



***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***  
***Washington, DC 20423***

EO-3011

*Office of Environmental Analysis*

June 15, 2018

[Name]

[Organization]

[Address]

[City, State, Zip Code]

RE: STB Docket No. FD 36186, Texas Railway Exchange—Construction and  
Operation—in Galveston County, Texas: **Preliminary Environmental Consultation**

Dear [Mr. or Mrs. Name];

Texas Railway Exchange, LLC (TREX) intends to file a petition with the Surface Transportation Board (the Board) seeking authority to construct and operate a new rail line in Galveston, Texas. The Board is an independent federal agency that has jurisdiction over railroad construction and operations. As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental review of the proposed rail construction under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related laws and regulations. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the proposed rail line project and request information from your agency on the resources under your jurisdiction that could be affected by the proposed project.

### **Project Background**

The proposed rail line would be approximately 2,600 feet in length and would provide a rail connection between the Texas International Terminals (TIT) and an existing rail line owned and operated by BNSF Railway Company. TIT is a liquid and dry bulk shipping facility that handles deep draft vessels, barges, trucks, and rail traffic along the Galveston Ship Channel. The facility is currently served by a rail line owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railway Company, but rail capacity on that line is limited. The purpose of the new rail connection would be to create an additional rail transportation option for TIT's customers as well as serve prospective customers at a proposed expansion of TIT's existing facility. TREX believes this would increase transportation and cost efficiencies at TIT. The attached map shows the corridor in which TREX proposes to construct the proposed new rail line in relation to the area served.

### **Environmental Review Process**

Pursuant to NEPA and the Board's environmental rules, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare an environmental document that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed rail construction project and the reasonable and feasible alternatives to the proposal. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required if OEA determines that the proposed project would have significant environmental impacts. If the proposed project appears unlikely to have significant environmental impacts, then an Environmental Assessment (EA) may be prepared instead. OEA is beginning the process of gathering information on the project area and project-related issues and concerns. Information

collected will assist us in preparing the appropriate NEPA document for the proposed project.

### **Request for Comments**

At this time, OEA is requesting preliminary comments from agencies and organizations that may have specific knowledge of potential environmental issues and impacts that may be associated with the proposed project. Issues and resource areas that may be important to this project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Safety
- Local land use
- Existing transportation systems
- Air emissions and ambient air quality
- Energy use
- Water quality and wetlands
- Ambient noise levels
- Historic sites, archaeological sites, and cultural resources
- Socioeconomics (population, employment, and development)
- Wildlife, vegetation, and fisheries
- Soils and geology

Information on additional issues or concerns that you consider appropriate would also be appreciated. Please respond by July 20, 2018 so that we may move forward expeditiously with the environmental review process. Please submit comments and responses to:

Joshua Wayland  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001  
Attn: STB Docket No. FD 36186

You may also submit comments electronically through the Board's web site at [www.stb.gov](http://www.stb.gov) by clicking on the "E-Filing" link on the right-hand side of the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Brief comments may be typed within the comment field provided or you may attach comments as a separate file.

