



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

248408

August 28, 2019

Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
August 29, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Re: CSX Transportation Inc. Abandonment in Pinellas County, Florida (STB Docket No. AB-55 (sub-No. 794X))

Dear Secretary:

This request is filed on behalf of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, a Municipal Corporation, existing by and under the laws of the State of Florida, hereinafter referred to as "Proponent."

Proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition, and is also requesting an Interim Trail Use Condition, rather than an outright abandonment authorization for the prior rail line in downtown St. Petersburg, FL, beginning on the south side of 5th Ave N to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr St N., identified by CSX as an approximately .86 miles rail line on its Clearwater Subdivision, between milepost ARE 897.57 and milepost ARE 898.43, in St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, FL.

A. Request for Public Use Condition

Proponent asks the STB to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except for public use on reasonable terms. Justification for this condition is twofold. First, the corridor in question is ideal for public trail use as it directly connects to the Pinellas Trail – an existing and highly successful rails-to-trails conversion. Second, banking the section of line would allow the possibility of conversion to light rail, as contemplated in local comprehensive planning documents, if such proposed service is ever brought to fruition. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time assemble and review title documents, prepare trail plans, and negotiate with CSX regarding sale.

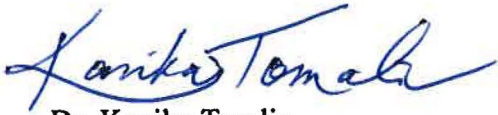
FILING FEE WAIVED

2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that any such structures could have considerable value for recreational trail purposes. The time period requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

The Proponents' designated person of contact in this matter is: Alfred Wendler, Director of Real Estate and Property Management for the City of St. Petersburg, Florida. P.O. Box 2842, St. Petersburg, FL 33731-2842. Office: 727- 893-7183.

By my signature below, I certify service upon Louis E. Gitomer, Esq., Law Offices of Louis E. Gitomer, LLC, 600 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21204, Lou@lgrailaw.com by email and by U.S. Mail, postage pre-paid, first class, this twenty-eighth day of August, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kanika Tomlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kanika" and last name "Tomlin" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Kanika Tomlin,
Deputy Mayor
The City of St. Petersburg, FL