

Surface Transportation Board
Case AB 167-1189-X and related cases
April 28, 2009

EI-17765

Jersey City has small parks that serve a growing population. I use Hamilton Park, a park north of the Harsimus Branch Embankment. Jersey Avenue is the main boulevard into Downtown Jersey City from Hoboken. It runs north-south from open space on 10th Street, to Hamilton Park between 9th and 8th Streets, to the Embankment on 6th Street, to the smaller Van Vorst Park 10 blocks farther south, and to Liberty State Park south of that. The removal of the Embankment and replacement by development would remove important open space along this avenue, and forever alter its rhythm. This damage would be in addition to the severe adverse impacts abandonment and demolition of the Embankment will have on our National Historic Districts and the fragile structures it contains, and, of course, on the National-Register-eligible Embankment itself.

By my signature below, I am requesting that the Surface Transportation Board authorize an Environmental Impact Statement for the Harsimus Branch, a transportation, open space, and historic resource in Hudson County. An EIS will help to insure that decisionmakers have the best possible information available to them as decisions are made about the impacts of rail abandonment, immediate and longer term, direct and indirect.

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