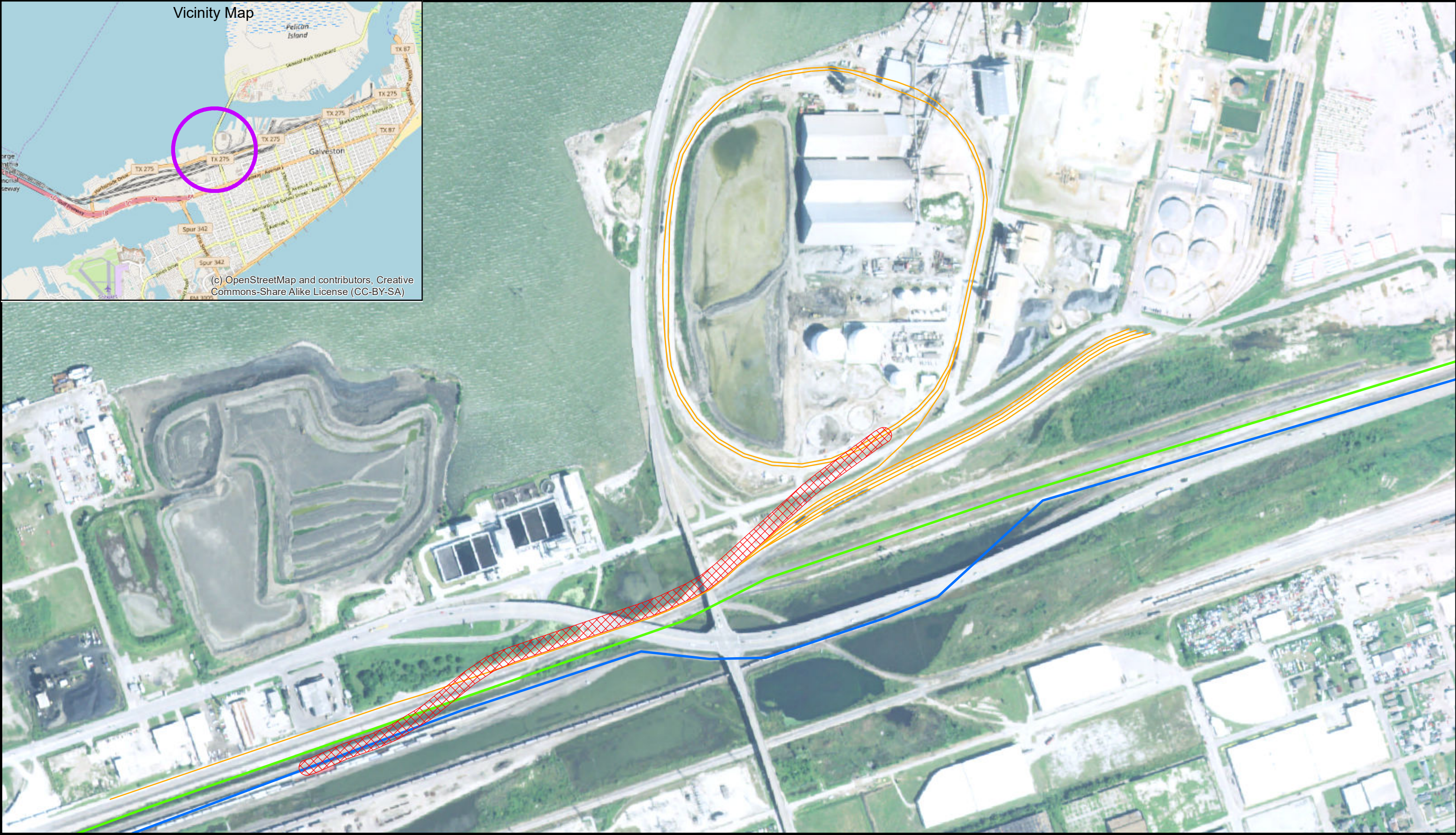
If you have any questions concerning agency consultation, the Board's environmental review process, or the proposed project, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Wayland of my staff at (202) 245-0330 or by email at [Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov](mailto:Joshua.Wayland@stb.gov). We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process for this project.

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.

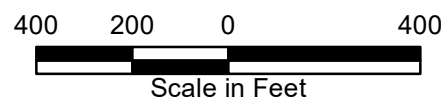
Victoria Rutson  
Director  
Office of Environmental Analysis

Path: C:\Users\ebowers\Desktop\STB\_EA\_Thornhill\Project Corridor Figure\_Aerial Image.mxd ebowers 6/15/2018  
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**Legend**

- |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Project Corridor      |  UP Line   |
|  Existing TIT Trackage |  BNSF Line |



