



***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423
Office of Environmental Analysis***

September 17, 2015

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

Dear Mayor Fulop:

As a follow-up to our letter dated July 31, 2015, we are writing to respectfully request your assistance with our review of the proposed Harsimus Branch abandonment (STB Docket No. AB-167 [Sub-No. 1189X]), pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108). As indicated in our previous letter, the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has re-initiated Section 106 consultation for this case and your office is a consulting party in this proceeding. Section 106 regulations, codified at 36 CFR 800, call for federal agencies to determine the effects of a federal undertaking on historic properties. While OEA typically does not include post-abandonment land use of a right-of-way in its Section 106 review, circumstances in the Harsimus case warrant a broader than normal scope. OEA is therefore undertaking limited consideration of reasonably foreseeable land use in our analysis of the proposed abandonment.

We understand that the City of Jersey City has developed plans for potential re-use of the Harsimus embankment within a portion of the right-of-way of the Harsimus Branch line. Inclusion of these plans in our review would be most helpful in our analysis process. To help facilitate our review, we ask that you provide information regarding reuse plans for the Harsimus Branch embankment. Any designs, descriptions, architectural drawings, maps or other information that you could share would be greatly appreciated. We will analyze this information to determine the potential direct and indirect effects of abandonment to historic properties in and adjacent to the Harsimus Branch right-of-way.

Please forward any information that you can share to Jeff Irwin at the address below.

Jeff Irwin
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E St. SW
Washington D.C. 20423

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the Section 106 process, please contact Mr. Irwin at (202) 245-0299 or irwinj@stb.dot.gov.

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
Office of Environmental Analysis

Cc: Charles Montange, Esq.