



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Najah Duvall-Gabriel
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Federal Agency Programs
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington DC 20001-2637

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Najah:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Gregory A. Remaud, Conservation Director
NY/NJ Baykeeper
52 West Front Street
Keyport, NJ 07735

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment
Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Remaud:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Mayor Steven Fulop
City of Jersey City
City Hall 280 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mayor Fulop:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Ester Wintner
Civic JC, Inc.
64 Wayne St
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Ms. Wintner:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Robert Jenkins III, Esq.
For Conrail
Mayer Brown LLP
1999 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006-1101

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an

“Area of Potential Effect” or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may RSVP on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Andy Hamilton
Mid-Atlantic Coordinator
NJ Committee for the East Coast Greenway
1099 Pebble Hill Rd
Doylestown PA 18901

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an

“Area of Potential Effect” or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may RSVP on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Stephen Gucciardo, President
Embankment Preservation Coalition
495 Monmouth Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Gucciardo:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Sam Pesin, President
Friends of Liberty State Park
PO Box 3407
Jersey City, NJ 07303-3407

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Pesin:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Kirsten Greene, President
Hamilton Park Neighborhood Assoc.
PMB 166 344 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: Consolidated Rail Corporation's proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch rail line,
Hudson County, NJ, STB Docket No. AB 167 (Sub No. 1189X)

Dear Ms. Greene:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Jeremy Jacobsen, President
Harsimus Cove Association
P.O. Box 101
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Jacobsen:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an “Area of Potential Effect” or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Diane Kaese, President
Historic Paulus Hook Association
121 Grand Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Ms. Kaese:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Carlene Magurne
Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs
583 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Ms. Magurne:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Massiel Ferrara, Director
Hudson County Division of Planning
Bldg 1, Floor 2
Meadowview Complex
595 County Avenue
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Ms. Ferrara:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an

“Area of Potential Effect” or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may RSVP on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Justin Frohwirth, President
Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy
P.O. Box 68
Jersey City, NJ 07303-0068

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Frohwirth:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Daniel Horgan, Esq.
For Marin Blvd, LLC et al.
Waters, McPherson, McNeill PC
300 Lighting Way, 7th Fl.
Secaucus, NJ 07094-3672

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Horgan:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

President
Newport Neighborhood Association
40 Newport Parkway, #604
Jersey city, NJ 07310

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear President:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see "Conrail Harsimus

Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may RSVP on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Jerry Britton, President
North Central Chapter
Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society
25 Maplewood Drive
Etters, PA 17319

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Britton:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rutson".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Jill Edelman, President
Powerhouse Arts District Neighborhood Association
140 Bay Street, Unit 6J
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Ms. Edelman:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Joseph A. Simonetta, Executive Director
Preservation New Jersey
P. O. Box 7815
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Simonetta:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Tom Sexton, Director
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Northeast Regional Office
2133 Market Street, Suite 222
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Sexton:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an “Area of Potential Effect” or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may RSVP on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Dan Saunders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Re: Log #08-0811 - STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Saunders:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur.

To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Oona Jackson Moore, President
The Van Vorst Park Association
83 Wayne Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Ms. Moore:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis

April 25, 2016

Rob Crow, President
The Village Neighborhood Association
365 Second Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302

Re: STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1189X), Consolidated Rail Corporation - Abandonment Exemption - in Hudson County, NJ

Dear Mr. Crow:

The Surface Transportation Board's (Board) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) continues to move forward with our review of the Harsimus Branch abandonment under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). We are now at the point in our review where we would like to meet with representatives of the consulting parties to share information on our progress. We are inviting all consulting parties to join us on the evening of May 24th at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and conclude at 9:00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to update and consult with you regarding a significant early step in the Section 106 process—the preliminary results of a survey to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment of the Harsimus Branch. In this meeting, we will outline the Section 106 process, provide an update of where we are in the process, and present the preliminary results of the survey. We will also ask for your reactions and thoughts on the survey. Below, I have provided some background information on the important role the survey plays in the Section 106 process and why your thoughts on the survey are critical to the process.

A key component of Section 106 review often involves the creation of an inventory of properties that are eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such properties can include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. In the case of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment, several historic properties may be found in the project area. With the assistance of a historic preservation consultant, we have established a list of properties previously identified—for example, the Harsimus Branch Embankment and the Harsimus Cove and Hamilton Park Districts—and we are evaluating a number of additional candidates for their NRHP eligibility. This inventory is organized around and focused on an "Area of Potential Effect" or APE, where effects from the proposed abandonment may occur. To learn more about how the APE was defined in this case as well as some of the known historic

properties in and around the Harsimus Branch, visit our website and see “Conrail Harsimus Branch” at http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/environment/key_cases. There you will find a report completed in 2008 that defines and illustrates the APE.

Your participation in this meeting will greatly assist us in our effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed abandonment. We would appreciate your comments, suggestions and ideas related to the preliminary inventory results that we will share in a presentation. In the coming weeks after the meeting, we will finalize and distribute a survey report for your review. Thereafter we will, in consultation with you, other parties and the public, move to the next key step in the Section 106 process where we determine the effects of the abandonment on historic properties.

Please plan to join us on May 24th, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Casa Colombo, 380 Monmouth St, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Since space is limited, please plan for up to two representatives of your party. This will allow sufficient space at the meeting for each of the consulting parties. Please rsvp to me by Tuesday, May 17, either by phone or email to Jeff Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov. You may rsvp on behalf of both representatives of your party.

Please feel free to contact Jeff should you have any questions about the meeting or the Section 106 process. We look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and last name "Rutson" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria Rutson
Director