory Neill, President (title) of L. Neill Cartage, verify under penalty of perjury that the facts recited in the foregoing Notice of Exemption are true and correct. Further, I certify that I have personal knowledge of the facts stated therein and that I am authorized to verify these facts stated in this Verified Notice of Exemption.

Rory Neill

Rory Neill

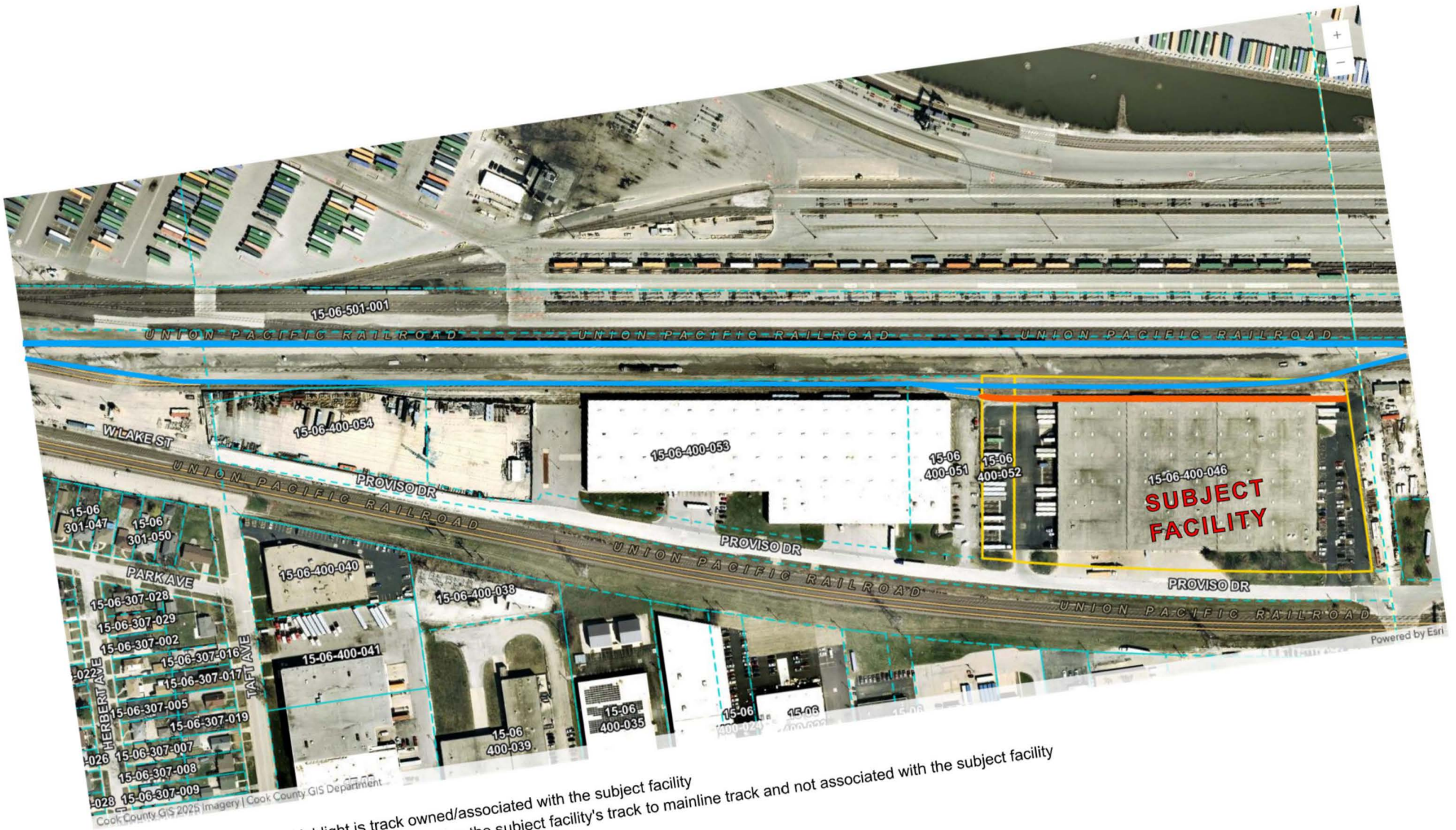
President

Title

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this
27th day of February, 2026.