Project Corridor  
Texas International Terminals  
Aerial Image

| Agency Name                                | Office or Division                                       | Attention/Contact Name    | Title                   | Address                             | Address cont.         | City       | State    | Zip Code   |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers               | Galveston District Regulatory                            |                           |                         | P.O. Box 1229                       |                       | Galveston  | Texas    | 77553-1229 |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency       | Region 6                                                 | David Gray                |                         | 1445 Ross Avenue                    | Suite 1200            | Dallas     | Texas    | 75202-2733 |
| Federal Aviation Administration            | Southwest Regional Office                                | Ben Guttery               |                         | 10101 Hillwood Parkway              |                       | Fort Worth | Texas    | 76177      |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency        | Region 6                                                 |                           |                         | FRC 800 North Loop 288              |                       | Denton     | Texas    | 76209-3698 |
| U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service               | Region 2, Texas Coastal Ecological Services Field Office |                           |                         | 17629 EL CAMINO REAL #211           |                       | Houston    | Texas    | 77058      |
| National Park Service                      | Intermountain Region                                     | Sue Masica                | Regional Director       | 12795 Alameda Parkway               |                       | Denver     | Colorado | 80225      |
| Natural Resource Conservation Service      |                                                          | Salvador Salinas          | State Conservationist   | 101 S. Main Street                  |                       | Temple     | Texas    | 76501      |
| U.S. Forest Service                        | National Forests and Grasslands in Texas                 | William E. Taylor, Jr     | Forest Supervisor       | 2221 N. Raquet Street               |                       | Lufkin     | Texas    | 75904      |
| Texas Department of Agriculture            |                                                          | Mark Loeffler             | Communications Director | 1700 N Congress Ave, SF Austin Bldg | Room 1100A,           | Austin     | Texas    | 78701      |
| Texas Health and Human Services            | State Headquarters                                       |                           |                         | 4900 N. Lamar Blvd                  | Brown-Heatly Building | Austin     | Texas    | 78751-2316 |
| Texas Parks and Wildlife Department        | State Headquarters                                       |                           |                         | 4200 Smith School Road              |                       | Austin     | Texas    | 78744      |
| Texas Public Utilities Commission          | State Headquarters                                       |                           |                         | 1701 N. Congress Ave.               | 7th Floor             | Austin     | Texas    | 78701      |
| Railroad Commission of Texas               |                                                          | Christi Craddick          | Chairman                | 1701 N. Congress Ave.               |                       | Austin     | Texas    | 78701      |
| Texas Department of Transportation         | Houston District                                         | Quincy Allen              |                         | 7600 Washington Avenue              |                       | Houston    | Texas    | 77007      |
| Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board    | Office of Executive Director                             | Rex Isom                  | Executive Director      | 4311 S. 31st Street                 | Ste.125               | Temple     | Texas    | 76502      |
| Texas Historical Commission                | Galveston County Project Review                          | Jeff Durst                |                         | P.O. Box 12276                      |                       | Austin     | Texas    | 78711      |
| Office of Govenor of Texas                 | Governor Greg Abbott's Office                            |                           |                         | 1100 San Jacinto Blvd               | State Insurance Bldg  | Austin     | Texas    | 78701      |
| Texas Commision on Environmental Quality   | Environmental Assistance Director                        | Brian Christian           |                         | P.O. Box 13087                      |                       | Austin     | Texas    | 78711-3087 |
| Galveston County Economic Development      |                                                          | C.B. "Bix" Rathburn, Ph.D | Director                | 722 Moody Avenue                    |                       | Galveston  | Texas    | 77550      |
| Galveston County Park & Cultural Resources | Office of Director                                       | Julie Diaz                | Director                | 4102 Main                           |                       | La Marque  | Texas    | 77568      |
| Galveston County Road & Bridge             | Office of Director                                       | Lee Crowder               | Director                | 5115 Highway 3                      |                       | Dickinson  | Texas    | 77539      |
| Galveston City Manager                     | Office of City Manager                                   | Brian Maxwell             | City Manager            | 823 Rosenberg                       | Suite 203             | Galveston  | Texas    | 77553      |
| Galveston Development Services             | Office of Director                                       | Tim Tietjens              | Director                | 823 Rosenberg                       | Room 401              | Galveston  | Texas    | 77553      |
| Galveston Parks & Recreation               | Office of Director                                       | Barbara Sanderson         | Director                | 823 Rosenberg                       |                       | Galveston  | Texas    | 77553      |
| Galveston Public Works                     | Office of Director                                       | Kyle Hockersmith          | Director                | 823 Rosenberg                       | Room 205              | Galveston  | Texas    | 77553      |