

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 1337

THE COMMUTER RAIL DIVISION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY AND THE NORTHEAST ILLINOIS REGIONAL COMMUTER
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY D/B/A METRA—ADVERSE ABANDONMENT—
OMNITRAX/CHICAGO RAIL LINK

Decided: April 30, 2026

By petition filed on December 11, 2023, the Commuter Rail Division of the Regional Transportation Authority and the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (collectively, Metra) seek exemptions from certain statutory provisions and waivers of certain regulatory requirements regarding a proposed application for a third-party, or “adverse,” abandonment of an approximately 3,246-foot portion of the rail line owned by OmniTRAX/Chicago Rail Link (CRL) that comprises part of the Root Street Wye in Chicago, Ill.¹

CRL, with Metra’s concurrence, filed a motion on February 22, 2024, to hold this proceeding in abeyance pending negotiations between the parties. The Board granted the motion on February 27, 2024, and directed the parties to file a status report “every 120 days.” The Board received a status report on June 26, 2024, but the parties did not file a status report by their second deadline. On April 1, 2024, the Board ordered Metra and CRL to file a status report by April 8, 2024, and future status reports every 120 days thereafter. Afterwards, the parties resumed filing status reports with the Board as directed.

On December 4, 2025, the parties filed separate status reports. Metra informed the Board that it and CRL had not been able to resolve the matter and that Metra expected to file an amended petition and request to remove the proceeding from abeyance within ten days. The Board did not receive such a filing from Metra. Moreover, neither party filed a subsequent status report, which was due April 3.

¹ Metra states that it would seek adverse abandonment of the portion of the Root Street Wye that is located at the level of East 40th Street on Chicago’s South Side extending from South Princeton Avenue on the west side to Metra’s Rock Island Branch at the I-90 Expressway on the east side. (Pet. 2.) Metra clarifies in its petition that it also determined that Norfolk Southern Railway (NS) owns a portion of the Root Street Wye, but that Metra is not seeking any relief with respect to the NS-owned portion at this time. (*Id.* at n.1.)

Metra and CRL will be ordered to file a status report by May 7, 2026. Future status reports will be due every 120 days thereafter, subject to further order of the Board.²

It is ordered:

1. Metra and CRL must file a status report by May 7, 2026. Future status reports are due every 120 days thereafter.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Anika S. Cooper, Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel.

² Metra and CRL are reminded of the obligation to file in a timely manner or seek an extension pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1104.7(b).