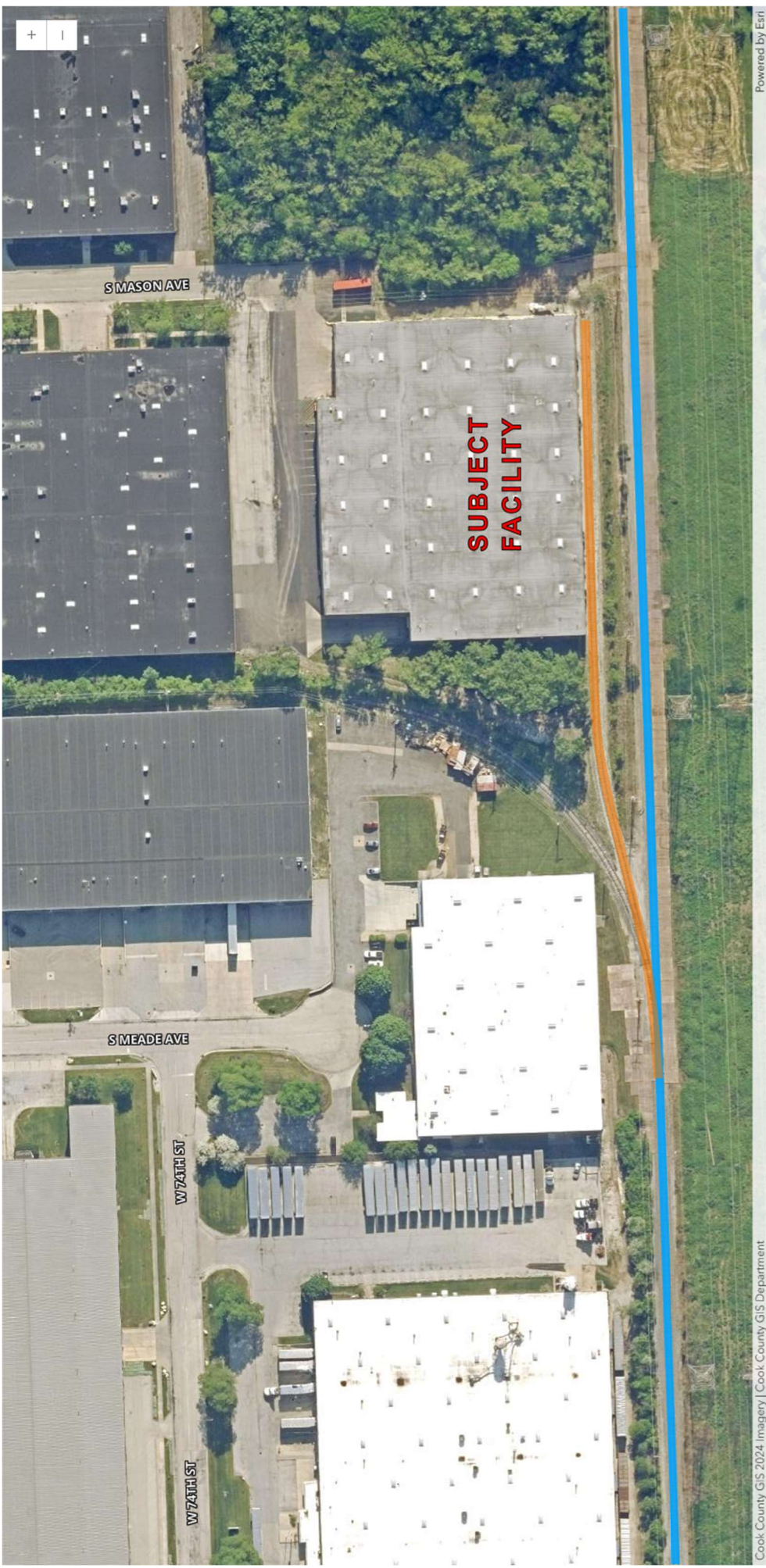
Notary Public



Berkeley Transload Facility

5400 Proviso Drive

Berkeley, Illinois



- Orange highlight is track owned/associated with the subject facility
- Blue highlight is track connecting the subject facility's track to mainline track and not associated with the subject facility

Bedford Park Transload Facility

7424 South Mason Avenue

Bedford Park, Illinois