

HEI-26342



US Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of
Environmental Analysis
The Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

**Re: STB Docket No. FD 36095, Palmetto Railways Camp Hall
Rail Extension**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 25, 2018 to Marlys Osterhues. I apologize for the delay in responding. Thank you for inviting the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to act as a cooperating agency with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Palmetto Railways Camp Hall Rail Extension (Project) in Berkeley County, SC.

FRA accepts STB's invitation to be a cooperating agency on this EA. Based on the information included with your letter, FRA understands that the Project will construct a new rail line allowing Palmetto Railways to provide rail access to the Camp Hall Commerce Park. In addition, FRA recognizes that Palmetto Railways has not yet secured funding for the Project. In order for any funding for the Project to come through FRA, the EA must comply with FRA's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (64 Fed. Reg. 28545), including Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act. Acting as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA will ensure that the EA conforms to FRA's Procedures.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6, as a cooperating agency, FRA anticipates being afforded the opportunity to participate in NEPA coordination meetings, raise concerns about technical studies, provide information on alternatives/mitigation, and review/provide comments on pre-draft/pre-final documents in relation to environmental issues of concern. FRA also intends to designate USACE as the lead agency for consultations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Mr. John Winkle, Transportation Industry Analyst in the Office of Railroad Policy and Development, will be the primary point of contact for the EIS and will work with the STB and USACE. Mr. Winkle can be reached at (202) 493-6067 or John.Winkle@DOT.Gov.

We look forward to working with the STB and USACE on this EA.

Sincerely,

 7/12/2018

Michael Johnsen
NEPA Team Lead
Environment and Corridor
Planning Division

Cc: Elizabeth Williams, USACE